
Cllr Liam Robinson elected as new Merseytravel chair following controversial departure of Cllr Mark Dowd

by GEMMA JALEEL. LIVERPOOL ECHO • JUNE 29, 2012

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THE new head of the region's transport authority has been appointed after the controversial departure of its former leader.

Cllr Mark Dowd came under sustained pressure when eight of the 16 ruling Labour group on the Merseytravel board demanded his resignation.

[Cllr Dowd quit his role earlier this month, saying his position as chair had been made "untenable"](#)

His successor will be Cllr Liam Robinson, a station manager at Lime Street Station, who was voted in yesterday to head the Labour-run transport authority.

As he took up the seat, he told the packed authority meeting: "Can I just start by saying how deeply

honoured, humbled and privileged I am to be elected as your chair.”

The Labour councillor for Kensington and Fairfield also put forward Cllr Marlene Quinn as vice-chair.

Cllr Robinson also thanked Cllr Dowd, who was absent from the meeting, for his service as chairman for the past 20 years.

Others also expressed their appreciation, including Cllr Ron Abbey.

He said: “I think it’s important that we recognise the work that Mark has done over 20 years.

“We are going to be making some significant decisions for this authority on rolling stock and we’ve lost a great deal of expertise with Mark no longer being on this board and that’s to the detriment of this authority.”

Cllr Gordon Friel echoed the sentiments, paying tribute to Cllr Dowd for his service with Merseytravel.

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