

Dorset Chamber of Commerce and Industry Manifesto Statements – November 2017

Paul Tansey – candidate for President

I was 13 years old when I first pulled on a green and white football shirt and represented Dorset. I was thrilled and proud. To me, representing this county was everything I had ever dreamed of. I love this county. I always have.

I was educated at Poole Grammar School, married a Dorset girl, brought up three fine boys here and launched several businesses. Today I employ 30 people here in Dorset in a business called Intergage - a company that exists to help other ambitious

Dorset businesses grow, something I would do for fun if I didn't need money!

The Dorset Chamber is Dorset's ultimate business network. It's the serious one where ambitious people go to meet with like-minded business leaders to share information, create opportunities, learn from each other and - most of all -help each other. My personal vision for the Chamber is that it becomes the most supportive environment a business leader could choose to spend time in. A networking environment where members attend with a view to helping each other not selling to each other.

Under the leadership of Ian Girling, the Chamber continues to evolve and increase in influence. Dorset Chamber is reinvigorated and I am proud if I have played a small part in that. I will speak at events and fly the banner for our County and our Chamber wherever and whenever I am needed. Like Ian however, I am never satisfied.

The Chamber needs to adapt constantly to an ever evolving business landscape. It needs to be a modern business network that functions both virtually and physically. We still have much to do in taking advantage of the opportunities technology brings and I want to see the Chamber embrace those opportunities.

The digital future here in Dorset is bright and we need to ensure that both the Chamber itself and the Dorset businesses within the Chamber understand and grasp that opportunity.

The chamber is working on more ways to help the businesses of Dorset grow. We have some wonderful success stories to share and some brilliant entrepreneurs to learn from here. We are looking at ways to share business and entrepreneurial learning with all members with that hunger.

Increasingly the young have as much to teach as the old and I believe we have to facilitate mentoring in both directions. The young also need help to understand what business requires of them and what opportunities exist in the rapidly changing workplaces of Dorset. In times of increasing skills shortages we must nurture, educate and retain our Dorset talent.

This has to be our mission because every Dorset business that creates a profit or a new job is something that ultimately improves the lives of Dorset people.

That is why the Chamber exists and it is why I want to be part of it.

Liz Willingham – candidate for Senior Vice-President

Dorset is a wonderful place to live and work, and has served me and my own business, Liz Lean PR, well since it was established almost 20 years ago. It has a loyal and dynamic business community, bursting with innovative and creative individuals who are ambitious and team playing. There are extremes here in every way; size of business, scale of global reach, sector spread and image. This is what I personally relish about working in this environment; there is always something to learn, someone interesting to meet, and the discovery of new organisations that do mind blowing things right under our noses.

Since establishing Liz Lean PR in 1998, providing public relations and marketing services to a broad base of local, regional and national clients, membership of our county's Chamber of Commerce has been an important commitment. Building a strong network of leading business contacts has been an integral part of our success and DCCI provides the framework to achieve that.

As the Chamber continues to spread its wings and forge solid relationships with more and more credible organisations, there is no better time for me to continue my own role on both the Board and evolving to the next stage from Junior Vice President. I am very much looking forward to the prospect of becoming Vice President in 2018 and enjoy an excellent mutual respect and working friendship with Paul Tansey, current Vice President, and our peers.

Having worked closely with Dorset businesses from start-ups to the major corporates across a wide sector spread since 1994, I believe I have a good gauge of what makes them tick, their challenges, ambitions and why they have chosen Dorset as their location of choice. I would enjoy helping the chamber further focus its attention on members' needs, devising new ways to meet their expectations and ensuring DCCI is the 'go to' organisation for business support.

A bit about my background.....

Arriving in 1989 from Cornwall to attend the UK's first ever Public Relations degree at Dorset Institute of Higher Education. Through my four year course I watched the Institute evolve into Bournemouth Polytechnic and I eventually graduated with a Bournemouth University degree.

A stretch in London with Harrods Press Office gave me an exciting taste of the bright lights but I hankered after a coastal landscape and set my sights on being a bigger fish in a smaller pond. After working in a Bournemouth-based full service agency, followed by an in-house role at Poole Pottery, I established Liz Lean PR in 1998 and have evolved in that time with the advancement of the media landscape, now offering digital PR, wider marketing services, event management and stakeholder engagement services.

Stephen Mills – candidate for Junior Vice-President

I have been fortunate enough to have been the Honorary Treasurer and a Board Member of the Chamber since 2004. For reasons of good governance I feel that now is the time to stand down as Honorary Treasurer. However, my commitment to and enthusiasm for the work the Chamber conducts on behalf of the business community is not dimmed.

During my time as Treasurer I have developed a thorough and detailed understanding of the workings of the Chamber and of its skills and capabilities. I have been witness to and participant in some challenging moments and have guided it through some acute financial pressures. But there have been many achievements and successes too.

Today, the Chamber's standing, profile, reputation and financial position is the strongest it has been in recent times. It now has the platform to deliver still more in representing businesses in Dorset. I would very much like to continue to bring the experience and knowledge I have of the Chamber to bear in helping ensure this success. I would be honoured if chosen to do so.

James Robinson – candidate for Honorary Treasurer

Some people think that accountancy and accountants are dull, it is what you make it and for me it is clients that make it far from dull. I encourage my clients to ask me anything and I will give them honest advice to help them either make decisions or make plans. Accountancy is not just about numbers, it is about people. As part of my role as office Managing Partner for our Poole office I have become increasingly involved with the DCCI and promoting Dorset as a place to do business.

Born in Poole, educated in Poole and love working in Dorset. I am passionate about putting something back into the local community. People did it for me so I try and help at local schools, through Young Enterprise, to promote my profession and the opportunities locally, in particular the opportunities in my specialism of Engineering and Manufacturing.

Despite a brief comeback I now spend my time watching my son play cricket, rather than playing. I am a keen, if infrequent, golfer and I am looking forward to playing Walking Football when I reach the required age

