



DAVID ARMSTRONG FIHE
Special Projects Manager, Southampton CC

Dave manages the largest Environmental Transport Capital Programme in Southampton's history: £24 million. He is the first holder of this post which was created to improve on the delivery of the programme's key elements: structures, car parking, highways maintenance, and integrated transport. He is supported by a programme manager and a communications and liaison manager.

His immediate priority is dictated by the PPP agreement whereby Balfour Beatty will become the new Highways Service provider on 1 October 2010. Dave must ensure that 70% of the Capital programme is delivered by then.

He has the exciting and challenging task of getting the Highways Service provider up and running efficiently, ensuring good working relations across all the parties involved – contractors, utilities, Project Managers and Council.

He brings 24 years of experience in delivering programmes of all sizes to time and cost as Operations Manager, and has turned his "office into a war room dominated by the mother of all Gantt charts, and wallpapered with maps locating each project".

There have been "drastic cuts in LTP Government Grants hence he is working with the Integrated Transport Team "to decide what should be prioritised, deferred, or deleted, which has inescapable consequences for people's careers and employment".

He was asked to take on this job because of his track record of delivering projects to time and budget over a 24 year career with Southampton. His approach is "to get my head down and get on with it". Having started as a YTS placement, Dave passed his HNC in Civil Engineering on a day release course. His early interest was architecture, and he retains a keen interest in construction. He found Southampton to be "highly supportive" and he believes he has been fortunate to progress through a career in an Authority which has regularly given him the opportunity to succeed through many challenges.

Dave is registered with the EC and plans to become an IEng, but the pressure of work at this moment rules out starting the process immediately. He has become a Fellow of IHE by its practical experience route, which he values greatly, and believes that IEng is an “invaluable proof of professional achievement, and one that is recognised widely abroad as well”.

He is a new member of IHE Council, because he found IHE supportive and helpful in his career, especially through local Branch activities. His verdict: “the networking is superb; it is a sort of internet of Engineers”.