



Minutes of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry Annual General Meeting 2023

Friday 17th November 2023

Edgbaston Park Hotel, Birmingham

Welcome – Greg Lawson, Chair

The Chair welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting, noting that the Chamber has continued to provide invaluable support to the local business community in a year of difficult economic conditions. He shared that he was pleased that the Chamber's total income increase and thanked his Chamber colleagues for their commitment to local businesses.

He mentioned in particular the office move from Chamber House to 54 Hagley Road and the Chamber's digital transformation, both of which are critical to the success of the Chamber and our business plan and strategy.

The Chair extended his thanks to Deborah Leary for her term as President and welcomed Nasir Awan to the role.

The Chair thanked the Chamber's members for their continued support, as well as the Board and Chamber Council for their hard work over the year.

Statement on the 2022/23 Accounts – Helen Bates, Chief Financial Officer

Helen noted that the Statutory Report and Accounts for the year ending March 2023 have been published on the Chamber's website and are available to view on Companies House.

She noted that the audited accounts were approved by the full Board and that the auditors Dains LLP have given an unqualified audit opinion.

Helen shared that the financial results were very positive, noting in particular the continuing increase in turnover of Export Documentation.

Resolutions

Report and Accounts

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



Appointment of Auditors

The Chair proposed that Dains LLP be reappointed as Auditors for 2024/25 and that the Board be authorised to determine the remuneration of the Auditors, seconded by Charlie Blakemore. The resolution was adopted.

Election of Members to Chamber Council

The Chair outlined that 3 nominations were received for 4 spaces on Chamber Council, and that the four candidates were elected. He thanked everyone who put themselves forward and announced in accordance with the Chamber's articles the following nominees were elected to Chamber Council:

- Deborah Hazell, Unity Trust Bank
- Elisabeth Lewis-Jones, Liquid PR
- Rebekah Taitt, Lloyds Banking Group

He asked the AGM to endorse the appointments, seconded by Mark Smith. The appointment of the members was endorsed.

Election of President

The Chair proposed the appointment of Nasir Awan as President of the Chamber and Mike Owens as Vice-President. They were appointed by the Board Appointments Committee and approved by Chamber Council in accordance with Article 19. Seconded by Mark Smith, the appointment was endorsed.

The Chair proposed the appointment of Deborah Leary as immediate Past President of the Chamber in accordance with Article 20. Seconded by Mark Smith, the appointment was endorsed.

Appointment of Board Members

The Chair asked the AGM to approve the appointment of Mike Owens of Schumacher Packaging to the Board in accordance with Article 21, seconded by Dr Nasir Awan MBE. The appointments were endorsed and the Chair congratulated Mike on his appointment.

Outgoing President's Statement – Deborah Leary OBE, President

Deborah commented on the resilience of the region, our businesses, universities and our people during the significant changes which took place during her presidency, including the impact of Brexit, the pandemic, Ukraine, Israel and Gaza and the changes in Prime Ministers and Chancellors.



She stated how privileged she was to be President at the time of the Commonwealth Games and that the legacy of the Games will have a positive impact on how Greater Birmingham is perceived globally. She noted that she had built relationships and welcomed delegations from Germany, USA, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Serbia, Sri Lanka and Mexico to name but a few.

Deborah thanked Chamber members and other businesses for supporting her chosen charity Pans Pandas, and thanked the Chamber team, the Board, Chamber Council, Patrons and members for making the past two years so special.

President's Medal

Deborah announced that the recipient of the 2023 President's Medal was Charlie Blakemore and the team at Intercity Technology, a company that not only provides outstanding tech capability and services to its clients, but has a strong commitment to social impact, supporting a range of charities.

Longstanding Member Awards

Deborah presented Longstanding Member Awards to Steve Walker, Chief Executive and Director of Art Business Loans, Nicola Corfield, Sales and Marketing Manager of Crowne Plaza Hotel and Tom Fattorini of Thomas Fattorini Ltd.

The Chair added his congratulations to Charlie Blakemore and his gratitude to the longstanding members.

2022/23 Review – Henrietta Brealey, Chief Executive

Henrietta highlighted the Chamber's mission to connect, support and grow local businesses, as well as the Chamber's purpose and vision and its refreshed values.

She detailed the help that the Chamber offers local businesses and noted the significant achievements during the year in event attendance, mentoring and the Start-Up & SME Academy, the positive sentiments from data collected from local businesses, the international partnerships made during the year and the highlights of the Chamber awards across the Greater Birmingham area.

Henrietta shared the themes & ambitions of the 2022-2025 Business Plan and the Chamber's achievements against each of these, noting in particular the investment in people, the successful office move to 54 Hagley Road and investment in systems, noting the impact these positive steps have had on customer & member engagement, improved team feedback & representation and improved financial performance.

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Close – Greg Lowson, Chair

Greg thanked Edgbaston Park Hotel for providing the facilities for the AGM, thanked members for coming and declared the meeting closed.

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