



**BUSINESS
BOARD
NETWORK**



**Business Board Chairs
Biographies 2024**

**Mark Bretton MBE TD DL
Business Board Network**



Mark was appointed Chair of the LEP Network in September 2019. The LEP Network is the national body which brings all 36 LEPs together.

Mark was awarded an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours List 2023 for services to business, the economy and to charity, particularly during Covid-19. He is an independent consultant with 40 years' of wide-ranging business experience, including in several high-profile Government programmes. Mark was a Managing Director (Partner) in the leadership team of the professional services firm Accenture and before that worked for Plessey, Siemens, Royal Mail and Tata. He sat on the Business Leaders' Council of the charity Teach First for 13 years and is an Ambassador for Home Start Herts.

Mark has an MBA in Export Management and International Business from City, University of London Business School, and a BSc Econ (Hons) in Management Studies. He was a Royal Signals Reserve Officer (Major) and holds a Territorial Decoration. Mark was a member of the Secretary of State for BEIS' Levelling Up Taskforce, of the Minister for Local Government's Economic Recovery Working Group and the Business Action Council, all focused on helping the country grow out of the Covid-19 crisis. Mark joined the Hertfordshire LEP Board as Business Representative and Chair Designate in January 2016, and was Chair from June 2016 until March 2023.

www.lepnetwork.net

**Andrew Smith OBE DL
Buckinghamshire**



Andrew always wanted to work in the film industry, then after being a civil servant, having a stint in politics, starting up his own business and training to be a scuba diving instructor, his dream came true and he went to work for Pinewood in 2008.

As Director of Corporate Affairs, Andrew has been instrumental in the development of the Pinewood site and development of the international reputation of the studio and in particular in developing strong investment links.

A Board member of Buckinghamshire LEP since 2012, Andrew has been instrumental in guiding and supporting the growth of the LEP and his knowledge of the film and creative arts sector has been invaluable in the development of this growth area for Buckinghamshire. Andrew is also a non-executive Director of Buckinghamshire Business First.

He is passionate about allowing everybody opportunity, especially the long-term unemployed and NEETs.

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

**Al Kingsley
Cambridgeshire
& Peterborough Combined Authority (The Business Board)**



Al has served as a Board member since January 2020 and was appointed chair in August 2023.

Al is the group CEO of NetSupport, an award-winning technology company which develops software for both the education and corporate markets. NetSupport has grown to support over 20 million users in 110 countries around the world.

Passionate about education being the key to unlocking personal and economic growth, Al is chair of Hampton Academies Trust in Peterborough as well as the independent chair of the region's SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Board. Al also sits on the Regional Schools Directors Advisory Board for the East of England supporting Academies across the region. He also received a civic award in 2020 from Peterborough City council.

Alongside authoring numerous books, Al writes and speaks internationally on the effective use of digital and educational technology, growth, governance and leadership. He is a Forbes Technology Council Member and was awarded the 2023 EduFuturist of the year. Al also mentors technology start-ups entering the education sector.

<https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/about-us/business-board/>

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**TBA
Enterprise Cheshire &
Warrington**

**Enterprise
Cheshire + Warrington**



www.cheshireandwarrington.com

**Lord Richard Inglewood
Cumbria**



Richard Inglewood is a Cumbrian non-affiliated Member of the House of Lords. He was previously Chair of the boards of Cumbrian businesses Carr's Milling Industries plc, CN Group Ltd and Gen2.

Lord Inglewood has also held a number of ministerial positions during his career. He was the minister for broadcasting and for tourism during his time as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of National Heritage in the late 1990s. He has

also served twice as a regional MEP, first for Cumbria and Lancashire North and then for North West England.

He is President of Cumbria Tourism and has been Deputy Lieutenant for Cumbria since 1993 and Vice-Lord Lieutenant for Cumbria since 2012.

Lord Inglewood was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge and the Cumbria College of Agriculture and Forestry. He was called to the Bar in 1975, is a Chartered Surveyor (MRICS) and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (FSA).

www.thecumbrialep.co.uk

**Cecilia Bufton
Dorset**



Cecilia has enjoyed a successful business career over 30 years, working in a range of companies from SMEs to multinational businesses and a Trade Association.

She has held senior level roles in strategic marketing, sales and business development and brings to the Board her experiences of working in medical, pharmaceutical, digital health and wellbeing companies.

Her career has involved the development and delivery of products and services that help change the way healthcare is delivered.

As a non-executive director, business adviser and charity chair, Cecilia's enjoys working with organisations, helping to create a compelling vision for their future and working with them to achieve their goals.

Cecilia is a science graduate with an MBA focused on international, strategic marketing and a certificate in Global Leadership from the University of Oxford. With her expertise, Cecilia is well placed to drive forward Dorset LEP's ambition to secure investment from the government and the private sector and really put Dorset on the map.

www.dorsetlep.co.uk

**Elizabeth Fagan CBE
East Midlands Combined
Authority**



Elizabeth became Chair of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership in July 2018. She is the recent former Non-Executive Chairman of Boots, having been appointed as the first female Managing Director of Boots in 2016.

Elizabeth sits on the board of the Office for Students, the independent regulator for higher education in England. She is also a Non-Executive Director of the Australian listed pooling solutions company Brambles. She is President of the Incorporated Society of British

Advertisers and is a member and past President of Women in Advertising and Communications Club. Elizabeth was also a member of the ASA Council for six years. In August 2013, she became a Fellow of the Marketing Society and, in the same year, was awarded a Cosmetic Executive Women UK, Achiever Award.

Elizabeth has been awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science by Nottingham Trent University and in January 2020 received a CBE in the Queen's New Year Honours list for her services to gender equality in business.

www.eastmidlandsdevolution.co.uk

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**Ruth Dooley
Gloucestershire**



Ruth Dooley is a partner at Hazlewoods LLP. She is a chartered accountant and tax adviser for a wide range of companies and private clients and is a previous winner of South West Accountant of the Year.

She has been instructed in over 100 cases and has experience in family, professional negligence and commercial cases.

During her thirty years in Gloucestershire, she has contributed to the Prince's Trust, Fredericks Gloucestershire, BBC Radio Gloucestershire, the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire and she is a Visiting Fellow at the University of Gloucestershire.

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk

Lou Cordwell OBE
**Greater Manchester Combined
Authority**



Lou is Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership, and lead for Communications, Digital Broadcasting and Skills Fund.

She is founder and CEO of multi award winning Manchester based digital design studio, magneticNorth. Founded in 2000, the company quickly established an international reputation with an award winning client portfolio. Today, the studio continues to work

across a wide range of sectors, from education to placemaking, helping organisations to meet evolving audience needs by putting digital at the heart of their approach.

She is SME Representative for the GM LEP, and Chair of Design Manchester.

Lou is also a founding investor in AllBright and a passionate campaigner for gender equality in business and the tech industry.

Lou was awarded an OBE in the 2018 New Year's Honours for services to the creative and digital economy.

www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Adrian Hawkins OBE
Hertfordshire Futures



Adrian was awarded an OBE for his services to Business by Her Majesty the Queen in the New Year's Honours list in 2021. He is the independent Chairman of the Stevenage Development Board and was appointed to that role in March 2020. A lifelong advocate for Stevenage, Adrian led the Board on a funding bid from the Government's Towns Fund, securing £37.5m - the joint highest contribution received anywhere in the country.

Adrian was appointed to the Hertfordshire LEP Board in 2014 and served as Deputy Chair from 2017 - 2020, completing a full six-year term. Adrian continues to Chair the LEP's Skills and Employment Board, has championed the delivery of the Hertfordshire Opportunities Portal (HOP) and, in collaboration with the University of Hertfordshire, delivered a voluntary network to provide support to businesses during the COVID pandemic.

Adrian is the Chairman and Founder of biz4Biz, an organisation established to support business owners and leaders, as well as a past patron of business clubs, working alongside Hertfordshire MPs and Local Authorities and engaging with local business leaders. Biz4Biz also delivers the Hertfordshire Business Awards. In 1981, Adrian founded Weldability Sif, which he grew from supplying one branded product in the UK, to many thousands internationally today. In March 2019 Weldability-Sif was acquired by Indutrade AB, a NASDAQ-listed corporation.

www.hertfordshirefutures.co.uk

**James Newman OBE
Hull & East Yorkshire**



James is the founding Chair of the new Hull and East Yorkshire LEP (HEY LEP), which commenced operations from 1 April 2021. His executive career mainly consisted of being Group Finance Director over several PLCs.

In his Non-Executive career, he has been Chair or NED of a number of PLCs and other organisations.

James was the founding Chair of the Sheffield City Region LEP from 2010 to 2015, having retired following the signing of one of the first City Region Devolution Deals in October 2015. He is currently Chair of Finance Yorkshire and the South Yorkshire Community Foundation and has a number of other business and charitable roles, nationally and in Yorkshire.

A Chartered Accountant, former Master Cutler and Deputy Chairman of Sheffield Hallam University, James was awarded an OBE in 2017 for services to business, the economy and charity in Yorkshire and an Honorary Doctorate from Sheffield Hallam University in 2012 for services to business, enterprise and education in Yorkshire and Humber.

www.heylep.com

**TBA
Lancashire**



Andy Reed OBE
Leicester & Leicestershire



Andy is the Director of SajelImpact, an organisation which offers a wide variety of bespoke support and advice to Sports Bodies, NGBs, Social Enterprises and Faith Charities, making sure their strategies and communications are effective with the key stakeholders in their sector and bringing social transformation projects to life. He was Labour & Co-operative MP for Loughborough between 1997 and 2010.

Andy serves on a number of Sport Bodies, Christian organisations and local charities as a volunteer. In June 2012, Andy was awarded an OBE in the Queens Honours List for contribution to sport and the Community and in 2014, he was appointed a Professor of Sport Policy & Development at Liverpool John Moores University.

www.leicestershire.gov.uk

Professor Neal Juster
Lincolnshire



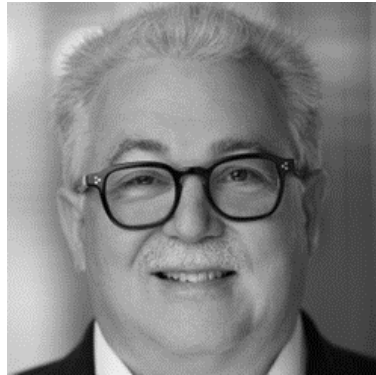
Neal took over as Vice Chancellor of the University of Lincoln in October 2021. He holds a BSc degree in Mechanical Engineering and a PhD in Computer-Aided Design, both from the University of Leeds. His research interests were around computer-aided design including rapid prototyping and the use of virtual reality in the design and manufacturing process.

He has an extensive experience in university management and has worked as the Senior Vice-Principal and Deputy Vice Chancellor at the University of Glasgow, Dean of Faculty of Engineering at the University of Strathclyde and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Leeds.

He is a Director of UL Learning Resources Ltd, Riseholme Park Farms Ltd, ULEX and UoL Services Ltd. His is also Chair of the Members Committee for the University of Lincoln Academy Trust.

www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk

David Meyoritz
Liverpool City Region MCA



David Meyerowitz is Chair of the Business and Enterprise Board and brings 40 years of high-level experience of the domestic appliance market to the role.

David is the former CEO of Haier Europe for UK and Ireland, a subsidiary of Haier Smart Home – a leading global household appliance manufacturer, which owns household brands such as Hoover and Candy.

www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk

TBA
Norfolk



**Lucy Winskell OBE
North East**



Lucy is Pro Vice-Chancellor (Employability & Partnerships) at Northumbria University. She has been a member of the Executive team at Northumbria University since 2010, having made the transition into higher education following a 28-year career as a litigation lawyer.

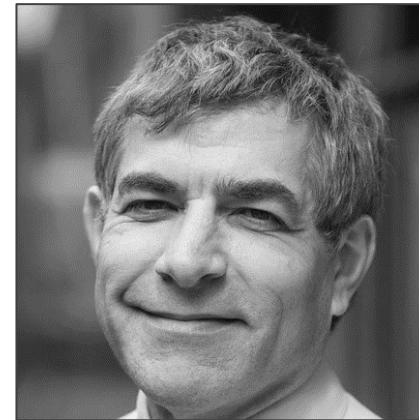
Lucy's non-executive career has been focussed on economic growth and regeneration within the North East. Her regional roles have included Board Member

of the North East Regional Investment Fund and North East Access to Finance (both supporting SME growth); non-executive Director of Government Office North East; Chair of the North East Industrial Development Board; Board Member of ING; Vice Chair of BE Group and a Member of CBI Regional Council.

Lucy has been Chair of the Board of the North East England Chamber of Commerce (NEECC) for six years and will stand down from this role shortly. She has also been a strong advocate for the region at a national level. As a member of Arts and Humanities Research Council she highlighted the importance of the cultural and creative sector in a regional economy, and as Vice Chair of the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) she has ensured a regional voice forms part of BCC's lobbying and policy work.

www.northeast-ca.gov.uk

**Professor Alistair Fitt
Oxfordshire**



Alistair was appointed as Oxford Brookes University's Vice Chancellor in February 2015.

Prior to Professor Fitt's current role at Oxford Brookes University as Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Exchange, he worked at the University of Southampton for 22 years, latterly as the Head of the School of Mathematics and then Pro-Vice Chancellor International.

In 2014, Professor Fitt was listed in the Science Council's 100 leading practising scientists and became Chair of OxLEP in March 2023.

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

TBA
Solent Partners



TBA
Staffordshire



Mark Pendlington
Suffolk County Council



Mark has extensive experience of working across the public and private sectors including in industry, national and regional voluntary organisations, further and higher education, economic development bodies and academia, many with UK, EU and international dimensions.

He worked for the Anglian Water Group from 2008-2019 as Group Director responsible for leading the engagement of the business in the important debates

around environmental sustainability, regional growth and development, and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Mark was previously a Director at BAA Stansted where he led work on the strategic expansion of the business, including working with business leaders, local authorities, politicians, academics and local communities on the economic, social and environmental consequences of airport growth on the regional and UK economy.

Prior to this Mark was the Chief Executive of the Country Land and Business Association (CLA), a national organisation dedicated to the economic health and social wellbeing of the diverse UK rural economy. Mark is currently an Independent Director and Chair Designate at the University of Suffolk, the Deputy Lieutenant of Suffolk, Chair of Governors at The Royal Hospital School, Chair of Trustees for the Diocese of Suffolk, Patron of the Green Light Trust, and Trustee of the British Racing School in Newmarket.

www.suffolk.gov.uk

Business Board Chairs – Biographies 2024

Paul Moorby OBE
Swindon & Wiltshire LEP



Paul founded Chipside Limited in 2003, a rural employer in Brinkworth.

The company is a leading UK tech company, providing Mipermit services to both local government and the public across the UK.

Paul has worked with local government on digital transformation projects for over 25 years.

He was awarded an OBE in 2019 for services to promoting UK Technology abroad.

In April 2019, Mipermit was recognised with a Queen's Award for Enterprise, Innovation.

On the LEP Network Board, Paul represents Western Gateway region which covers GFirst LEP, West of England LEP, and Swindon & Wiltshire LEP.

www.swlep.co.uk/

Siobhan McArdle
Tees Valley



Siobhan is Managing Director of The Strategy House: a consultancy business specialising in strategy development, turnaround, and transformational change for large global corporate organisations and high growth SMEs, both nationally and internationally, a business she founded over twenty years ago. Siobhan is also CEO of L3COS, a blockchain-based, technology platform provider, focused on developing the enabling technology required to deliver disruptive change across global marketplaces and supply

chains, underpinned by a first to market, regulated digital exchange and international payments system.

Her first role as a graduate trainee was with the former Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority. She then spent eight years with PwC in both their Leeds and London Bridge offices, working on corporate change and restructuring prior to setting up her own business in 2001. Siobhan was appointed as Chief Executive of South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to deliver its 3-year financial turnaround programme.

Appointed as Chair of the Tees Valley LEP in 2022, Siobhan has been working on the reconfiguration of the LEP, in partnership with the Tees Valley Combined Authority and Local Authorities.

www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk

Business Board Chairs – Biographies 2024

Bob Beveridge
Berkshire



Bob has a diverse business career in both large organisations and SMEs within the consumer goods and technology sectors and has lived in Berkshire for 39 years.

Bob spent 12 years at Mars Chocolate in Slough, in finance and sales roles, ultimately becoming pan-European Head of Finance.

After five years with United Biscuits he moved to the technology sector becoming CFO of Cable & Wireless

Communications plc.

After two further roles in the technology sector he returned to consumer goods as CFO of McBride plc, manufacturer of private label household products. Since 2010 he has been a portfolio non-executive director across a diverse range of business sectors: healthcare, technology, manufacturing and food.

www.thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk

Richard Bonner
West of England



Richard is the UK Operations Director and City Executive Bristol at Arcadis.

A Chartered Civil Engineer, he has a background in design and consultancy working generally in the building sector with both public and private sector clients.

He is responsible for the Operations of Arcadis in the UK, and as the Bristol City Executive for Arcadis leads the business to market shaping propositions to help the city region grow and develop through sustainable urbanisation and creating competitive advantage.

Richard is the President of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce and Initiative, and a Director of Business West.

Richard is a nominated SME representative on the LEP Board and the LEP Chair.

www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk

Mandy Ridyard
West Yorkshire Combined Authority



With a background in chemistry and manufacturing, Mandy moved to West Yorkshire in 1994. Having worked for CarnaudMetalbox, Mars Inc and Rank Hovis McDougall, she jointly led a buyout of Produmax in 1997.

Produmax is an aerospace engineering firm, and is a global expert in flight assemblies. It exports 70% of turnover worldwide to prestigious clients including Boeing. Her leadership has seen Produmax achieve world class employee engagement, win two prestigious national aerospace awards and the MAKE:UK SME of the year 2021.

Having joined the board of the Leeds City Region LEP in 2019, she now chairs its successor, the West Yorkshire Business Board. She was appointed as Business Advisor to Mayor Tracy Brabin in 2023.

Mandy is passionate about business, innovation, skills, and inclusivity. As Chair of Space Hub Yorkshire, she has led the development of a regional strategy for Space, and is now leading its deployment. She is also Chair of the West Yorkshire Innovation Network, was a future ready Skills Commissioner, and is an advocate for our region, innovation, manufacturing, productivity, women in engineering and skills.

www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk

**Paul Walker MBE
Worcestershire**



Paul is a Chartered Engineer, with B.Tech and M.Phil degrees in Materials Science from Bradford University. He has held a variety of technical and management roles in the steel industry before establishing his own management consultancy.

In 1993, he joined Malvern Instruments, a company which designs and manufactures scientific instrumentation, where he was Managing Director until he

retired in 2017. Paul was awarded an MBE for services to the Industry in 2012.

Paul has held numerous board roles, most notably being Chair of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce for five years, and he is currently a Non-Executive Director of the Malvern Hills Science Park since 1999 and Vice Chair of King's School Worcester.

www.wlep.co.uk

**TBA
York North Yorkshire Combined
Authority**



www.yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk