

Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry 2021 Chamber Council Elections

| Name | Position | Organisation |
|--------------------|---|---|
| John Tyerman | Partner | Pinsent Masons LLP |
| Anne-Marie Simpson | Owner | Simpsons Gin Bar |
| Jing Zhang | Regional Sales Manager – Corporate | Switch Hospitality Management Ltd |
| Matt Jones | Managing Director | Oxbridge |
| Sarah Ward | Managing Director | British Allied Trades Federation (BATF) |
| Eman Al-Hillawi | CEO | Entec Si |
| Dan Hickman | Regional Growth Director | Jacobs |
| Michal Gierat | Managing Director | WM International Limited |
| Tariq Ali | Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Partnerships) | University of Birmingham |
| Kaleem Hussain | Managing Director | Guidance Consultancy Limited |
| Noel Dunne | Managing Director | Creative Alliance |
| Beverly Lindsay | CEO | Diamond Travel |
| Charlie Blakemore | Group Managing Director | Intercity Technology Limited |
| Sharon Bell | CEO | Services For Education |
| Mark Smith | Executive Director of Business Engagement | Aston University |
| Mark Taylor | Regional Managing Partner | RSM UK |
| Diane Rance | Director | Work Horizons |
| Jackie Hendley | Director | Wing Yip PLC |
| Mike Kelly | Senior Business Development Manager | Finance 4 Business |
| Paul Cadman | CEO | Genesis Momentum |
| Andy Dawson | Director & Co-Founder | Curium Solutions |
| Mahmudur Jaigirdar | Director | Lets Sanify Ltd |

A: Birmingham Chamber of Commerce
75 Harborne road, Edgbaston
Birmingham, B15 3DH
T: 0121 454 6171
F: 0121 455 8670
E: info@birmingham-chamber.com
W: greaterbirminghamchambers.com

Chamber Council Elections 2021

The Chamber Council meets four times a year and plays a pivotal role in guiding the Chamber's policy and campaigning activity. Council members act as ambassadors for the Chamber by engaging with the business community to gather intelligence and feeding back membership views on key policy issues at Chamber Council meetings. This year there were 22 applications for the 11 places available. As the number of candidates exceeds the number to be elected an online election must now take place. Please see below for a full list of candidates and their supporting statements. Birmingham Chamber members have until the 6th September to vote for candidates.

John Tyerman- Partner, Pinsent Masons LLP

The Council plays a vital role in guiding policy and driving real engagement with the local business community. I was fortunate to experience that as a Council member between 2015 – 2018. Since then, through a unique period, the Chamber has risen to the challenge, grown its influence and provided leading support and strategic advice to members, partners and stakeholders throughout the region. As Head of Corporate UK for Pinsent Masons working full time in the energy and infrastructure space based in Birmingham for more than 20 years I've been delighted to see both this and the growth and development of the City, and the wider West Midlands, over that period. I'm very keen to rejoin the Chamber Council, to play my part in its future and, to do what I can to help support the continued growth, influence and relevance of the Chamber and to support the wider business community.

Jing Zhang - Regional Sales Manager – Corporate, Switch Hospitality Management Ltd

I am a professional hotelier who has been working in the hotel industry for over 12 years. I started my hospitality career as Corporate Management Trainee and had work experience in Atlanta US, Beijing, Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Chengdu and Birmingham.

I am the Corporate Sales Manager of Switch Hospitality Management Ltd. Switch Hospitality is the management company looking after Lyndon House, St. Martin's Place, Nitenite, Holiday Inn Express A45, Park Regis Birmingham and the reopening of Royal Angus Hotel.

As an international guest who has moved to Birmingham, I am passionate about connecting and developing relationships as well as to support the economic growth for the region. As a Chinese National, I understand how challenging it is for international people to move to Birmingham, as an international growing city, I would like to champion and be an advocate for all foreign nationals living in the city. I know how difficult it is to move into the new city without families and friends, hopefully I could do the best I can do to help, to learn and to grow with this new role.

Anne-Marie Simpson- Owner, Simpsons Gin Bar

I have been a Chamber member since 2017, our hospitality business has survived the challenges of Covid, we took the business online providing gin and cocktail tasting events, expanding the business nationally which proved critical in maintaining our physical presence and existence.

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Previously I had a very enjoyable 27 year career in regeneration, latterly as Head of Midlands Central for the government's regeneration agency, the Homes and Communities Agency– now Homes England. During this time, I represented the organisation on the national HS2 Board, had senior local roles and had strong relations at senior levels with all Midlands local authorities and Housing Associations.

I also Chair the Groundwork West Midlands Board, a charity which works to support local communities into jobs, to meet demands of health and wellbeing via environmental projects and training, and actively supports the green agenda.

I would like to be nominated to the Birmingham Chamber Council to support and bring my experience to benefit.

Matt Jones - Managing Director, Oxbridge

You'll know me best from Oxbridge; the online college. I am also involved in several business' such as software, property and various IP-rich technology ventures. Along with several NED and ambassador responsibilities within the third sector.

I am therefore empathetic to the challenges from multiple industries around Greater Birmingham and I believe I represent a broad spectrum of the Chamber's members.

My specialties are people, process & operational management, sales & marketing, and technology. I'm objective, inclusive, approachable and have a reputation for getting results.

I received an IoD Director of the Year award in 2019 and in the same year won overall in the West Midlands Leadership awards.

I have been a long-term supporter and member of the chamber and look forward to the opportunity to become an ambassador to help advance the cause.

I relish a challenge, I get stuck in, and let my results speak for themselves.

Sarah Ward - Managing Director, British Allied Trades Federation (BATF)

I am a highly effective director/manager with proven success of creating, growing and maintaining a variety of different businesses. I am capable of adapting my skills to any role that requires razor sharp intelligence in order to understand the opportunity, drive results and build a brand and team with passion, professionalism and charisma.

The Giftware Association is the leading and largest trade association for the home and giftware industry based in the heart of Birmingham. We represent businesses of all sizes and this experience will enable me to support the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Board and members. I am passionate about business growth and approach all I do strategically and with outstanding financial and commercial acumen.

Eman Al-Hillawi – CEO, Entec Si

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I am the CEO of business change consultancy, Entec Si, with over two decades of experience in the consultancy industry.

Having studied, lived and worked in Birmingham since 1987, this region is my home. My project delivery has included working with Birmingham City Council for over 20 years and Birmingham Airport for over five years. I have a considerable network of local connections, was a local school governor for five years and am one of Andy Street's 'One Million Mentors', with a passion for people development.

As a Birmingham-based employer, Entec Si has a vested interest in the city's prosperity. I've seen first-hand the challenges that the region is facing and want to play my part in building a bright future for the city's businesses and its people. We have been a proactive member of the Chambers since 2014, and I would love to take that involvement one step further.

Dan Hickman, CMgr FCMI - Regional Growth Director, Jacobs

I lead Jacobs on supporting the growth of the city and region, delivering schemes such as the Clean Air Zone, new cycle routes, transport infrastructure including new train stations locally and also have a role on the HS2 programme.

There is no better time to be in Birmingham, with unprecedented investment, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity for inclusive growth. I'm excited about leading Jacob's work for the region; this is our chance to shine together, be the trusted integrator of solutions and bring our innovative ideas to make a difference to the city.

I have strong relationships with key stakeholders across the city to strive for true inclusive growth; being a trustee with the newly formed Bfriends charity for Birmingham Children's Trust, member of the Careers Hub and SEND CoP for the careers and enterprise company and a board member of the BiTC leadership team.

I believe sitting on the chamber council will give a much-needed platform in the business community for these organisations.

Michal Gierat - Managing Director, WM International Limited

Having had an opportunity to know the GBCC members and having been given a chance to become a GBCC advisor at the Brexit Committee, I managed to know better and appreciate the way GBCC operates as the main business promotor in West Midlands.

Professionally, I am a Customs and Logistics specialist with 16 years of experience in the industry. I am currently working as a General Manager, running a small Customs and Freight Forwarding Agency in Aston, company with over 30 years tradition. After 2.5 years of my leadership, the Company has grown – sales-wise- 350% compared with Q1+Q2 2020 and keeps dynamically growing this year, thanks to a strong IT-minded transition and great Team of colleagues.

Academically, I am a qualified logician (MPhil) as well as qualified manager and UK Customs specialist.

Privately, age 41, father of three, living at Tamworth.

The GB Chamber is an important partner for the University of Birmingham and if elected, I will work to strengthen and expand these links as well as contribute to the strategic work of the Council. I have wide experience of business-related activities at city, regional and national level having worked in both the public and private sector. Previously I was the Executive Director of a global technology company based out of Singapore. I was a member of the Singapore-British Business Council for ten years (as co-chair of the energy & environment committee) and I am currently Vice-Chair of the Healthcare Group of the UAE-UK Business Council. Earlier this year I was invited to join the Supervisory Board of the Midlands Manufacturing Resilience Commission (led by Andy Street and Sir John Peace) and the Board of the Industrial Policy Research Centre (established by the Manufacturing Technology Centre and Loughborough University). In my current role I help build strategic partnerships with business and I am leading on initiatives to develop regional innovation hubs across multiple sectors, working towards sustainable and inclusive economic recovery and resilient growth.

Kaleem Hussain, FRSA (LLB. LLM) - Managing Director, Guidance Consultancy Limited

I am the Managing Director at Guidance Consultancy Limited, a change management consultancy. I have a multi-disciplinary public and private sector background having worked on transformation programmes in central, local government and for the major financial services organisations that have a presence in the West Midlands, UK and worldwide. I have extensive compliance, risk and analytical insight experience and continue to provide my services in this area.

I am a born and bred Brummie, a GBCC member and have a passion to see the city become a leader and sought-after location for business, investment, innovation and enterprise. I am an Executive Committee Member of Warwick Midlands Alumni Network, affiliated with Warwick Business School where I have and continue to play a lead role in holding timely conferences and webinars with the major companies and business that help stimulate the regional economy.

As Birmingham will be hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2022 and looks to bounce back better from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am a strong advocate of ensuring that we have a bounce back that is better and greener looking to meet the UK government 2050 Net-Zero target.

I would like to join the Chamber Council so that I can be a GBCC Ambassador and showcase the commercial-economic strengths and cultural diversity Birmingham has to offer at a national and international level.

Noel Dunne - Managing Director, Creative Alliance

I run a company that enables people from diverse backgrounds, abilities and experiences to get into, and then get on in, creative, digital and marketing roles. We do this through careers education programmes, apprenticeships and Digital Skills for Business training.

The creative economy is thriving in our region. What we need to get better at is ensuring that the talented young people living here, can work here.

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This can happen through campaigns, communications and conversations. That is why I would like to join the Chamber Council. I could give you my credentials but those who know me will just say he's passionate, opinionated, occasionally awkward but will help make things happen. Thank you for reading and my best wishes to you. Noel

Dr Beverly Lindsay OBE, OD, DL – CEO, Diamond Travel

I have served in in the Health Service, Community Work and Business. A former board member and Company Secretary of 3b, introduced many initiatives including the first enterprise business award; collaborated with the Chamber and Birmingham City over many years organising trade missions to the Caribbean and USA including the visit when Birmingham twined with Chicago.

I have been in the Travel Business for over 34years, very respected within the industry, a Sole Trader with all the accreditations, Specialist Agent for British Airways and Virgin Atlantic.

Played a key role in the hosting of the 2012 Jamaican Olympic Team in the City of Birmingham. Over the years, I have been founder of, or have been instrumental in the creation of many initiatives such as **'Jamaica In The Square'** and many others, which still exist and provide vital services and support to the community.

Held Civic and Community roles

- Past President Rotary of Birmingham
- Former Vice Lord-Lieutenant WM, current DL
- Chairman of AJN
- School Governor/Trustee

Good connections throughout the Caribbean, Commonwealth, and other Countries. I can contribute to the Council by bringing practical ideas with positive outcomes.

Charlie Blakemore - Group Managing Director, Intercity Technology Limited

I was born, bred and have always lived in the Midlands.

With 38 years of experience in Engineering, Manufacturing and Technology. I'm Group Managing Director at Intercity Technology, a Birmingham based IT and Technology Services business.

Prior to that, I had a 34-year career with BAE Systems a FTSE 100 Global company. Having started as an apprentice, I have held Board level positions for the past 20-years and gained a MSc at Warwick University.

I'm married with 2 children, I enjoy and play most sports and played and coached semi-professional football for many teams across the Midlands.

I would like to join the Chamber council as I'm proud and passionate about our region and I want to help the Chamber to listen to its members and the wider business community. I want to support businesses of all sizes and from across all sectors. I know from personal experience that we have fantastic talent in our communities, and I want to use my experience to help businesses from across the Midlands region to adapt, thrive and prosper in this ever-changing business world to create opportunities and a lasting legacy for future generations for us all to be proud of.

Sharon Bell - CEO, Services For Education

Services For Education represents three sectors vital to Greater Birmingham – and our Covid recovery: education, arts and culture, and charities. We are proud to have won Excellence in Education and Training at the recent GBCC Annual Awards.

I am passionate about supporting and developing the skills of children, young people, our education and training professionals and our communities. Developing our young people's skills to meet the needs of their future employers is vital.

I became Chief Executive of SFE four months pre-pandemic and received a warm welcome from our 600-school customers, as well as Birmingham's business community. Collaborating and working in partnership with employers enables greater impact.

Having previously worked in Further and Higher Education, airports and aviation – originally starting my career qualifying with KPMG, I am excited about the potential for our city. I hope to bring my varied experience to Council working with and for Chamber members.

Mark Smith - Executive Director of Business Engagement, Aston University

I wish to seek re-election to the chamber council and be part of its ongoing work to develop the greater Birmingham business community in the post COVID period. In my past three years, I have championed the Chambers' work and have contributed to chamber development goals by actively supporting activities and awards. I have assisted in developing financial bids and opportunities and helped promote chamber membership to support chamber income growth. In the past year, I have taken on additional responsibility by standing for election as one of the two deputies of the commonwealth division. I'm confident that my skill set and experience add value to the broader Chamber council group. I have demonstrated my ability to have effective collegiate interactions by supporting past, current, and potential Chamber Council members in meeting their personal and business goals. In the next three years, I would hope to enhance my contribution further.

Mark Taylor- Regional Managing Partner, RSM UK

I am Managing Partner of the Birmingham office (250 people based on Temple Row) at RSM UK - the leading firm of accountants and business advisers. A born and bred Midlander – and adopted Brummie for the last fifteen years - I am hugely passionate both about the region and helping organisations of all shapes and sizes to improve performance.

This is a hugely exciting time: despite the challenges of the pandemic, Birmingham is on a definite upward trajectory and has the massive boost of the Commonwealth Games to look forward to next year. GBCC continues to have a crucial role in working with local business to support ongoing growth and success.

I have thoroughly enjoyed bringing the combined perspective of the diverse businesses I work with to help influence and shape GBCC's policy agenda over the last three years. I would be thrilled and delighted to continue in that role.

Diane Rance - Director, Work Horizons

I have been a Chamber Council member for 6 years and during that time I was awarded the inaugural Chamber President's Medal in recognition of my work around the Growth Through People policy campaign and I continue to support this work, alongside other policy activities relating to employment and skills. I'm also the link between the Chamber and the CIPD, the professional body for People Managers.

I am seeking re-election so that I can continue to support the development of the Chamber's policy work around Employment and Skills, and help build strong relationships with relevant local and national organisations.

I have over 30 years of People Management experience in the West Midlands, including as a senior leader in the automotive sector, and now as a Director of Work Horizons, specialists in organisation, team and individual renewal. My voluntary work includes being a People Management special adviser for Miss Macaroon.

Jackie Hendley – Director, Wing Yip PLC

I am a long standing member of the Birmingham and West Midlands business community, having been a partner at KPMG in Birmingham for 11 years and Managing Partner of Smith Cooper in Birmingham for 7 years. I am now a director at Wing Yip Plc, a large employer in the region providing services to the local community. I am also a NED at University Hospital Birmingham, Word 360 Limited and BMG Research Limited (both Harborne based SMEs) as well as providing independent business, tax and financial advice, through which I assisted a lot of local businesses during the Covid pandemic.

I am a member of the executive council for Sutton Coldfield Chamber and was previously Vice Chair of the West Midlands IOD and chair of Birmingham Forward.

At UHB I provide a link between private and public sector in the area of Healthcare innovation. During my first tenure with the Chamber I have been involved in WMCA focus groups considering the impact of Brexit on the local business community.

With the above networks and experience I consider myself to be a strong member of the Chamber Council

Mike Kelly - Senior Business Development Manager, Finance 4 Business

I have tremendously enjoyed the last three years on the Chamber Council and would dearly like to serve a further term.

With the challenges over the last 15 months or so I have been able to see at first hand the influence of the Chamber both local and nationally and the commitment of the team.

I would like to think that I have contributed in some way in shaping the strategy and policy of the Chamber and helped shine a positive light on the great work it does.

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Paul Cadman - CEO, Genesis Momentum

I am hugely passionate about the region and believe that the Greater Birmingham Chambers represent one of the best opportunities to demonstrate what we are capable of across the first, second and third sectors.

I thrive on bringing together like-minded people that can help to take each other to the next level in business and charity and take great pride in being a part of the Chamber Council. Ultimately, I aim to ensure that companies of all sizes across the region reach their potential and have a chance to overcome any and all obstacles that stand in their respective paths.

I wish to be considered for re-election as my participation as a senior member of the Chamber Council enables me to oversee not only the region's successes, but to be valuably positioned to bring together rising talent, enabling everyone involved to thrive and take the region forward.

Andy Dawson - Director & Co-Founder, Curium Solutions

I thoroughly enjoyed my first three years on the Council supporting the Chamber team, as well as getting the opportunity to contribute to some of the big issues, opportunities and challenges affecting the region.

Curium Solutions are a Patron at the Chamber, so I have the pleasure of working in partnership with Henrietta and her team. We have worked on many joint initiatives and collaborating on the Growth Through People campaigns.

As well as working with many local businesses as customers, we work closely with Acorns Children's Hospice, where I have recently become an Ambassador for the Business Club.

Curium has always been based in Birmingham since it was founded in 2008. We believe that the city offers immense opportunity for everyone in the region, and I would welcome the opportunity to continue to contribute to the Chamber by serving on the Council once more.

I am passionate about the Midlands and feel proud to be part of its thriving economy, new found confidence, and most of all, its change. From HS2, HSBC's new retail headquarters and Centenary Square to the 2022 Commonwealth Games, UK City of Culture 2021 and (hopefully) Channel 4, we are a changing region, and through joining the Chamber Council I want to help set us up to maximise and sustain this unique period of transformation.

Mahmudur Jaigirdar- Lets Sanify, Director

I currently run two businesses. The first one is a business that I have been involved in the industry for about 25 years. It is a training business in which we provide work-based qualifications. In fact, we were one of the first training companies to provide NVQs in the Engineering and Manufacturing sectors.

I have been involved in the manufacturing and engineering industry for about 30 years. Our second business is called LETS-SANIFY Ltd. We manufacture multipurpose surface cleaner and hand rub (Sanitiser). Our dream is to put our mark on the Green Revolution, the product is 100% natural with zero waste. I would bring to the Chamber Council a vast knowledge in the education and manufacturing sector, we were one of few companies who stayed open throughout the pandemic,



which put us in front of our competition and we were able to support the community and businesses.

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