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Merseytravel snaps up Brown and restructures

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Passenger transport executive Merseytravel has announced a major management restructuring exercise just days after the appointment of South Yorkshire PTE director general David Brown as its new chief executive.

Brown's appointment, which follows the departure of former director general Neil Scales to a new position in Australia early last year, was described by Merseytravel chair Liam Robinson as completing a "highly effective senior team" with current interim chief executive Frank Rogers taking the role of deputy chief executive.

"The kind of experience and leadership that David Brown brings to Merseytravel will be invaluable in supporting our aim to provide a world class integrated transport system," added Robinson, who also paid tribute to Rogers for his work as interim chief executive since the departure of Scales.

Brown's move to Merseytravel follows 12 years with SYPTE where he has been director general since 2008. The 47-year old was previously passenger services director although prior to joining the PTE in 2000, he had a background in management within the rail industry. Brown was also recently named as the new chair of the Passenger Transport Executive Group, succeeding Centro's Geoff Inskip. At PTEG he has also taken a lead on bus issues for a number of years.

At SYPTE, Brown has already led a major restructuring exercise which saw a slimming down of the organisation in the wake of national and local government funding cuts. In his new role at Merseytravel he will receive a salary of £149,000.

Meanwhile, further details of the restructuring exercise at Merseytravel were revealed at a meeting of the integrated transport authority last week. The move will see the headcount of the senior management tier fall by nearly 40% from 49 positions to 30, leading to anticipated financial savings of around £687,000 for the full year. But the PTE admits that other posts will have to be created in order to "compensate for the loss of the operational capacity associated with the reduction in the number of posts designated as managers".

However, Liz Chandler, Merseytravel director of corporate development, warned members that some of these staff may have to be retained. "Many of the 'displaced' managers will be retained within services outside the management structure therefore this figure is a notional figure, reflecting a reduction in the cost of this tier of management only," she added.

Chandler said that as a result, the full financial effects of the exercise will not become apparent until the exercise has been completed. "It is clear, however that this exercise will contribute to the overall achievement of significant savings in employee costs across the organisation," she continued.

David Brown: moves from South Yorkshire transport authority to Merseytravel



PASSENGER TRANSPORT

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