

## Advisory panel biographies

### Sir Bob Kerslake biography

See <https://www.gov.uk/government/people/bob-kerslake>

### **Councillor Sir Steve Houghton, CBE (Labour, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Cudworth Ward)**

- Elected May 2012, has served on the council since May 1998
- Previously led Government Review into the role of local authorities and partnerships in tackling long term unemployment and worklessness (2009)
- CBE for services to Local Government in 2004 and Knighthood in 2013 for parliamentary and political services

### **Councillor David Simmonds (Conservatives, Hillingdon London Borough Council, Ickenham Ward)**

- Deputy Leader of the council since 2001
- Chair of the LGA Children's Board
- Chairs the National Employers Organisation for Schoolteachers and has served as the chairman of the employers' side of School Support Staff Negotiating Body and Joint Negotiating Committee for youth workers
- Has contested two parliamentary elections and served as treasurer of the national Conservative Councillors' Association and chairman of his local association
- Professional background in finance, worked for Lloyds TSB and HSBC after qualifying with the Chartered Institute of insurers in 1997

### **Cllr Howard Sykes (Liberal Democrats, Oldham Council, Shaw Ward)**

- Elected to Oldham Council in 1987. Has been Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on Oldham Council.
- During his time as Council Leader, Oldham became most improved council and as Vice Chair of the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) was influential in the establishment of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.
- Advisor for the Local Government Association
- Elected cabinet member of the National Liberal Democrat Local Government Executive (Chief Whip).
- Since 2000 has served as a director of Groundwork Trust (Oldham and Rochdale) and has been its Vice Chair for the last five years.
- MBE in 2014 for services to local government.

### **Joanne Roney, OBE (Chief Executive, Wakefield Council)**

- Chief Executive of Wakefield Council since July 2008
- Member of Wakefield Together, the local public services board and Leeds City Region LEP
- 1999 – 2008 Executive Director of Neighbourhoods and Community Care at Sheffield City Council
- Grew up in Birmingham, Shard End

### **Carolyn Downs (Chief Executive, Local Government Association)**

- Chief Exec of LGA since 2011
- Appointed Chief Executive of the Legal Services Commission in 2010 and previously deputy permanent secretary at the Ministry of Justice with responsibility for all corporate services
- 2003 – 2009, Chief Executive of Shropshire County Council

### **Deborah Cadman, OBE (Chief Executive, Suffolk County Council)**

- Chief Exec of Suffolk County Council since October 2011
- July 2008 – December 2011, Chief Executive of East of England Development Agency, presided over its abolition
- 2003, Chief Executive of Edmundsbury Borough Council
- OBE in 2006 for services to local government

### **Councillor Mehboob Khan (Labour, Kirklees Council, Greenhead Ward)**

- Political advisor at the Local Government Association with a specific role working with the London boroughs, the Mayor of London's office and Westminster
- First British-born Asian to be elected to serve as a Kirklees councillor in 1996, aged 27. Stepped down as Kirklees Council leader in January 2014. Has continued as councillor for the Greenhead Ward
- Sits on the Leeds City Region Board

### **Donna Hall (Chief Executive, Wigan Council)**

- Chief Exec of Wigan Council since August 2011
- Previously, Chief Executive at Chorley Council and Wyre Council
- CBE for services to local government