



AGM and Connection Event

5 December 2024

Panel Bios

Chris Boardman CBE – Chair of Sport England

An Olympic champion, world record holder and three-time Tour de France stage winner, Chris was appointed as Greater Manchester's first ever Cycling and Walking Commissioner in July 2017 by Mayor Andy Burnham.

His report, Made to Move, published in December 2017, set out a 15-step plan to transform how people move around in the city region. The plan has evolved into a £1.5 billion plan to create a world-class cycling and walking network with the first 100 miles of high-quality routes now being created.

In May 2021, Chris was appointed in an expanded role as Greater Manchester's first ever Transport Commissioner, tasked with accelerating the delivery of the Bee Network – a fully integrated, city region-wide transport system.

He is one of the UK's most prominent cycling and walking advocates and has been a policy adviser to British Cycling since 2012.

He was appointed Chair of Sport England in July 2021 and the following year he was appointed as National Active Travel Commissioner. Last month he was awarded his CBE by the Princess Royal at Buckingham Palace for services to Active Travel.



Sureya Gulzar – Board Trustee for Active Black Country

Sureya is a community investment professional supporting and founding not-for-profit companies for social good including The MindKind Projects based in the Black Country. Her career is focused on reducing inequity in communities and enabling people to thrive by working with partners to create systems change for the benefit of society. She is a fellow of the School for Social Entrepreneurs and associate researcher for the Social Research Association and the Royal College of Art.

Sureya is Head of Social Business at Black Country Housing Group, a social business working in local communities to provide decent homes and high-quality care. She is passionate about supporting residents through employment, digital inclusion and wellbeing and is a firm believer in the need for fair and equitable access to services and opportunities for all. As a champion for physical activity, Sureya is committed to reducing health inequalities and combatting economic disadvantage.



Steven Pleasant MBE – Board Trustee for GM Moving

Steven is a board member for Greater Manchester Moving, a role which he took up in February last year.

He is currently the Healthy Lives Adviser for the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority having previously spent 13 years as CEO of a metropolitan council in Greater Manchester and for six of those years he was also the Accountable Officer of the local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group. During this period the Council was awarded Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Council of the Year and the CCG was graded as 'Outstanding' by the NHS nationally.

Steven helped establish and led the development of GM Moving (as a movement for movement and GM Moving in Action). This formed a major plank of the GM's Population Health Plan. He also acted as the lead Greater Manchester Local Authority Chief Executive for Health and for Active Travel.

