

Responding to Growth Network: Greening the future

Speakers, Tuesday 28 September 2021

Katherine Bennett CBE, Chief Executive Officer, High Value Manufacturing Catapult

Katherine joined the HVM Catapult as CEO in June 2021 following a 16-year career at Airbus, including as Senior Vice President leading the company's external engagement and strategy in the UK. She is on the Board of the Aerospace Growth Partnership (part of the UK Government's Industrial Strategy), the Investment Council of the Department for International Trade, the Made Smarter Commission and of the Wales Government Science and Innovation Council. Katherine will also be joining the Automotive Council. In November 2019 Katherine was appointed as Chair of the Western Gateway,

Simon Pickering, Principal Ecologist and Environmental Advisor Ecotricity Group and Co-Chair GFirst LEP Energy Business Group.

Simon has worked with Ecotricity since the 1990s. The company was the first small energy company to break the monopoly of the Big Six energy companies and its ethos is to make the UK greener using mainly solar and wind power and a target of 2025 for non-fossil fuel generation.

Ben Watts, Interim Team Leader for the Economic Development and Strategic Planning Team, Gloucestershire County Council.

Ben is involved in a range of strategic projects across the county and the South West region. He is a Technical Lead for the Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Body.

Mark Thorne, Senior Planning Manager at St. Modwen Developments Ltd.

Mark is a Chartered Town Planner and works in St Modwen's Strategic Land Team, which develops larger-scale residential-led development opportunities. He is responsible for the promotion of Buckover Garden Village, working closely with the Tortworth Estate.

The Rt Revd Robert Springett, Bishop of Tewkesbury, is Chair of the Zoom conference.