

REAPPOINTMENTS TO ADVANTAGE WEST MIDLANDS BOARD 2008

Pat McFadden, Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs, today announced the reappointment of three existing members of the Board of Advantage West Midlands, Councillor Kenneth Taylor, John Crabtree OBE and Dr David Brown.

Pat McFadden said: *“I am pleased to reappoint Ken Taylor, John Crabtree and David Brown. The RDA plays a key role in helping equip the region for the future and I am sure these members of the board will play an important role in that work.”*

Nick Paul, the Chair of Advantage West Midlands, said: *“The role of the Board is absolutely key to the ongoing success of Advantage West Midlands. The input, experience and vision of the Board helps drive the work of the Agency and our partners in the region to deliver the aims of the West Midlands Economic Strategy. Ken, John and David have all demonstrated their value to the region and I am delighted that we have the opportunity to continue working with them for a further three years.”*

Remuneration for the appointment

Regional Development Agency Board posts attract a remuneration of £8,371 per year for a time commitment of a minimum of 2 days per month.

Length of appointments

All the reappointments are for a further three years.

The body to which the appointments have been made, and its function

RDAs are business-led organisations, and provide strategic leadership to promote economic development, enterprise and regeneration in their regions, tackling economic differences within their regions as well as driving up the performance of the regions as a whole. Their role will shortly be broadened by gaining the responsibility for drawing up the Single Integrated Regional Strategy, bringing together sustainable economic development and regeneration, spatial planning, housing, transport, and climate change action. They are to become the Regional Planning Body.

Appointments being made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice

The original appointments were made following open competition in accordance with the requirements set down in the Commissioner for Public Appointments Code of Practice. All appointments are made on merit and political affiliation plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for appointees' political activity (if any declared) to be made public.

A brief summary of the re-appointees' careers and experience

Councillor Ken Taylor became Leader of Coventry City Council in June 2004. He has been a councillor for the Earlsdon ward in Coventry for 18 years, and Leader of the Conservative Group at the council since 2003. From 2002 to 2003 he was also Lord Mayor of the city.

Ken has lived in Coventry since 1972, working for a number of multi-national companies such as Nestle and ICI in sales management positions. From 1990 until he became Leader of the Council, he was the Conservative party agent for Coventry's three parliamentary constituencies.

Ken has held a number of key positions during his time in public service, including serving as a Director of Whitefriars Housing Association and a governor at two Coventry schools, chairing various council committees and as a member of the West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority. During his time as Lord Mayor, he and his wife Mary, who was Lady Mayoress, became well-known to many Coventry people as they visited many people, places and communities in the city they both love.

As Leader of the Council, Ken chairs the fortnightly meeting of the Council's Cabinet, and leads on policy and governance issues. This includes partnership work with other councils and organisations, speaking out for Coventry on issues that matter to local people and working with people and organisations to ensure Coventry's richly diverse communities develop and prosper.

John Crabtree OBE is a former senior partner of the Birmingham law firm Wragge & Co and now acts as a consultant to the law firm. He holds a number of Chairmanships – Investbx Holdings Limited (the regional business exchange), Metalrax Group Plc, SLR Holdings Ltd, Claimar Care Group Plc, Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (Midlands Advisory Board), TruckEast, Sense the national charity for the deaf and blind and Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre Trust. He is also a Non-Executive Director of Staffline Recruitment Plc. John has collected several awards. He was UK Lawyer of the Year in 2003, Birmingham Law Society awarded him a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003 and in 2004 he was voted the Variety Club's Midlands Businessman of the year.

He was the High Sheriff of the County of the West Midlands in 2006/07 and awarded the OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2007.

John has been involved in several major appeals during his career, including the Hippodrome's £35 Million redevelopment and raising over £2.5 million for Sense.

Dr. David Brown is the Chief Executive of the Institution of Chemical Engineers, the international organisation for chemical, biochemical and process engineering professionals, based in Rugby, West Midlands, and Director of its commercial subsidiary IChemE Ltd. He is a Cambridge science graduate with a PhD and postdoctoral experience in polymer science

He is a Director of: the non-profit company charged with running the Central Technology Belt, (one of the region's High Technology Corridors), of one of the UK's Knowledge Transfer Networks, and of a local charity in Coventry. Dr Brown is also a member of the West Midlands Innovation and Technology Council, the Birmingham Science City Partnership Board, the Board of West Midlands in Europe, the Board of the Science Council, and of the 'G15' group of CEOs of the UK's engineering institutions.

Until October 2006 he was a Director at the management consultancy Arthur D. Little Ltd, and head of its UK Technology and Innovation Management practice.

With some 25 years' experience of research base-industry-public sector links, Dr. Brown has been instrumental in the design, creation, business planning and

appraisal of a variety of R&D and knowledge transfer organisations. He has worked extensively with clients in the UK, much of Europe and around the world. His experience includes wide-ranging work on support for innovation, in small – medium sized firms and large companies. His work has directly influenced UK national policy, for example in the creation of regional Science and Industry Councils, which he devised. He has worked extensively with all the RDAs and with many public bodies, universities and industry groups, usually on issues of innovation, economic development, SME development, cluster support, sustainability environmental management and corporate responsibility.

He worked for ICI plc for ten years as an R&D scientist and manager, before moving to the University of Warwick where he headed and expanded a business unit responsible for applied collaborative R&D and consultancy.

Response to the political activity questionnaire

Within the last five years, the re-appointees have undertaken the following political activities:

Councillor Kenneth Taylor is the Conservative Councillor for the Earlsdon ward in Coventry and is the Leader of Coventry City Council. He has acted as a political agent for the Conservative party and made a recordable donation to the party.

John Crabtree OBE and Dr David Brown have not undertaken any political activity in the past five years.

Other ministerial public appointments held

Councillor Kenneth Taylor, John Crabtree and Dr David Brown do not hold any other Ministerial appointments.

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