



**Thursday 23 January 2025 ~ Park Plaza London Riverbank**

**11:40-12:30 Kickstarting economic growth**

The Prime Minister has put economic growth at the centre of mission-driven government, targeting the highest sustained growth in the G7, citing good jobs and increased productivity across the country. When can we expect this growth to take off? Where will it be strongest? What are the opportunities for the bus and coach industry? What's the economist's verdict?

**Martin Dean, Managing Director, Go Ahead (Chair)**

Martin is responsible for overseeing the performance Go-Ahead's UK bus companies outside London, stretching from Devon and Cornwall to the north-east of England. With more than three decades' experience in transport, he is also chairman of the bus trade body, the Confederation of Passenger Transport.

He was previously head of business development for Go-Ahead, where he was successful in identifying new business opportunities, both domestically and internationally which included leading the Group's expansion into Manchester in the UK, Singapore, and the Republic of Ireland overseas.



**David Leeder, Managing Partner, TIL Transport Investment Limited**

David Leeder is the founder of TIL Transport Investment Ltd, which is a consultancy specialising in rail and bus strategy, investment and economics. TIL's clients have included local government, transport operators, and global investors and strategy consultants - including McKinsey & Co, Oliver Wyman, Atkins, Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, KKR, CVC, DWS Deutsche Bank, Basalt Infrastructure Fund, EBRD European Bank for Reconstruction & Development and OMERS. TIL has conducted projects in the UK, EU, the Middle East, Turkey and USA.

David was previously CEO of West Midlands Travel, an executive director of National Express Group plc, and a main board director of FirstGroup plc. He led the Design & Build of Midland Metro Line 1, and acted as director of passenger and freight train operating companies, as well as Greyhound Lines, Texas. He started his career in the bus industry as deputy to bus entrepreneur, the late Harry Blundred, at Transit Holdings. For over ten years he was a senior advisor to the Department for Transport, and is a past President of CPT.

