



**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.businessboardnetwork.co.uk](http://www.businessboardnetwork.co.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](http://www.thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk)

**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 until its closure in 2024, Andrew was 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 now the Vice-Chair of the Buckinghamshire Growth Board.

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

[www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/business/strategic-growth-investment-and-regeneration/](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/business/strategic-growth-investment-and-regeneration/)

## Business Board Chairs – Biographies 2024

**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>

**TBA**  
**Enterprise Cheshire &  
Warrington**



[www.cheshireandwarrington.com](http://www.cheshireandwarrington.com)

**Enterprise  
Cheshire + Warrington**

## Business Board Chairs – Biographies 2024

**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.cumberland.gov.uk](http://www.cumberland.gov.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](http://www.dorsetlep.co.uk)

**Business Board Chairs – Biographies 2024****David Williams MBE DL  
East Midlands Combined  
County Authority**

David is Chairman of Geldards LLP, a law firm with around 300 staff and offices in Derby, Nottingham, Cardiff and London.

Originally qualifying as a lawyer, David also had careers as a property developer and as General Manager of a major building society.

After heading the property team at Geldards for many years, David has recently taken up responsibility for the private client team.

In addition to these roles, David holds a number of non-executive and trustee positions, including Chairman of EMB Group Limited, Deputy Chair of D2N2 LEP, Board member at Nottingham Trent University and a non-executive Director of East Midlands Chamber of Commerce.

[www.eastmidlandsdevolution.co.uk](http://www.eastmidlandsdevolution.co.uk)



**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](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk)

## Business Board Chairs – Biographies 2024

**Lou Cordwell OBE**  
Greater Manchester Combined  
Authority



Lou began her career working for WPP before founding Manchester-based digital design studio, magneticNorth (mN). In 2021, mN merged with Fluxx, creating the UK's leading design and innovation consultancy, Magnetic, where Lou was Chief Creative Officer until the company was acquired.

Lou spent 2 years through to Autumn 2023 establishing the JV team and Strategic Masterplan for ID Manchester, Europe's most ambitious Innovation District project.

In January 2024 Lou joined the University of Manchester as a Professor of Innovation and Special Advisor to the President and Vice-Chancellor. She also acts as an advisor to a number of other place-based innovation projects and tech start-up / scale-up companies across the UK.

Alongside the day jobs, she is Chair of Greater Manchester's Business Board (LEP) working in collaboration with Greater Manchester Mayor and Leaders to help drive the region's economy.

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](http://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](http://www.hertfordshirefutures.co.uk)

**Business Board Chairs – Biographies 2024****TBA  
Hull & East Yorkshire**

[www.heybusinessgrowthskillshub.com](http://www.heybusinessgrowthskillshub.com)

**TBA  
Lancashire**



[www.lancashirelep.co.uk](http://www.lancashirelep.co.uk)

## Business Board Chairs – Biographies 2024

**Andy Reed OBE  
Leicester & Leicestershire Business  
and Skills Partnership**



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.llbsp.org.uk](http://www.llbsp.org.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.

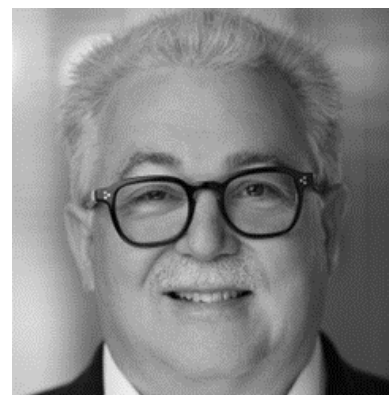
He has an extensive experience in university management and has worked as the Senior Vice-Principal and Deputy Vice Chancellor at the University of Glasgow, Dean of Faculty of Engineering at the University of Strathclyde and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University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

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

[www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk](http://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk)

## **Business Board Chairs – Biographies 2024**

## **David Meyerowitz Liverpool City Region MCA**



David is Chair of the Business and Enterprise Board and brings 40 years' of experience of the consumer durables market to the role.

David has led large businesses as the CEO or Managing Director for the last 20 years. He 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, Candy, Haier, GE Appliances, Fisher & Paykel and Baumatic.

Haier, GE Appliances, Fisher & Paykel and Baumatic.

David has a passion for sustainable business growth and profit turnaround. He specialises in building and developing leadership teams and as a recognised T-shaped CEO has a broad experience at board level of all business functions, with a deep understanding of commercial disciplines. David was awarded a Fellowship of the Chartered Institute of Marketing in 2002.

In his current portfolio, David is supporting a number of companies and organisations as Chair, Board Advisor and Non-Executive Director.

[www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk](http://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk)

TBA  
Norfolk



[www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk)

## Business Board Chairs – Biographies 2024

Lucy Winskell OBE  
North East



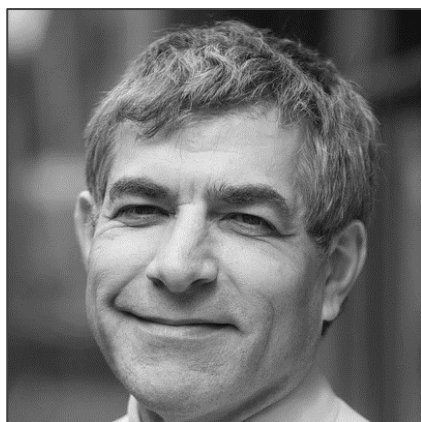
Lucy is Pro Vice-Chancellor (Employability & Partnerships) at Northumbria University. She has been a member of the Executive team at Northumbria University since 2010, having made the transition into higher education following a 28-year career as a litigation lawyer.

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](http://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.oxfordshirelep.com](http://www.oxfordshirelep.com)

**Business Board Chairs – Biographies 2024**

**TBA  
Solent Partners**



[www.solentpartners.com](http://www.solentpartners.com)

**TBA  
Staffordshire**



[www.staffordshire.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk)

## Business Board Chairs – Biographies 2024

**Mark Pendlington DL  
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](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk)

**TBA**  
**Swindon & Wiltshire**



[www.swlep.co.uk/](http://www.swlep.co.uk/)

## Business Board Chairs – Biographies 2024

**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](http://www.teesvalley-ca.gov.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](http://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

**Business Board Chairs – Biographies 2024**

**TBA**  
**West Northamptonshire**  
**Council**



[www.westnorthants.gov.uk](http://www.westnorthants.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](http://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk)

**Business Board Chairs – Biographies 2024**

**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](http://www.wlep.co.uk)

**TBA**  
**York North Yorkshire**  
**Combined Authority**



[www.yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk](http://www.yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk)