**Mike Blackburn OBE**

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**Profile:**

**Strong leader with a proven track record of improving business performance in exec roles, ranging from £5m to £500m pa. Specific skills in strategy development & implementation, business growth and leadership.**

**Experienced Non-Exec Chair and NED since 2000. Particular experience in Industry 4.0; digitisation; journey of the North; political connectivity; Place making; listening; and diversity.**

**Knowledge and Experience**

* Strong strategic planning and people skills in UK. A valued source of constructive challenge, support and risk assurance
* Significant experience in business transformation and improvement
* Excellent communicator and builder of teams. Extensive experience of scrutinising performance.
* Outstanding experience in engaging varied and multiple stakeholders.
* Experience in setting up and running joint venture arrangements to drive operational improvement.

**Current Non-Executive Experience**

**Chair Greater Manchester LEP 2011 – present**

Local Enterprise Partnership – A Private/Public board developing the economic strategy for Greater Manchester. Works closely with private sector professional bodies to support business growth and place making.

* Regarded as one of the most successful LEP’s in England
* The economy of Manchester is currently one of the fastest growing cities in the UK, a £65bn economy
* Attracting significant investment from UK as well as internationally

**Director Science Museum Foundation 2018 – present**

The charitable purpose of the Foundation is to advance the public’s knowledge and enjoyment of the National Science Museum Group’s collection and their preservation.

**Digital Futures, Strategic Advisory Board Member Univ of Manchester 2019 - present**

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| Providing strategic direction and oversight to the University’s Digital Futures activity. |

**Non-Exec Director Telcom Group Ltd 2018 – present**

Telcom is a Manchester based Internet Service Provider. Their service provision covers the UK but is mainly concentrated on the Manchester and Northern customers. Supporting the SLT to grow and access new customers.

**IN4.0 Fellow IN4.0 2018 – present**

IN4.0 are an industry 4.0 training and consultancy provider, who are empowering startup businesses and small to medium enterprises to be at the forefront of this industrial and technological change.

**Board Member The Growth Company 2012 – present**

A not for profit company whose purpose is to enable growth, create jobs and improve lives in Greater Manchester and the other locations in which it operates. Turnover in 2017-18 was £108m.

Member of the Audit Committee since 2013

Chair of the Audit Committee 2016-2017

* 18,000 businesses assisted
* £15m invested in businesses
* 23,000 clients placed into work

**Board member Transport for the North 2015 – present**

Transport for the North is the statutory transport body for the North of England. It is a unique partnership, with elected and business leaders from all areas of Northern England uniting to work with central government and national transport bodies.

**Board member The Lowry Theatre 2013 – present**

The Lowry opened on 28th April 2000, bringing together a wide variety of performing and visual arts under one roof. The Lowry aims to give everyone access to new areas of creativity and to embrace its broad community.

Lead board support for the digital strategy.

**Board member Lancashire LEP 2011 – present**

This is a board set up to develop the economic strategy for Lancashire through partnership between private and public sector.

* Chair of the Business Support Management Board.
* Chair of the Digital Skills Partnership

**Chair IoD NW & IoM 2018 – present**

The Institute of Directors is set up to support, represent and set standards for business leaders nationwide.

**Previous Non-Executive roles:**

**Deputy Chair NYAS 1999 – Dec 18**

A national charity providing socio-legal advice and advocacy services to young people in England and Wales.

* Supported their growth from 700k pa to £7m pa.

**Chair of Governors at the Greater Manchester Academy Trust, 2010-2018.**

This is a multi-academy trust based in Harpurhey, Manchester which includes; Manchester Communication Academy; Manchester Communication Primary Academy; North Manchester Initial Teacher Training.

**Deputy Chair at North West Business Leadership Team, 2007-2018.**

This is an independent group of influential business leaders, who work together to promote the sustainable economic development and long-term well-being of North West England. Lead on transport sub group

**Executive Experience:**

**2007 – Jan 2018 Chair of BT’s NW Regional Board**

This role had pan BT responsibility to act as the lead person for BT in the NW. This meant meeting and keeping informed, the key opinion formers based in the NW, including politicians, Government civil servants and senior business people. In addition, it ensures that the aspirations and ambitions of the North West are communicated into BT Group.

* Lead person in Manchester for the BT Paralympic WorldCup 2009-2010
* 2 of 6 UK cities chosen for significant fibre investment by BT are in the NW

**Oct 2015 – Jan 2018 Head of Digital Government & Health, BT**

A focus based around using people and technology to improve operational performance, with a particular focus on large scale transformational change. It was achieved through an holistic understanding of each client’s people, challenges and opportunities. This led to a reduction in organisational complexity and improved performance.

* Led the development of BT’s strategy in the Public Sector
* Won the lead partner role in the Internet of Things demonstrator in Manchester in partnership with Cisco. Value £10m.

**Jan 2011 – Oct 2015 Vice President Strategy & Planning, BT Govt & Health**

Developed the strategy for the public sector market unit and provided leadership to influence and shape the market as it developed. Annual revenue of £1.8bn.

* Implemented a single coherent plan.
* Developed a planning mechanism for the market unit.
* Developed successful new product and programme strategies for the sector.

**2007 – 2010** Director BT Central Government & Home Affairs

**2006 – 2007** Regional Business Director, BT Local Govt & Education

**2002 – 2006** Sales Director, BT Local Government & Education

**2001 – 2002** Head of Innovation & Policy, BT Stepchange

**1999 – 2001** Head of Marketing, BT Local Government

**1992 – 1999** Account Manager, BT

**Honours and achievements:**

* Awarded an OBE in the Queen’s birthday honours of June 2015, for services to the economy in the North West
* Appointed as The Prince of Wales Ambassador for business in the NW 2010-12
* IOD North West Non-Exec Director of the Year 2016
* IOD North West Director of the Year 2016
* IOD UK Non-Exec Director of the Year 2016
* Honorary DBA from Manchester Metropolitan University 2016
* Awarded Companion of the Chartered Management Institute in Jan 2017

**Academic Qualifications:**

**1978 – 1982** BA Joint Hons Russian and Management Studies

Leeds University

**1975-78** 11 ‘O’ Levels & 3 ‘A’ Levels

**Interests**

Active sporting pursuits include yoga, golf and skiing.

Other interests include reading, music (relearning the piano) and dog walking.