Council pen portraits

Ed Anderson
Ed Anderson has been a lay member of the Council since 2007. A graduate in Economics and a qualified accountant, he chairs the Audit and Risk Committee.

Ed is a former executive director of Leeds City Council and former Chairman of the Yorkshire Building Society; and he served for ten years as CEO of Leeds Bradford Airport. He is currently Chairman of National Savings and Investments and of the Airport Operators Association, and also serves on a number of voluntary sector boards in the region.

A former High Sheriff, Ed is currently a Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire.

Liz Barber
Liz Barber has been a lay member of the Council for four years. She is the Finance Director of Kelda Group, owners of Yorkshire Water, in which capacity she covers not only finance but also strategy, regulation, financing, markets and risk and assurance.

Liz joined Kelda in 2010 from EY (formerly Ernst and Young), where she had worked for 23 years as a partner and led the audit practice for the North Region and the UK-wide water utility team.

Liz is a member of the CFO Network of Accounting for Sustainability (a charity of HRH The Prince of Wales), of which she was Chair for two years. She also sits on the board of the Natural Capital Coalition, and is a non-executive director of KCom plc, where she chairs the Audit Committee.

Rachael Brown
Rachael Brown has been an elected staff member of the Council since 2017. She has worked in the higher education sector for more than five years, and joined the University in 2013. Rachael’s current role is as PA to the Head of School of Media and Communication, a role in which she provides wide-ranging support for academic staff.

Seb Elsworth
Seb Elsworth has been a lay member of the Council since 2016. He graduated from the University in 2004 with joint honours in History and Philosophy.

Since 2015, Seb has been chief executive of Access – The Foundation for Social Investment, which supports charities and social enterprises across England to be more financially resilient through developing enterprise activity and providing blended finance.

Seb’s previous roles have been within the charity sector covering policy, strategy and funding. Following his graduation he held two consecutive terms on the executive of Leeds University Union, during the latter of which he also served on the Council as a student representative.
Serene Esuruoso

Serene Esuruoso is a recent Energy Engineering graduate and LUU's Education Officer for 2018/19. Her interest in making positive impact is what attracted her to a degree in sustainability and renewable energy. It's also what led her to become a Course Rep, School Rep, and eventually the Education Officer.

In this role, her job is to make sure every student on campus has the best educational experience. She does this through sitting on boards and committees to represent the student cohort, whilst simultaneously working on projects in collaboration with various students and members of university staff. She sits on Council as a nominated representative from the Students' Union.

Paul Gittins

Paul Gittins has been a lay member of the Council since 2014. He is the Director of Group Strategy and Competitive Intelligence at Capgemini, a global leader in consulting, technology services and digital transformation.

David Gray, Pro-Chancellor

David Gray’s pen portrait can be found at https://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/110000senior_lay_officers_and_the_executive.

Michael Howell

Michael Howell has served on the Council as the representative of the Clothworkers’ Company of London (a co-founder of one of the University’s principal precursors) since 2016.

Michael studied engineering and economics at Cambridge, and has MBAs from INSEAD and Harvard Business Schools. He led major US manufacturing businesses for 15 years (Cummins Engine and GE Transportation); he was Commercial Director of Railtrack during the 1990s privatisation of the UK rail network; and he led the procurement of the recently-commissioned tram system in Edinburgh.

Michael is a former Chairman of Trustees and Council of City and Guilds of London Institute; and has been on the Board of Westinghouse Airbrake Technologies Corporation, USA, since 2003.

Caroline Johnstone

Caroline Johnstone has been a lay member of Council since 2010 and sits on a number of University committees. She is a Chartered Accountant.

Caroline was a partner in PwC until 2009, working with large global organisations on turnaround, culture change and cost optimisation programmes. She sat on the board of the Assurance practice of PwC UK, responsible for People.

Caroline provides consulting services to a range of global organisations. She is also an Independent Non-executive Director of Shepherd Group Limited and of Synthomer plc, (where she also serves as Chair of the Audit Committee); and has previously held similar roles at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and BARCA Leeds.
Pam Jones
Pam Jones has been an elected staff member of the Council since 2017. After graduating from the University of Oxford with a degree in Biochemistry and a DPhil in Natural Sciences, Pam took a postdoctoral position in Basel, Switzerland, funded by a Royal Society Fellowship. A second postdoctoral period at the Friedrich-Miescher Institute in Basel was followed by five years as a Senior Scientist in a biotechnology/pharmaceutical company in the USA. Pam returned to the UK to a Fellowship position in Leeds and is now Professor of Biomedical Research with an interdisciplinary research interest focused around the functioning of blood vessels. Pam has had an increasing focus on leadership roles: she recently stepped down as the Pro-Dean for Research and Innovation in the Faculty of Medicine of Health in order to take up a Head of Institute role within the School of Medicine.

Sir Alan Langlands, Vice-Chancellor
Sir Alan’s pen portrait can be found at https://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/110000senior_lay_officers_and_the_executive.

Roger Marsh, OBE
A Leeds alumnus (in Metallurgy), Roger Marsh has been a lay member of the Council since 2013.

A Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, Roger initially qualified as a chartered accountant at PwC, where he spent much of his career and was a partner for over two decades. Roger has managed change at the highest level of Government, and in major businesses and companies, implementing sensitive projects in times of transition and for long term financial health.

He has been Chair of the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) since 2013; and has led the LEP through a period of significant transformation, including securing the country’s largest ever Local Growth Deal with Government.

In 2015, Roger became an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for services to business and the economy.

Amanda Mellor
Amanda Mellor has been a lay member of the Council since 2013. She is the Group Secretary and Head of Corporate Governance of Marks and Spencer Group plc and a Non-Executive Director at Volution Group plc. She spent her early career working in investor relations, corporate communications and investment banking. She is also a visiting professor in the Inter-Disciplinary Ethics Applied Centre at Leeds University and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries.

Chris Morris
Chris Morris is the Union Affairs Officer for Leeds University Union. His role in the Students’ Union focuses on the governance, finance and democracy of the organisation. Chris is a current student taking a sabbatical year from studying Medicine, having previously graduated from the University in 2016 with an intercalated degree in Clinical Sciences (Medical Imaging). Over the course of his studies, Chris has also been involved with the performing arts as the former president of Backstage Society and a musical director with the Music Theatre Society. He sits on the Council as a nominated representative from the Students’ Union.
Dr Yvette Oade

Yvette Oade has been a lay member of the Council since 2015. She is Chair of the University Research Ethics Committee. She joined Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust as Chief Medical Officer in June 2013. Her portfolio includes responsibility for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety, and leading Medical Education and Research.

Originally trained as a doctor in Leeds, Yvette became a Consultant Paediatrician in Calderdale and Huddersfield Foundation NHS Trust. On moving into clinical management, she held a number of senior managerial roles, which culminated in her appointment as Executive Medical Director. Yvette also served for two years as the Chief Medical Officer of Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust and Deputy Chief Executive, focusing on quality improvement and patient safety; and she was closely involved in the development of the Yorkshire and Humber Academic Health Science Network.

Yvette is also a trustee of Yorkshire Cancer Research.

Leyla Okhai

Leyla Okhai is the Director of Diverse Minds UK Ltd, providing workplaces with training, coaching and consultancy on mental health, wellbeing and inclusion. Previously, Leyla was the Head of Centre for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at Imperial College London, for five years. Prior to joining Imperial College, Leyla worked at the University of Oxford for six years; firstly in student recruitment specialising in increasing applications from underrepresented BAME young people, then becoming Oxford University's first specific advisor for race and religion. She is a Leeds alumna and was LUU’s Welfare Executive Officer 2003-2004.

Martin Pelan

Martin Pelan was elected to Council in 2018 as one of the two staff members. He is a Senior Student Support Officer in the School of Politics and International Studies (POLIS) at the University of Leeds, where he is responsible for managing the School's pastoral support provision. He is also a member of the University’s Mediation Services team and a health and safety representative.

Geoff Potter

Geoff Potter has been a lay member of the Council since 2011. He is a corporate communications consultant who serves as a Senior Partner with Instinctif Partners, having been Senior Vice-President, Corporate Communications, for GlaxoSmithKline for 23 years.

A graduate in Politics from the University of Sheffield, Geoff is a trustee of the Royal Institution and Deputy Chairman of the Ryedale Festival. Formerly he was a trustee of Opera North and a Council member of the School of Pharmacy, University of London.

Geoff is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations.

Janet Sheriff

Janet was appointed head teacher at Prince Henry's Grammar School, Otley, in 2009, and is the first female head teacher in the school’s 400-year plus history. She was also the first (and remains the only) BME secondary head teacher in Leeds. More recently she was appointed to the role of CEO for the Collaborative Learning Trust, a Multi Academy Trust with Prince Henry’s as the first member school.
Janet is a passionate advocate of greater diversity in school leadership: She is chair of the Yorkshire and Humber Diversity Steering Group and, as part of this group, she has developed the Diversity Internship Programme for the Yorkshire Leadership Community, along with other equality and diversity programmes and Continuing Professional Development opportunities for women and BME teachers.

Mark Taylor-Batty
Mark Taylor-Batty has been an elected staff member of the Council since 2015. He is a Senior Lecturer in Theatre Studies in the School of English at Leeds and a former President of the UCU local association at the University.

Mark’s teaching and research are grounded in Twentieth-Century British and European Theatre and Performance, with special interests in the works of Harold Pinter and Samuel Beckett. He is series editor of Bloomsbury’s Methuen Drama Engage series of books. He is the Principal Investigator on an AHRC-funded three-year project Harold Pinter: Histories and Legacies.

Luke Windsor
Luke Windsor has been an elected staff member of the Council since 2017. He has worked as an academic at the University of Leeds since 1998, after carrying out postdoctoral research in the Netherlands, holding research assistant and distance learning development posts at the University of Sheffield, and completing his undergraduate and postgraduate studies at City University, London. He has worked in record retail, performed in orchestras, choirs and rock bands, and served as a trustee of a parent-run nursery. Luke is currently Deputy Dean of Arts, Humanities and Cultures and was promoted to his Chair in Music Psychology in January of 2017. He has two sons, and is a long distance cyclist.

Quentin Woodley, Deputy Pro-Chancellor
Quentin Woodley has served as a lay member of the Council since 2007, and as Deputy Pro-Chancellor since 2013. He is Chair of the Strategy and Investment Committee and of the Remuneration Committee.

Quentin graduated in Mathematics from the University and qualified as a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants with Price Waterhouse in London. He spent most of his career as a Senior Partner in McKinsey & Company, the international consultancy firm, where he advised major global companies on strategic and investment-related issues.

Quentin is the co-founder of Woodley Pension Trustees Limited, a company set up to chair the boards of high profile defined benefit pension schemes. The company currently chairs six large pension schemes, including 3i plc and Mirror Group Newspapers, the total scheme assets for which exceed £7 billion.