

**THE 173rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WEST AND NORTH YORKSHIRE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY**

**Thursday, 12 September 2024
@ The Cedar Court Hotel, Harrogate**

Present:	Aimee Hara Amanda Selvaratnam Aqila Choudhry MBE Bolu Fagborun Elina Kelly Graham Poulter Inka Cheung Janet Scally Jeremy Burnham Katrina Lewis Ken Merry Kerry Benson Louise O'Brien Louise Wan Mark Cowgill Nasreen Karim Sarah Ratcliffe Sam Perry Scott Jenkins Trevor Higgins Victoria Wainwright Warwick Andrews Zoe Fildes	David Roberts University of York Love in Care Fagborun Limited David Roberts Corporate Intelligence Ltd Maki & Ramen The Grand Hotel T L Dallas & Co Formm York College & University Centre IMSM Greyhound Box Ltd Headingley Stadium Events Talk-Straight Group Platinum Partnership Solicitors Gordons LLP NatWest Autohorn Fleet Services Bradford Breakthrough Azets WACS Brown Butler
In attendance:	James Mason Julie Snook	Chamber Chief Executive Chamber Financial Controller

Amanda Beresford (Chair) welcomed those present to the 173rd Annual General Meeting and introduced herself and other representatives; Victoria Wainwright (Chair of Finance & Audit / Azets), James Mason (CEO) and Julie Snook (Financial Controller / Company Secretary).

Amanda explained that the notice of the meeting had been issued in August and copies of the papers were made available to attendees via an email link and on the West & North Yorkshire Chamber website.

The agenda and supporting papers had been circulated and are available from the Chamber team upon request.

1. To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21 September 2023

The minutes were proposed by Trevor Higgins and seconded by Vicky Wainwright as a true and accurate record.

The resolution was put to the meeting and all voted in favour.

2. To adopt the annual report of the West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry for the year ended 31 March 2024

A link to view the annual report had been circulated via email and the document is available via the website. The report highlights the activities and achievements of the past year and gives examples of how the West & North Yorkshire Chamber has supported local businesses. Activities of the Chamber, its subsidiary the Business Enterprise Finance Ltd (BEF) and the John Speak Foreign Languages Trust are included in the overview.

The Chair gave a brief summary of items covered in the Annual Report and thanked the Chamber for its continued hard work. The Chair informed that the Chamber were hugely grateful to members for their continued support. Chamber Patrons and sponsors were recognised and thanked for their continued support.

The report was proposed by Scott Jenkins and seconded by Aqila Choudhry

All voted in favour.

3. To appoint the following directors nominated by the three area representative groups and the West & North Yorkshire Chamber Board:

The Chair proposed the appointment of thirteen individuals (listed below), who have been nominated by local representative groups as directors of the West & North Yorkshire Chamber:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ○ Amanda Beresford | Schofield Sweeney / Chair |
| ○ Chris Black | Sound Leisure / Leeds Chamber President |
| ○ Mike Briffett | Clarion Housing Group |
| ○ Aqila Choudhry MBE MBA | Love in Care / Leeds Chamber Vice President |
| ○ Mark Cowgill | Talk-Straight Group / Bradford Chamber President |
| ○ Sarah Czarnecki | York St John University / YNY Chamber President |
| ○ Rebecca Fitzgerald | Yorkshire Building Society / Bradford Chamber Vice President |
| ○ Kerry Hope | Castle Employment Agency Limited |
| ○ Scott Jenkins | Autohorn Limited |
| ○ Nasreen Karim | Platinum Partnership / BAME Business Committee Chair |
| ○ James Mason | Chief Executive, West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce |
| ○ Victoria Wainwright | Azets |
| ○ Suzanne Watson | Suzanne Watson Communications |

The Chair suggested that all thirteen were accepted *en bloc*, which was proposed by Bolu Fagborun and seconded by Amanda Selvaratnam.

The resolution was put to the meeting and all voted in favour.

4. To accept members of the area representative groups (list attached, appendix 1) which are:

- the Bradford Chamber Leadership Group
- the Leeds Chamber Leadership Group
- the York & North Yorkshire Chamber Leadership Group

Each of the three geographical areas has its own local representative group. In July, three separate election meetings were held to appoint their respective members.

A list of members of each of the current representative groups was circulated with the meeting papers. The Chair asked that the meeting voted on all of the groups *en bloc*, which was proposed by Nasreen Karim and seconded by Aqila Choudhry.

The resolution was put to the meeting and all voted in favour.

The Chair thanked all of the members who help to respond to consultations, monitor the local economies and the needs and concerns of local businesses. Their input allows the Chamber to influence locally, regionally and nationally.

And finally,

5. To appoint the auditors and authorise the directors to fix their remuneration

The Chair thanked Linda Cooper, Zoe Fildes and Chloe McCormack and their colleagues at Brown Butler for undertaking the audit.

The Chair requested that a resolution be passed to appoint Brown Butler as the Auditors of the Chamber to hold office until the conclusion of the next general meeting and that their remuneration be fixed by the Directors

This resolution was proposed by Nasreen Karim and seconded by Sarah Ratcliffe.

The resolution was put to the meeting and all voted in favour.

Chair's concluding Remarks

In the 12 months since our last Annual General Meeting, there has been a great deal of change.

We have had a general election and a new Government is now in place. We also now have devolution in place across all of the Chamber's geographical patch. As well as our mayor in West Yorkshire Tracy Brabin, we now have a mayor in North Yorkshire in the shape of David Skaith. We look forward to working with both of our mayors to make sure our business community's interests are served so they can create the jobs and investment that help power Yorkshire's motor.

The Chamber made a big splash this year with a hugely successful trade mission to New York City in which we were able to celebrate the strong links between our region and the United States, and to forge new relationships in the process.

On hospitality, our partners across the whole of North Yorkshire continue to make progress, with an aim of producing a charter for the sector hopefully due to be realised by the end of the year.

The countdown to City of Culture for Bradford 2025 is coming closer to launch day and the Chamber has just agreed a strategic partnership with BD25, putting us at the heart of a year-long cultural celebration that will very much showcase the best of Bradford to the world.

Our BAME committee made several powerful interventions in the last year, arguably most notably last month, with its commentary around the shameful rioting and violence we saw up and down the country.

Our two Local Skills Improvement Plans are functioning well in both West and North Yorkshire. And we have carried out extensive lobbying across our three regions to help our members grow their businesses, benefit from improved infrastructure and achieve trading conditions that bring them the confidence needed to grow and create prosperity.

The Chair thanked members for their attendance at the Annual General Meeting and declared the meeting closed.