Biographies of the Witnesses

Matthew Lipson

Matthew Lipson works in the secretariat supporting the work of the Committee on Climate Change Adaptation. The committee was set up by the 2008 Climate Change Act. It has the tasks of scrutinising the Government's assessment of climate change risks, assessing the preparedness of the UK to face these risks and raising awareness of the importance of adapting in order to reduce potential impacts and exploit opportunities

Gary Ferrand

Joined Devon Fire & Rescue Service in 1988 as a firefighter. Served 12 years progressing to Station Officer with a range of different operational roles. Moved to Somerset Fire & Rescue Service in 2000 as an Assistant Divisional Officer and advanced to Area Commander for Somerset. This role involved leading the service delivery directorate – emergency response, fire prevention delivery and fire protection delivery.

In 2005 graduated at the University of Exeter with a Master's Degree in Management and Professional Development.

In April 2007 Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Services combined and became the Head of Community Safety, this involved a strategically leading all aspects of fire prevention and fire protection.

Joined East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service in June 2009 in the role of Assistant Chief Fire Officer and now leads on issues surrounding Climate Change and has recently introduced the Climate Change Strategy into the Service. Now working closely with partners, Elected Members and staff to support the implementation of the strategy.

Currently studying on the Executive Leadership Programme with Warwick Business School and will conclude that programme at the end of March 2010.

Thurstan Crockett

Thurstan is Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy at Brighton & Hove City Council, managing a Sustainability Team within the council's central Policy Unit. He leads the city's work on sustainable development, tackling climate change and developing a low carbon Brighton & Hove. He works closely with the Council's leadership, senior management team and the City Sustainability Partnership.

He won the national 2007 Global to Local Foundation Award for the local authority officer doing most to place Climate Change at the heart of a council's culture, policies and practices. His work helped the city win recognition recently by independent sustainable development charity Forum for the Future as "the most sustainable city in Britain" – though it has subce slipped to third place and he is far from complacent about its challenges.

In a varied career, his previous role was as the council's Economic Development Manager where he worked to balance regeneration and support for creative industries with programmes to help homeless and other disadvantaged people into work. This included a renewed focus on opportunities in the construction industry, as well as on working to establish support for social enterprises.

Before this, he was Regeneration Manager at East Midlands Development Agency, overseeing regeneration programmes for the City of Lincoln and for Lincolnshire market

towns. He has also worked as Development Manager for a county tourism association, and as a programme manager for a £2 million EU Community Initiative.

Thurstan's early career was as a journalist and he worked on newspapers, in radio and in public relations before branching off into the voluntary environmental sector for The Wildlife Trusts and then Shell's environmental community relations programme.