

Minutes of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry Annual General Meeting 2025

Friday 21 November 2025

Welcome - Greg Lowson, Chair

The Chair welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting and introduced the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce Annual Report for 2024/25. He thanked Helen Bates and Raj Kandola for serving as joint Acting Chief Executives during Chief Executive Officer Henrietta Brealey's maternity leave.

He highlighted the Chamber's work to create a strong business community, noting that more than 9,000 delegates had attended over 180 Chamber events during the year. He also emphasised the importance of the Chamber's policy, research and strategic relationship work in supporting evidence-based decision-making.

The Chair reported total income of £8,577,000, up 13% on the previous year, and a surplus of £355,000. He referred to the Chamber's five-year strategy to grow membership, diversify income and reinvest in improved systems.

He thanked outgoing President Nasir Awan for his service, welcomed Andy Dawson as incoming President, and thanked Chamber members and colleagues for their continued support.

Statement on the 2024/25 Accounts - Helen Bates, Chief Financial Officer

Helen Bates noted that the Statutory Report and Accounts for the year ending March 2025 had been published on the Chamber's website and were available through Companies House. The accounts had been approved by the full Board and Dains had given an unqualified audit opinion.

She reported a 15% increase in turnover and an operating surplus before tax of £482,000. Export Documentation and the Programmes Team were highlighted as the two strongest-performing areas. She also referred to contributions from membership, patronage and other commercial services. Helen drew attention to the ESG statement in the audited accounts and noted that the Pension Fund Trustee intended to wind up and buy out all Fund benefits during 2026. She invited members to approve the accounts.

Resolutions

Report and Accounts

The Chair proposed that the Report and Accounts be approved, seconded by Amardeep Gill. The resolution was adopted.

Appointment of Auditors

The Chair proposed that Dains Audit Limited be reappointed as Auditors for 2025/26 and that the Board be authorised to determine the remuneration of the Auditors, seconded by Sam Watson. The resolution was adopted.

Election of Members to Chamber Council

The Chair reported that five nominations had been received for five available places and therefore no election had been held. In accordance with Article 16, the following nominees were elected to Chamber Council:

- Josh Ahmed (re-elected)
- Beate Pesian (re-elected)

- Stuart Price, Lodders
- Gareth Jones, Virgin Money
- Anthony Tattum, Leopard Co

The appointments were proposed for endorsement, seconded by Ruth Pipkin, and endorsed by the AGM.

Appointment of Board Members

The Chair asked the AGM to approve the appointments of Andy Dawson, Director of Curium Solutions, and Carmen Watson, Chair of Pertemps, to the Board, as approved by Chamber Council in accordance with Article 21.3. The proposal was seconded by Beverly Neilson and the appointments were endorsed.

The Chair then asked the AGM to confirm the re-election of Charlie Blakemore and Ruth Pipkin to the Board in accordance with Article 21.4, noting that Amardeep Gill was not standing for re-election. Seconded by Jason Wouhra, the re-elections were confirmed.

Appointment of President

The Chair asked the AGM to endorse the appointment of Andy Dawson as President of the Chamber, previously approved by Chamber Council in accordance with Article 19. Seconded by Jonathan Dudley, the appointment was endorsed. The Chair thanked outgoing President Nasir Awan for his service.

Appointment of Senior Vice-President

The Chair asked the AGM to endorse the appointment of Carmen Watson as Senior Vice-President, previously approved by Chamber Council in accordance with Article 19. Seconded by Gareth Jones, the appointment was endorsed.

Appointment of Immediate Past President

The Chair asked the AGM to endorse the appointment of Nasir Awan as Immediate Past President in accordance with Article 20. Seconded by Abid Iqbal, the appointment was endorsed.

Election of Chair of the Board

Nasir Awan proposed that Greg Lowson be reappointed as Chair of the Board for a further three years in accordance with Article 22.3. Seconded by Mark Taylor, the resolution was adopted.

[Outgoing President's Statement - Nasir Awan, President](#)

Nasir Awan reflected on his long association with the Chamber and his two-year term as President. He outlined his international theme and the work undertaken to connect Greater Birmingham businesses with overseas opportunities through trade missions and relationships with international partners.

He noted that £38,300 had been raised during his presidency for Cure Leukaemia. He thanked his family, the Chamber team, the Chair and Board, and the joint Acting Chief Executives for their support, before wishing Andy Dawson well as incoming President.

President's Award

Nasir announced Dr Jason Wouhra OBE as the recipient of the 2025 President's Award, recognising his contribution to business, academia, charity and the wider community.

Jason thanked Nasir for the award and congratulated him on a successful presidency.

Longstanding Member Awards

Nasir presented Longstanding Member Awards to Arthur Price, represented by Simon Price and James Price, and Gateley, represented by Rebecca Sherwin. He thanked both organisations for their longstanding support of the Chamber.

[Incoming President's Statement - Andy Dawson, President](#)

Andy Dawson thanked members, the Board, Chamber colleagues and guests, and reflected on the importance of stewardship and supporting the future success of the Chamber. He identified two priorities for his term: supporting veterans, particularly in the lead-up to the 2027 Invictus Games, and helping businesses respond to the growing impact of artificial intelligence and technology in the workplace.

He thanked Nasir Awan for his contribution and support during the transition, and thanked the Curium Solutions team, the Chamber team, the Board and members for their welcome.

[2024/25 Review - Raj Kandola, Acting Deputy Chief Executive](#)

Raj Kandola presented a review of the Chamber's work over the previous 12 months. This covered how the Chamber supports businesses to innovate, build their profile and networks, access insight and expertise, trade internationally, develop future leaders, make savings and contribute to the wider business community. He thanked members, partners and Patrons for their support and shared a message from Henrietta Brealey, thanking Nasir for his work as President, and congratulating Andy Dawson on his appointment to the role.

[Close - Greg Lowson, Chair](#)

The Chair thanked Nasir Awan and Andy Dawson, congratulated Dr Jason Wouhra OBE on receiving the 2025 President's Award, and thanked Arthur Price and Gateley for their longstanding support. He thanked Unique Venues for providing the facilities and declared the meeting closed.