

Members of the board



Adrian Andrew (Public Sector)

Deputy Leader of Walsall Council and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Councillor Adrian Andrew represents the Pheasey Park Ward.

He is vice-chair of the council's Personnel Committee and a member of the Standards Committee.



Shaun Darcy (Public Sector)

Shaun is Director of Finance, Corporate Landlord and Assurance at Walsall Council. Prior to this, he was Executive Director of Resources and CFO at the Borough Council of Wellingborough and Deputy CFO across Bournemouth and Poole Borough Councils.

Shaun is delighted to be supporting the Council's Transformation Programme and savings delivery, and taking forward the Corporate Landlord Model and the revised Strategic Asset Plan to include all Council services, regeneration and housing.



Kevin Davis (Third Sector)

Kevin is Chief Executive Officer of The Vine Trust Group, a pioneering third sector organisation based in Walsall, that prepares young people for life.

He has an ability to empower consensus, across the public, private and third sector for the achievement of common goals. He serves his local community as a third sector champion with particular success in the development of responsible business and faith inspired organisations.



Rupert Fairfax (Private Sector)

Rupert has been the MD and owner of Fairfax Saddles Ltd since for 30 years.

Fairfax Saddles Ltd employs around 100 staff at their premises in Bloxwich, exports to over 30 countries and won the Queen's Award for Enterprise in 2018 for its innovations in saddlery design.



Ray Flynn (Public Sector)

Ray is currently the Associate Director for Place at the University of Wolverhampton.

Prior to this, he held senior economic regeneration and development positions in local and regional agencies.



Eddie Hughes MP (Public Sector)

Eddie Hughes is the Conservative MP for Walsall North, serving the people of Birchills-Leamore, Blakenall, Bloxwich and Willenhall.

He was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in January 2021.



Manjit Jhooty (Private Sector)

Chair of the Board

Manjit is the CEO of Jhoots Group. His expertise is consolidated through successful building of relationships with other key partners and professionals in the industry.



Robert Judson (Private Sector)

Rob was appointed as Chief Executive Officer, HomeServe Now in June 2020, following 18 months as Global COO for HomeServe Membership.

In 2011 Rob moved to HomeServe North America and assumed responsibility for the service delivery network, contact centre operations and customer experience across North America as EVP Customer Experience.



Mark Lavender (Public Sector)

Mark is Head of Programme Management within the Resources & Transformation directorate of Walsall Council.

He is currently responsible for establishing and administering a number of significant accountable body and secretariat roles, including the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and the Town's Funds for Bloxwich and Walsall.



David Bengel (Third Sector)

David is the acting Joint Chief Officer at One Walsall, the voluntary sector infrastructure provider for Walsall.

Having spent 24 years in financial services David has worked in the voluntary sector for the past 20 years (6 in Walsall). He is an advocate for the vital role the sector makes in supporting local communities to thrive and prosper.



Jatinder Sharma OBE (Public Sector)

A qualified accountant and highly experienced leader, Midlands-born Jatinder is principal and chief executive of Walsall College. He is a passionate champion of the vital role that skills and training play in the development of the economy and ongoing regeneration of Walsall and the Black Country. He is a board member of the Association of Colleges and a member of the Walsall Proud Partnership. He also represents further education on the Department for Education (DfE) Principals' Reference Group.



Tarra Simmons (Private Sector)

Tarra has worked at Midcounties Co-operative for 32 years.

Having undertaken many roles around the people and organisational development agenda and she is now the General Manager in charge of Co-operative Social Responsibility. This includes community grants, colleague and member engagement and running campaigns.



Philippa Venables (Public Sector)

Philippa is Director of Regeneration and Economy at Walsall Council, having worked in economic development at the London Development Agency, West of England LEP, London Borough of Lambeth and Swindon Borough Council.

Philippa is delighted to be working to create growth and recovery in her home town, having responsibility for Regeneration, Planning, Employment and Skills, Business Support and Engagement, and Cultural Services.



Karl Woodward (Private Sector)

Karl is a self-motivated and resourceful Procurement Director who thrives on challenges and continually strives to develop within his own organisation and through engagement with the supply chain.

He has established a unique collaboration between 14 recruitment companies working together to deliver high quality personnel. By establishing relationships within the local community and universities, he has promoted the development of young people and small businesses.