



Faculty of the
Built Environment



News Release July 2004:

UWE, Bristol, to appoint Phil Goodwin as Professor of Transport Policy

Phil Goodwin, currently Professor of Transport Policy at University College London, is set to join the Centre for Transport & Society (CTS) in the Faculty of the Built Environment at the University of the West of England, Bristol. Once the formalities are completed it is expected that Goodwin will join UWE as Professor of Transport Policy on a half-time basis, initially for a 3-year period. The appointment marks the ongoing commitment of UWE to establishing itself as a centre of excellence in transport scholarship and the rapid creation and continuing development of CTS following the appointment of Glenn Lyons as Professor of Transport in September 2002.

Background to Phil Goodwin

Since 1996 Goodwin has been Professor of Transport Policy at UCL, following a move from Oxford University where he had led the work of the Transport Studies Unit (TSU) since 1979. He has an outstanding reputation nationally and internationally as an academic, policy advisor and critic in his field. He was appointed as Chair of John Prescott's Panel of Advisors for the 1998 Transport White Paper (probably the most significant transport policy document seen in the UK in the last 20 years). For the period 1994-2004 the ESRC Transport Studies Unit, under his directorship, has been given designated research centre status, and substantial funding, by the Economic and Social Research Council. In that time Goodwin and his team have carried out a programme of challenging and significant research, notably including Sally Cairns' work on road capacity reallocation and travel plans, and Joyce Dargay's work on dynamic demand analysis, that continues to inform and influence the policy debate alongside advancing fundamental understandings in the field.

Goodwin's move to UWE represents a unique opportunity for a leading pioneer in the transport studies field to share his experience and contribute to the ongoing growth of the new centre of excellence in transport scholarship that is rapidly emerging at UWE.

Background to CTS

The Centre for Transport & Society is intended to complement the existing and long-established activities of the transport research community in the UK but also to take transport research in new directions. Its overarching aim is *to improve and promote understanding of the inherent links between lifestyles and personal travel in the context of continuing social and technological change*. The CTS was established (initially under the title of the 'Unit for Transport & Society') in September 2002 with University Research Centre status conferred upon it in January 2004.

Since its beginning, the Centre has grown, including new appointments, to a current total of nearly 20 staff and full-time research students. This team brings a range of disciplines to bear on its research and teaching, including: civil engineering; geography; regional and urban planning; environmental politics; anthropology, philosophy; environmental and experimental psychology; sociology; and information systems. A number of other staff in the Faculty and University are also engaged in transport and transport-related research.

CTS currently has a research portfolio exceeding £1M in value. Examples of research projects include:

- a 3-year study of internet users to better understand the links between internet use, personal travel and social participation;
- a 3-year study of travel time use in the information age (jointly with the Centre for Mobilities Research in the Sociology Department at Lancaster University) to understand how time on the move is spent and explore the implications for economic appraisal, the amount of time people spend travelling and the attractiveness of public transport;
- a 2-year study to understand and model, as the transport system changes, the dynamics of people's travel behaviour;
- a 5-year national study (as part of the FUTURES programme) of the (changing) spatial and temporal patterns of working and the implications for personal travel;
- an international review of attitudes to road pricing as part of the Government's National Road Pricing Feasibility Study; and
- PhD research includes: exploring how residential relocation can change habitual behaviour and patterns of travel; understanding and addressing the information content and presentation needs of dyslexic travellers; and considering how women's access is being or might be changed by information and communications technologies.

CTS staff are also responsible for running a new MSc in Transport Planning at UWE - this began in January 2003 and currently has some 30 full and part-time students enrolled.

Reactions to the appointment

The synergies between Goodwin's expertise and interests and those of CTS hold the prospect of exciting further developments. "Phil's move to UWE represents a unique opportunity for us to draw upon the vast knowledge and experience of an individual who has contributed so much to challenging and advancing understanding in the field of transport planning and policy and travel behaviour" says Lyons, Director of CTS. "We look forward to Phil's arrival further enriching our own endeavours to conduct challenging, fundamental and policy-relevant research."

Faculty Dean, Professor Colin Fudge, who has driven the University's commitment to investing in transport scholarship is delighted with this latest development - "as a Faculty we pride ourselves on our international reputation in disciplines associated with the built environment and, even at this relatively early stage, it is clear that our strategy of introducing transport as a further specialism is paying significant dividends in terms of intellectual achievement and contributions to policy and practice".

Goodwin too is enthusiastic about the appointment - "This is a good move for me, at the right time and to the right place. I've worked well with several of the staff of CTS at UWE before, and what is being built there is refreshing and inspiring. This will be a powerful intellectual base to continue my work on transport policy and methodology - and, I am sure, to take off in new and unexpected directions also".

For further information please contact Professor Phil Goodwin at goodwin@transport.ucl.ac.uk or 020 7679 1580, and Professor Glenn Lyons on 0117 32 83219 or visit www.transport.uwe.ac.uk.