

### Biographies – Recommended Additions to the Board

#### Liz Tapner

##### **Social Enterprise Lancashire Network (SELNET) - Chief Executive Officer**

Liz is the driving force behind Selnet, Lancashire's professional network specialising in social enterprises connection, development, growth and impact. For over 15 years, Liz has developed Lancashire's social enterprise network into the major infrastructure organisation it is today.

Recognised as one of the UK's leading sector professionals, Liz has secured funded programmes to benefit and develop social enterprises and the wider Lancashire community, and then leads her team and partners to deliver compelling project goals. The value of the impactful contracts secured by Liz while in post at Selnet is estimated circa £22M, including:

- Building Better Opportunities – a major initiative to provide specialist support to people with multiple and complex barriers in life, overcoming them to move closer to employment.
- Dr!ve Lancashire – a programme of support specialising in the growth and development of new social entrepreneurs to established social enterprises
- Lancashire's Crisis Support Scheme – administering a long-term contract enabling delivery local partners to supply essential furniture and household appliances to people in critical need.

As Chief Executive, Liz ensures that Selnet's staff and partners deliver key social enterprise contracts, on time and on budget. With an active diverse board of Directors, comprised of 12 sector professionals, Liz enables network representatives to be active in Selnet's decision making and impact potential.

As a Chartered business adviser and mentor, Liz has extensive experience of business support programmes, specialising in finance and accounts.

Liz is well known in Lancashire as an advocate for the social enterprise sector and regularly undertakes speaking engagements and issues media articles to promote the work of the sector. From the development of this professional network, to securing multi-million-pound contracts that deliver significant social impact, Liz has been widely recognised as a UK sector leader, nationally acclaimed by Social Enterprise UK.

**Damian Waters** was appointed Regional Director of the CBI North West in January 2003 – prior to that Damian was Assistant Director for the CBI North West and North Wales. Between 2014 and 2017 Damian lead the CBI's national business development team.

He studied Business and Finance at the North East Wales Institute of Higher Education and the University of Central Lancashire, obtaining first an HND and then a BA (Hons). He has worked as an accountant for an oil refining company and a production manager for a manufacturing business in North Wales.

Damian is a member of the Liverpool City Region Professional Services Board, the United Utilities Customer Challenge Board, the Electricity North West CEO Advisory panel and the North West Productivity Forum. He has been Vice Chair of the Nuclear Network North and an Advisory Board Member of Gordon Brown's Joint Economic Council for the North West. For ten years he was Chair of Governors of Britain's largest primary school. As a Director of The Wild Media Foundation, Damian created and managed the Young Ambassador project.

He lives on the Wirral and is married to Úna. He has two children, Martin and Róisín. Damian owns a nature photography business; his images and articles have been published in magazines and books worldwide and he is a columnist for magazines in the UK.