



# Halton Chamber of Commerce & Enterprise

A united voice for Runcorn and Widnes businesses

**NEWS RELEASE**

**13 December 2018**

## **New chair appointed at Halton Chamber of Commerce**

Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise appointed a new chair at its AGM this week. Taking over as the new voice for Halton business is Val Allen MBE, former Chamber vice chair, Cheshire Deputy Lieutenant and director of Widnes firm General Welding Supplies.



*Dr Peter Cook, Val Allen, Robin Tudor and Lynn Pegler*

She steps up to the helm after the retirement of Dr Peter Cook who has led the Chamber for eight years. He will continue as a Chamber board director and leader of the group's Science and Manufacturing Network.

Val will be joined in the executive group by two vice chairs - Robin Tudor, from Liverpool John Lennon Airport and Lynn Pegler, Cheshire Deputy Lieutenant and director of PR consultancy Pegler Communications.

Also re-elected for a further term as board members were Sauren Gosh (Utility Warehouse), Edwin Santley (ESL Electromech) and Mark Downing (BASF).

Rachael Owen, Halton Chamber chief executive, welcomed Val Allen and the new team and paid tribute to Dr Peter Cook. She said: "Peter has been a great ambassador for business and a towering force for good within Halton. He has made a significant contribution to the development of the Chamber, providing exceptional business knowledge and acumen, combined with endless enthusiasm.

"During his time as chair, Peter has coached and mentored a range of businesses, including social enterprises and start-ups, providing valuable insight and practical solutions for all. He has helped to oversee the growth and popularity of the Halton Business Awards, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, initiated a new science and manufacturing network and always gives generously of his time, skills and expertise. We are delighted he will continue as a board member next year."

Val Allen said she was looking forward to building on Peter's excellent legacy. "The Chamber will continue to support our local business community with vital services to help them thrive in today's challenging economic climate," she said.

“Our aim is to champion Halton’s successful research and development, and science and manufacturing capabilities to the rest of the UK and around the world.

“We want to work with schools and colleges to promote apprenticeships and offer opportunities to young people, and also support retail and charities across the borough.

“I will be getting out and visiting as many Halton businesses as possible in the near future so I can understand their needs and be a true voice for business in this area.”

- For more details about business network events and the work of Halton Chamber, check the website [www.haltonchamber.co.uk](http://www.haltonchamber.co.uk) or phone 0333 358 3480.

**Issued by Lynn Pegler, Pegler Communications**

***On behalf of Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise***

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