

## **Biographies of RSP Board**

### **Mike Beasley – Chair of RSP Board**

Mike Beasley is Chairman of Skills4Auto, a director of the SMMT's Industry Forum, a Non Executive Director of Magal Engineering Group, a member of the strategic advisory Board of Plastic Omnium, a director of Coventry University Enterprises Ltd, a member of the Board of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, is Chairman of the West Midlands Region CBI and a Trustee of the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust. He Chairs the West Midland Regional Skills Partnership and the Birmingham and Solihull LSC and is a Governor of Coventry University. He is Chairman of the Birmingham Employers Coalition and a member of the National Employment Panel

### **John Edwards - Advantage West Midlands**

John Edwards is a Quantity Surveyor by profession. He joined Advantage West Midlands in August 1999 as Director of Regeneration and Physical Development. On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2000 he was appointed Chief Executive.

He was project manager for workspace developments in the West Midlands and subsequently he led the small business support work. For over 10 years he worked for the Rural Development Commission as Regional Manager in the West Midlands and then as Director of Operations responsible for the development and delivery of their regeneration work. John was then Chief Executive overseeing the transfer of their regeneration programmes and staff to the Regional Development Agencies and the establishment of the Countryside Agency.

### **Richard Quallington – Community First**

Richard Quallington is Chief Executive of Community First, the Rural Community Council for the two shire counties of Herefordshire and Worcestershire. He is also currently Chair of RAWM, Regional Action West Midlands – the Regional Voluntary Sector Network charged with increasing voluntary sector involvement and engagement in the regional agenda.

Community First works in a support and development role with approximately 1000 voluntary and community organisations across the 2 counties, in both urban and rural areas. It is active in various voluntary sector networks locally including the development and support of voluntary sector learning networks and the Home Office's 'Change Up' strategy at a sub-regional level.

### **Margaret Tovey – Jobcentre Plus**

Margaret is currently the Acting Director for Jobcentre Plus in West Midlands Region. She is responsible for the delivery of all Jobcentre Plus customer services in the region.

Prior to this Margaret was the District Manager for Jobcentre Plus in the Birmingham and Solihull District, where she integrated the work of the former Benefits Agency and Employment Service, transforming the service experience for the customer.

Before undertaking this role Margaret was the Employment Services Deputy Regional Director for the West Midlands, during her time in this role she was instrumental in establishing the Governments' New Deal arrangements in the Black Country the largest New Deal Pathfinder in the country.

### **Pat Jackson – Director RSP**

Pat Jackson is the Director of the West Midlands' Regional Skills Partnership (RSP) and is also responsible for leading Advantage West Midlands' work on skills. She joined Advantage West Midlands in September 2004 and since her appointment has worked with local partners to develop the RSP priorities.

Pat has experience of working in the regions (North West and Yorkshire and the Humber) as well as in business and in central Government – her last job was as Director of the DTI's Skills Unit where she led DTI's input to the Government's Skills Strategy.

### **Jayne Howle – Birmingham International Airport**

Jayne has worked at Birmingham Airport for over twenty years. She worked in operational roles prior to becoming the Investors in People Project Manager and Training & Development Manager. A role model for life long learning Jayne has undertaken academic and vocational study throughout her career. She is currently a member of the West Midlands' Strategic Adult Learners' Week Group. Jayne's interests focus on: life long learning, creating a range of learning opportunities to accommodate employees working in a 24/7 business, customer service skills and the development of language skills.

### **David Burton – Confederation of West Midlands Chambers of Commerce**

David Burton is Chairman of the Confederation of West Midlands Chambers of Commerce, a Governor of Coventry University, and a Director of Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership, West Midlands Enterprise, Sherbourne Solutions and Spencer Gardner Dickins. He is a Chartered Accountant specialising in corporate finance and strategy and recently retired as a partner in an International Accounting practice. He is President of Meriden Rotary Club and a member of Coventry Golf Club.

### **Roger Crouch – Government Office for the West Midlands**

Roger took up the new post of Director for Children and Learners in GOWM on 1 September 2005. Roger is responsible for all DfES led policy in the region from early years through to lifelong learning and higher education. He also has a particular focus on the establishment of integrated Children's Services across the region.

Roger also jointly heads the GO's South East Division and has lead responsibility for Coventry and Warwickshire.

From 2000-2005 Roger was Executive Director of the Learning and Skills Council in Gloucestershire and before that he was Director of Education for Gloucestershire County Council. Roger began his public service career with the Greater London Council in 1986 and subsequently worked in education and local government in London and Kent.

### **David Cragg – Birmingham & Solihull LSC**

As the Learning and Skills Council's first Regional Director for the West Midlands and Executive Director of Birmingham and Solihull local LSC, David Cragg leads a pioneering and far-reaching strategy to plan and fund all post-16 learning in the region.

When David became Regional Director for the LSC in the West Midlands in January 2004, it was the culmination of a substantial and varied career dedicated to learning and skills development in teaching, industrial liaison and economic development.

David's commitment to public and private sector partnerships was apparent from the start of his career in further education teaching. Here, he developed and led a specialist unit to provide training and consultancy services for business and industry which ultimately led to the prototype for a national network of Language Export Centres, a partnership between further and higher education institutions and business users. Armed with extensive experience of working with industry gained in a college industrial liaison role, David joined Birmingham City Council, where he held senior management roles in further education and economic development.

### **Graham Moore – Stoke on Trent College**

Graham Moore has enjoyed a career of over 36 years in further education. For the last 17 he has been a principal, first at Stratford-upon-Avon and since 1997 at Stoke-on-Trent where he has seen the college performance recover from the bottom 10% to move into the top quartile of FE Colleges in England.

Amongst a number of external roles he is a Council member of the Staffordshire LSC, a Board member of the North Staffordshire Regeneration Zone, Treasurer of the 157 group, Chairman of the West Midlands E-Learning Company, a Board member of the West Midlands Regional Skills Partnership Board and a member of the Regional Skills Partnership Leadership and Management Group. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society for Arts, Manufacturing and Commerce in 1997 and awarded an OBE in the 2004 New Years honours for services to further education.

### **Peter Huntington – Go Skills**

Peter Huntington is CEO of *GoSkills*, the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for Passenger Transport. Peter has spent all his professional life in education and training, with an emphasis on post-16 and work-based learning.

Peter began his career in Further Education, working in East London and Leicestershire, moving to Tower Hamlets as Principal of a large adult education college. Subsequently he moved to the food industry as Chief Executive of the Meat Training Council, where he was tasked with reorganising existing sector, lead body and awarding arrangements, gaining National Training Organisation status for the new entity. Subsequently Peter moved to the bus and coach industry as CEO for both TRANSfED and AMD, the National Training Organisation and awarding body for bus and coach, writing the expression of interest for the proposed Sector Skills Council which took *GoSkills* into its development stage. He led the team which gained the SSC licence in October 2004. *GoSkills* now covers all the significant passenger transport industries, including Rail, after its merger with the Centre for Rail Skills. *GoSkills* received a high grading from the regulator in its first year of licensed operation.

### **Graham Hooley – West Midlands Higher Education Association**

Graham Hooley is Professor of Marketing and Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Deputy VC) at Aston University in the heart of Birmingham. He has business experience in marketing research and advertising, and has taught business and management in the UK, Australasia and the Far East. On RSP he represents the full range of higher education institutions in the region.

He is a Fellow of the British Academy of Management (BAM) and Deputy Dean of the Fellows College, Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM) and Fellow of the European Marketing Academy (EMAC). He was a member of the Academic Senate of the CIM from 1996 through 2002 and President of the European Marketing Academy (EMAC) from 2004 through 2006. Graham has published three books and over 200 articles on marketing and strategy. "Marketing Strategy and Competitive Positioning" (now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> edition) has been translated into Japanese, Portuguese and Russian. A Chinese translation is currently under way. Other books include "Quantitative Methods in Marketing" and "Internationalization: Process, Context and Markets".

### **Izzy Warren Smith – WiRE UK**

Izzy is a Senior Lecturer in Rural Economics at Harper Adams University College (for Land Based Industries). She is also Director of Women in Rural Enterprise, a rural business support and networking organisation and was awarded a Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)/ HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) Business Fellowship to pursue and develop WIRE. Women in Rural Enterprise (WiRE) is a dynamic networking and business club, set up to help rural women towards starting and developing their own rural enterprise.

She has published a number of journal/conference papers on rural female entrepreneurship, networking and the impact of ICT in rural areas, and is currently involved in an exchanges funded by the British Council to China and South Africa.

Prior to working at Harper Adams University College, she has worked with the World Bank as an agricultural economist in Nigeria and as a senior merchandiser/buyer for Debenhams and the Burton group.

### **Mohammed Hasan – Institute of Directors**

Mohammed is Managing Consultant of Catalyst Associates, an executive search and advisory firm headquartered in Birmingham. Mohammed's background is the defence industry and telecommunications industries where we worked in corporate development leading post-acquisition integration programmes. Mohammed is the founding Chairman of the IoD Young Directors Forum and was until August 2006, the National Diversity Officer advising on all matters relating to diversity and employment and has fed into numerous government consultations for the DTi and DWP. Mohammed's responsibility on the RSP is Higher Level Skills.

### **Christine Kerr – Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council**

Chief Executive of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council since April 1998. Prior to that spent 7 years at Sefton on Merseyside where, as Assistant Chief Executive, she was a key member of the steering group which successfully bid and planned for Employment Zone status for Liverpool and Sefton. She was also on Sefton's New Deal Strategy Group, Chair of Fairplay Merseyside and a governor at a local F.E. College. Christine is very committed to multi-agency and partnership working and gives a very high priority to quality of service issues.

Christine also has experience of the private sector, having worked at Thames Television before moving to Merseyside.

### **Clive Stone – West Midlands Business Council**

Mr Stone of the Confederation of West Midlands Chambers of Commerce has a significant business track record including being the Managing Director of Redcliffe Catering which has a turnover of £14 million and employs 450 full time staff as well as being the Council member for Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of Accent on Training, a training charity. Redcliffe Catering manages 6 prestigious conference and banqueting centre. The Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Centennial Centre are their flagship venues in Birmingham the other centre's are in Cheltenham and Leamington.

Redcliffe also operate 40 contract catering units operating throughout the United Kingdom providing in-house catering for the corporate, leisure and education sectors together with an event management company. Clive was recognised in November 2006 by the Institute of Directors for his activities with him being named Midlands Region Director of the Year.

**Alan Weaver – TUC Midlands**

**Pending**

**David Ewens – NIACE**

**Pending**