



# ANNUAL REPORT

To enhance **East Midlands**  
businesses and communities

2020/21



# President and Chief Executive's welcome

The trading environment during my presidential year can legitimately be summarised as one of disruption, challenge and crisis. But it can also be perceived as something greater.

I've viewed the period as also being one of opportunity, decision-making and people. I began my term with these themes at the forefront of my mind and I've since returned to them on numerous occasions. I'll do so again in a moment.

First, and as I prepare to return the Leicestershire chains, it's worth considering some of the Chamber's activity in emerging positively from the lockdowns that scarred the period:

- Our adviser team have actioned 11,000+ enquiries and intensively supported 4,000+ businesses
- 800+ businesses supported to fill 1,000+ new jobs and create 3,000+ Kickstart job vacancies
- 14,000+ customs documents have been processed by our international team
- Celebrated success with 470 Business Awards nominations
- Processed over £3 million grants to help businesses enhance productivity
- Created 25 Peer Networks supporting 262 business leaders

In commencing my term of office, I set myself a goal of trebling the Chamber's previous highest charitable take. At the time of writing this, we are over halfway there and

feeling confident we will hit this target.

So what, then, of opportunity, decision-making and people?

We've read so many stories in the pages of Business Network magazine this year of businesses that found a new pathway and purpose to navigate the crisis – seizing their opportunity.

I've been inspired by the creativity, agility and grit which has powered many regional firms to reorganise and emerge from the pandemic stronger.

I've reflected some examples in my Last Word magazine columns, but there have been countless others that could just as easily have featured.

The success of each has, of course, been underpinned by leadership and vision. That's why I spoke about decision-making as the Annual Dinner returned at Colwick Hall in September.

And the success has been due to people. Those decisions, which turn threats into opportunities, have to be taken by human beings. And this has been just as much the case within the Chamber itself.

We exist to serve our members and further their interests. But to do so, we must organise and develop ourselves.

Our board, directors and all staff have worked diligently, effectively and at great speed this year to meet escalating demand and seize new opportunities to further not just our organisation, but our region too.

It continues to be a privilege to work alongside them and I know the team will extend a warm welcome and its full support to Lindsey Williams when she commences her term.

I've been proud to represent all of them this year and I thank them for all they have done.

**Eileen Richards MBE**  
President



As the business communities of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire rapidly evolved and adapted due to the Covid-19 pandemic, combined with uncertainty following the UK's final departure from the EU, the Chamber's 2020/21 activity and support evolved accordingly.

We moved swiftly to introduce several new services as the pandemic evolved through its various stages, including:

- Expansion of our digital support and transformation services, offering enhanced grants, more business adviser resources and greater focus on sectors hit hardest by Covid-19, such as retail, hospitality and leisure
- ChamberCustoms, our customs declaration service, launched in January 2021 to support exporters with additional administrative requirements after the UK-EU transition period ended
- Bolstering our business growth events programme and facilitating a new Peer Networks initiative that brings business leaders together to collaboratively work through common challenges
- Virtual delivery of leadership, management and international trade training as many businesses invested more in upskilling existing workforces
- Significantly enhanced support for individuals who unfortunately found themselves unemployed due to Covid-19's direct impact on their sector and employer.

While the core of our support services

remained, albeit much delivered virtually, we adapted to meet the most relevant needs of members. Moving forward, the Chamber will continue to offer virtual services and engagement mechanisms, as many of you said the increased productivity that comes with this way of working is welcome.

This will be complemented by face-to-face delivery, as we recognise the value of coming together to collaborate more than ever.

#### Skills are top of the agenda

This activity took various forms, notably through our various skills initiatives such as the Kickstart Scheme, which supports young people back into sustainable employment.

To date, we have placed 1,362 young people with employers, many of them Chamber members. The business community's appetite to support this initiative has been astonishing, and your Chamber is the UK's leading Kickstart gateway provider.

We need to ensure future skills are compatible with employers' needs and the Chamber was successful in being one of only eight Local Skills Improvement Plan Trailblazers across the country.

These will work in partnership with the Department for Education in 2021/22 to develop an alternative approach to how skills are commissioned by bringing the worlds of education and business closer together.

#### Generation Next moves forward

We launched our Generation Next network early in 2020, designed to support the development of tomorrow's business leaders and retention of emerging talent in our region.

This network continues to grow at pace with more than 300 members to date, and I'd encourage all Chamber members to explore the benefit it can bring by developing your company's young talent. The Chamber

remains a key delivery partner for, among others, the D2N2 Growth Hub, Business Gateway Growth Hub in Leicester and Leicestershire, ensuring we're at the heart of providing advice, information and support to our diverse business community.

#### Levelling up agenda

We have worked with key influencers and decision-makers on a local, national and international scale, demonstrating the three counties' potential for economic growth and need for investment to achieve this – now dubbed the "levelling up" agenda.

The Chamber has supported the East Midlands Development Corporation, a leading example of private sector-led investment development that will have a transformative effect on the region over the next few years, and the freeport at East Midlands Airport.

At the same time, the East Midlands continues to feel overlooked by Government and we have urged Westminster to provide tangible investment that will drive the national and international prominence we deserve.

So far, 2021/22 has involved further evolution as we emerge from the pandemic and models of working continue to transform.

The Chamber will soon launch new products and services – with greater digital access – to meet the types of support our members tell us you want to see, including to help you meet low-carbon growth ambitions.

**We remain focused and dedicated to delivering accessible, relevant and intensive support to enable East Midlands businesses become more resilient and sustainable – allowing them to grow, prosper and help the communities they serve.**

**Scott Knowles**  
Chief Executive

# The year in facts and figures

**#13**

in 'Best Business Services Company to Work for in the UK' by Best Companies

**11,975**

enquiries handled by the information team

**470**

Business Awards applications

**42**

specialist business advisers

**95%**

managed workspace occupancy

**1,362**

Kickstart placements filled

**62%**

of members accessed one or more Chamber services

**2,265**

customs declarations completed

**1,095**

new job starts created through employment support initiatives such as Better Working Futures and JETS

**19,231**

social media followers

**2,000+**

member stories published through Chamber marketing channels

**4,892**

SMEs intensively supported through European Regional Development Fund services

**4,250**

delegates attended events

**£1.2m**

digital grant funding processed

# Supporting East Midlands businesses and communities



## Supporting employment

Covid-19 had a huge impact on the labour market and the Chamber's employment services team has responded by supporting 1,095 individuals in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire to find sustainable roles via three European part-funded schemes over the past year.

The **Way2Work programme**, delivered with Nottingham City Council, helped 46 unemployed or economically inactive people facing multiple barriers to employment to find work via coaching, mentoring, skills development and work experience.

**Better Working Futures**, commissioned by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and run in conjunction with Reed in Partnership, supported 1,451 people and found work for 801 of those by linking jobseekers, support services and employers.

The Chamber was also contracted by DWP to deliver locally the Job Entry Targeted Support scheme, finding roles for 439 of the 976 individuals who enrolled in the past year after being left jobless due to the pandemic.



## Supporting communities

After its success in showcasing how members supported the Covid-19 effort during the first lockdown, the **EMComingTogether** campaign was relaunched with a wider purpose in May.

Designed in response to the Government's "build back better" mantra, it aims to raise awareness of the positive impact companies are having on their communities and support more to engage in the environmental, social and governance (ESG) agenda.

The Chamber and University of Derby published unique research on corporate social responsibility in a report, Growing Back Better – East Midlands Businesses' Approach to Community Engagement.

Supporting communities makes good business sense and a key example can be found in Our Future Derby, in which the Chamber worked with education providers and employers to deliver career-based learning to 12,500 children and teachers across 32 schools in seven of Derby's most deprived wards over 18 months. It helped to raise aspirations, with 81% of pupils learning about at least five new jobs as a result.

In March 2022, the Celebrating East Midlands Culture and Communities event returns to continue our work in diversity and inclusion.



## Supporting businesses

Reunions with familiar faces was one of the most positive aspects of the second half of 2021 and the Chamber returned to delivering some of our events physically – including the Annual Dinner, **Enterprising Women Awards** and Business Awards.

Some 116 policy-led events, including sector forums, conferences, MP briefings, Bank of England forums, member forums and roundtables, have attracted 3,400 attendees.

Events were a key strand of the European-funded programmes run by the Chamber – the **Business Gateway Growth Hub**, **D2N2 Growth Hub**, **D2N2 UpScaler** Project, **Digital Growth Programme** and **Digital Upscaler**.

A team of 42 specialist business advisers helped to deliver these schemes, providing free business support to 4,892 companies.

The Chamber also delivered the D2N2 Growth Hub **Peer Networks** scheme, which brings together like-minded directors and senior managers from similar sectors or backgrounds to develop their organisations.

Our information teams were often the first port of call in assisting businesses, handling 11,795 enquiries in the year to October.

Despite Covid-19 challenges, the Chamber achieved 95% occupancy across four managed workspaces – with 35 businesses employing more than 350 people across Leicester Food Park, Friars Mill Business Centre, Brian Clough Business Centre and John Smith Enterprise Hub.



## D2N2 UpScaler

### Case Study

New waste disposal techniques are being explored by FSG Tableware in its quest to reach the next level after being supported by the D2N2 UpScaler. The Nottingham-based company supplies public sector and commercial catering operations with eco-focused foodservice equipment such as reusable alternatives to single-use food and drink containers. After founder Lynn Johnson received one-to-one support by the growth programme and attended workshops, she has carried out product development for a new modular bin system and accompanying digital platform to reduce catering waste.

*"It's been like opening a Pandora's box of growth support. It has really helped me to focus my efforts on the future of the business and what I need to do to get there."* Lynn Johnson

## Chesterfield Digital High Street

### Case Study

TwelfthCraft is a shop selling dolls' houses, miniatures and gifts based in Chesterfield. Owner Caroline Gleadall recognised the need for a strong online presence to make the business self-sufficient so it could continue offering work experience to young adults with learning difficulties and holding workshops for people with dementia. An adviser for **Chesterfield Digital High Street**, funded by Chesterfield Borough Council and delivered by the Chamber in partnership with Purpose Media, helped her to create an e-commerce website, develop a three-year sales plan and increase its social media presence – boosting sales by 10%.

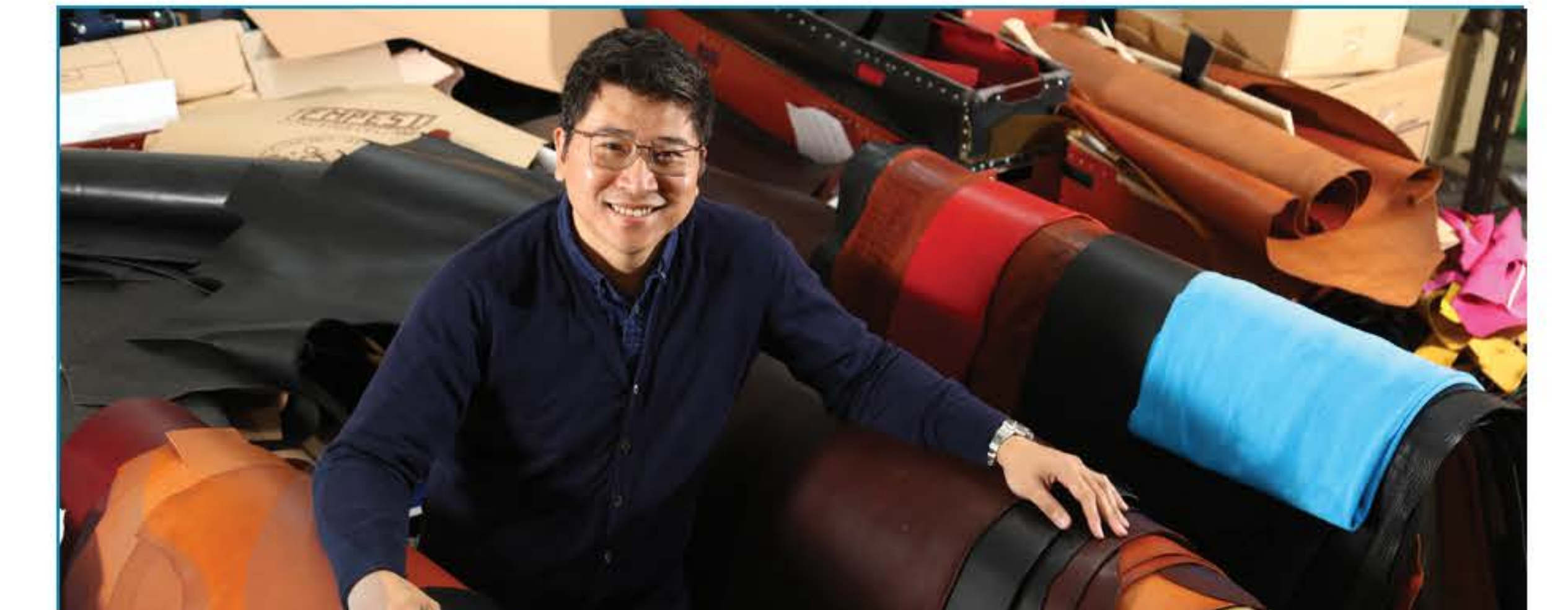
*"I can now contact customers via social media and they can give reviews. I now realise there is life outside of my bricks and mortar shop."* Caroline Gleadall, owner of TwelfthCraft

## Employment services

### Case Study

Ako Mulud, 46, had been in urgent need of a job to support his family in St Ann's, Nottingham, but had no CV and very limited IT skills. He was supported by the Chamber's employment services team via the Job Entry Targeted Support (JETS) scheme, with advisers helping him to build a CV, learn how to complete basic smartphone tasks and putting him through a Level 2 food hygiene course. Ako eventually landed an agency warehouse packing role he could balance with school hours.

*"Every day, we kept an eye on the job market for something suitable and we were delighted to help him find this role. Ako is very happy to be out the house providing for his family, and hopes to make a good impression so he can be taken on permanently."* Deborah Ferguson, JETS employment adviser



## Digital Growth Programme

### Case Study

Mowbray Leather Goods, which supplies some of the world's top fashion houses and high-end independent retailers, received one-to-one support from a digital business adviser at the Digital Growth Programme, which runs across Leicestershire, and was awarded a £16,000 technology grant. The Melton Mowbray-based company invested in new print technology that allowed it to elevate its prototyping service, speed up turnaround times, and offer clients almost limitless possibilities in terms of design and finish – giving it a huge competitive advantage.

*"It's very liberating to have more artistic freedom and to be able to think 'outside the box', to give clients something they can't get anywhere else."* Minh Phan, founder and director of Mowbray Leather Goods

# Steering the region's economic recovery



## Voice of East Midlands businesses

The Quarterly Economic Survey (QES) has become a core aspect of the Chamber's policy work by providing key intelligence about the East Midlands' business community during the economic recovery.

A knowledge transfer partnership with De Montfort University has led to an associate joining the Chamber to progress these insights, with the ultimate aim of establishing a regional business intelligence unit.

The QES research has also featured prominently in local media coverage by providing broadcast, online and print audiences a perspective of how introducing, and then lifting, Covid-19 restrictions has affected the region's economy.

Away from the pandemic, the Chamber has also acted as the voice of businesses on a wide range of issues including Brexit, HS2, the East Midlands freeport, Government policy, workplace trends, and the future of town and city centres.



## Kickstarting careers

More than 1,300 young people have taken their first steps on the career ladder with a helping hand from the Chamber, which has had more success than any of the 700 gateway organisations in the UK.

We have worked closely with 900 employers to create more than 2,500 placements approved by the Department for Work and Pensions, which funds 100% of the age-relevant National Minimum Wage, national insurance and pension contributions for 25 hours a week over a six-month period.

Employers that create placements have also received Chamber support to fill the vacancies, which are aimed at 16 to 24-year-olds on Universal Credit or at risk of long-term unemployment.

The Chamber has achieved the highest volume of approved places and been the most successful in the UK's **Kickstart gateway** network in filling these roles.

Meanwhile, 82% of individuals who have finished their six-month placements have either secured jobs or moved into further study – one of the best ratios in the UK.



## Getting back to normal

So much changed for many businesses on 1 January 2021 as the UK-EU transition period ended, and the Chamber's response in how we support our members has also evolved.

Our Business Readiness for Change programme shifted focus to business resilience. Events including the Chamber Day of Resilience and Cyber Week early in the year equipped organisations with the risk management tools and continuity plans to remain agile post-Brexit and during the ever-changing nature of Covid-19.

Another key event was People & Skills Week, which brought together businesses, academic institutions and thought leaders in June to identify practical steps for our region to address the growing challenges of accessing people with the right skills.

As the economic recovery gets underway, the Chamber's commercial training team has helped businesses to invest in their workforce too via continuing professional development programmes delivered in a hybrid approach combining virtual and face-to-face courses.

Meanwhile, major events have been held physically for the first time since pre-Covid, including the Annual Dinner, Enterprising Women Awards and Business Awards.



## Developing Skills

### Case Study

Even senior leaders don't stop learning and the Director Development Programme, run by the Chamber in partnership with experienced trainers, gave Grant Devine the tools for his role as sales director at Ripley-based engineering firm 2JCP.

Since being promoted from UK sales manager to director in June 2020, he has been responsible for leading and developing the company's sales strategy, as well as the new business development team.

Wanting to better himself and his skillset, he joined the Chamber's director development programme led by Charles Barnascone to learn about people development, leadership, and business and marketing strategy.

Topics on the programme included developing the right culture through leadership, creating a brand strategy, identifying and communicating priorities, and people management approaches.

Grant still refers to a number of useful tools made available on the course, with personal highlights including gaining an insight into different types of people, marketing, company culture and accounts.

*"The course was invaluable in helping me to question my every move in terms of decisions I make with regards to people and business development. Making the step up to director level has been like taking a gigantic leap as the responsibilities are in some cases very different, but it provides that initial stepping-stone to arm individuals with the tools they need to be a successful director."* Grant Devine, 2JCP sales director

## Kickstart Scheme

### Case Study

A team of 16 employees helped to open Chesterfield Escape Rooms in May 2021 – including six games masters hired via the Kickstart Scheme.

Owner Nick Hogan had initially considered employing people on zero-hour contracts due to the unknown nature of bookings at the venue, but felt this wouldn't help to build a workforce with a "sense of belonging".

After the business proved to be a success, Nick entered a joint venture partnership with some members of his Kickstart team to establish Chesterfield Games Quarter, which combines the escape rooms with other leisure and gaming businesses. He provided an interest-free loan to the team to help his employees run the business and has since added more Kickstart workers.

*"Kickstart allowed me to be selective in the recruitment process. In working with these people, it's reminded me that everyone deserves a chance. The younger generation is tomorrow's workforce and unless we give it the opportunities to succeed, our businesses won't survive. It also allowed me to get my foot into the market to assess the business opportunity, and has given me the confidence to now expand the concept."* Nick Hogan, owner of Chesterfield Escape Rooms

*"It's been the opportunity of a lifetime to get involved with a new business, and gain some really valuable experience and diverse skills for my CV that will be really important for my future employability."* James Bryan, Kickstart employee at Chesterfield Escape Rooms



# Focus on the future



## Sustainable East Midlands

Since launching the **Sustainable East Midlands** campaign in November 2020, we have established a framework for businesses to begin their net zero journey by directing them to support available.

This year, we will deliver 29 events under this banner, headlined by the Midlands Sustainability Summit and Midlands Energy Summit, attended by a total of 1,200 people.

A Sustainable East Midlands policy officer has been recruited to support the Chamber in developing campaign activity and engage businesses with the low-carbon agenda.

We have pledged to halve emissions by 2030 and reach net zero before 2050 as part of the UN Race to Zero campaign.

Research conducted with the University of Derby via our QES continues to provide intelligence about the region's engagement with the sustainability agenda.

It showed the proportion of businesses in our region that derived turnover from low-carbon environmental goods and services has grown from 16% in 2015 to 37% in 2021, while those that integrated clean growth into business strategies grew from 29% to 36% in the year to 2021.



## East Midlands as a global centre of trade

Brexit resulted in major changes to how many exporters and importers trade with the EU. The Chamber's international trade team has been by their side both before and after the UK-EU transition period's end, offering free advice to 600 businesses.

**ChamberCustoms**, the HMRC-linked customs declaration service delivered by the Chamber, has been a vital support mechanism in helping exporters and importers to comply with new regulations and continue trading seamlessly, while Your Export Office provides consultancy support.

In the past year, 2,265 customs declarations have been completed and 14,037 export documents processed. More than 400 people have also attended 69 international training courses to learn about topics such as customs special procedures, VAT rules in exporting and importing, and inward and outward processing.

We continue to position the region at the forefront of the UK's new global trading relationship via its world-class logistics capabilities built around East Midlands Airport and the forthcoming freeport.

We have also maximised opportunities to connect the region's firms with new markets from the US to India – as well as intriguing places like Antigua and Barbuda in between.



## Upskilling the region

Skills have been identified as a key barrier to regional business growth via Chamber research and roundtables, resulting in a lot of activity being dedicated to this area.

We are involved in one of the eight pilot areas for the Government's £65m **Skills Accelerator programme**, which will put local employers at the centre of skills provision.

Joining forces with further education providers in Leicestershire, we will together explore how the further education and physical activity sectors can play a role in health, social mobility and the wider economy. We will also support a smaller pilot in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

Moving into 2022, the Chamber has won £5.36m funding to be the lead partner in four schemes across Derbyshire, Leicestershire, north Nottinghamshire, and Nottingham city as part of the **Community Renewal Fund** – the forerunner to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which will replace EU structural funds in supporting local projects.

The East Midlands Accelerator projects, to be delivered in partnership with local authorities, universities and other business support services until June 2022, will enhance existing projects such as the Kickstart Scheme and business support projects for new entrepreneurs, digital skills and meeting low-carbon targets.



## International trade

### Case Study

R&D Tool & Engineering, a tooling solutions supplier for plastic containers used by sectors including food, pharma and personal care, has been guided by the Chamber through challenges in meeting varying requirements of each country within its EU customer base.

Since the end of the UK-EU transition period, document preparation for export consignments have been more time-consuming and resource-heavy for the Sutton-in-Ashfield business, which employs 85 people.

Key employees have attended the Chamber's international trade training courses on topics such as Incoterms, certificates of origin, inward and outward processing, and customs declaration. Two staff members also received a BCC Foundation Award in International Trade after completing an ITOPS course covering export administration.

*"Over 14 years as Chamber members, we have been able to rely on its continued support and advice on all aspects of export and import. We are always kept up to date with changes in trade rules and alerted to funding to improve the way we operate." Elizabeth Halsey, logistics manager at R&D Tool & Engineering*



## Diversity and inclusion

### Case Study

Equality, diversity and inclusion is at the heart of a strategic partnership between the Chamber and emh group – with the two organisations linking up during Black History Month.

Throughout October, we ran a joint social media campaign celebrating the positive impact Black history, arts and culture has had on our society. It also showcased the achievements of people in the public, private and voluntary sectors in the East Midlands, as well as linking to events and activities happening around the region.

One of the largest providers of affordable housing and care services in the region, emh group's priorities include tackling homelessness, building much-needed affordable homes, promoting diversity and working towards net zero.

*"Our strategic partnership with East Midlands Chamber builds on the strength of our existing partnership and joint commitment to promoting diversity, and tackling inequality, across the region. This partnership will enable us to explore the regional economic and social landscape in relation to equality, diversity and inclusion in the post-pandemic phase." Chan Kataria OBE, emh group chief executive*



## Future leaders

### Case Study

Kate Walker, founder of ExpHand Prosthetics, was named the Generation Next Future Leader at this summer's inaugural Generation Next Awards.

The Loughborough University graduate set up the company in 2018 to make affordable and bespoke 3D-printed prosthetic arms for children. She was inspired after meeting a young girl born with an upper limb difference and found out from her parents about the challenges families faced in children's prosthetics, both in accessing them and with youngsters growing out of them quickly.

Kate developed a 3D-printable prosthetic arm that could be adjusted to grow as part of her studies before setting up the business, which now has two patents pending and a growing team based at the Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park.

*"As a young founder, it's common to experience imposter syndrome and feel like you don't know enough to run your own company, so being recognised as a Generation Next Future Leader is a fantastic confidence boost to have someone recognise my potential and validate my leadership skills." Kate Walker, ExpHand Prosthetics founder*

# Annual Accounts

## 2020/2021

### Consolidated Profit and Loss Account Year Ended 31 March 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Turnover</b>	8,958,801	9,221,567
Other operating income	269,673	111,708
Operating costs	(9,267,573)	(9,399,563)
<b>Operating (loss)</b>	<b>(39,099)</b>	<b>(66,288)</b>
Share of associated undertaking's operating surplus	252,637	44,233
<b>Total operating profit/(loss)</b>	<b>213,538</b>	<b>(22,055)</b>
Surplus on revaluation of investment properties	-	250,000
Income from fixed assets investments	22,200	17,700
Loss on disposal of investment	-	(233,666)
Interest receivable and similar income	2,314	9,929
Interest payable and expenses	(15,444)	(20,126)
<b>Profit before tax</b>	<b>222,608</b>	<b>1,782</b>
Tax on profit	(87,936)	(49,288)
<b>Profit/(Loss) for the year</b>	<b>134,672</b>	<b>(47,506)</b>

There was no other comprehensive income for 2021 (2020: £NIL).

East Midlands Chamber (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire) Company Limited By Guarantee

### Consolidated Balance Sheet 31 March 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Intangible fixed assets	318,770	325,043
Tangible assets	2,271,370	2,424,782
Fixed asset investments	2,136,998	2,052,062
Investment property	2,008,329	2,008,329
	<b>6,735,467</b>	<b>6,810,216</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors	2,889,341	2,712,500
Cash at bank and in hand	3,814,298	3,264,085
	<b>6,703,639</b>	<b>5,976,585</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(2,479,878)	(1,911,934)
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>4,223,761</b>	<b>4,064,651</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>10,959,228</b>	<b>10,874,867</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(921,622)	(971,933)
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>10,037,606</b>	<b>9,902,934</b>
<b>Capital and reserves</b>		
Profit and loss account	10,037,606	9,902,934
	<b>10,037,606</b>	<b>9,902,934</b>

Signed on behalf of the board

*R I Morgan*

R I Morgan, Director

# Generation Next

After launching in 2020, **Generation Next** has come to the fore over the past 12 months as the premier network for young professionals and business leaders in the East Midlands.

More than 300 members have signed up and the Chamber's dedicated team has run 36 events aimed at developing their business skills – with themes including marketing, finance, growth, sustainability, personal brand, careers and CSR.

These have been delivered by businesses large and small, ranging from NatWest to Colleague Box, as well as by our headline partner University of Derby and five other partners Fraser Stretton Estate Agents, GBS Apprenticeships, Hardy Signs, Loughborough College and Nottingham University Business School (NUBS).

In September, the first ever in-person Generation Next event was held as NUBS hosted an innovation workshop and tour of its Ingenuity Lab start-up incubator.

Honours were also handed out to winners of the inaugural Generation Next Awards, which had taken place in the summer and recognised young talent in categories including Breakthrough Award, Excellence in Innovation and Technology Award, Entrepreneur of the Year and the headline Generation Next Future Leader title.

From early 2022, we will host two monthly

**Generation Next events** – including networking and educational sessions, to be held both virtually and in person. The strategy will be overseen by our 14 "champions" who are within the under-35 category and make up the Generation Next board.

One of the most exciting new initiatives to be launched in early 2022 is a mentoring service, in which young professionals can connect with experienced businesspeople via a new membership portal to further develop their skillsets. The portal will also contain a document library of business support and post-event information, as well as an exclusive discount service.



**Generation Next**

## Our Offices

### GLOSSOP

The Old Co-op Building,  
Railway Street, Glossop. SK13 7AG

### DERBY

University of Derby Enterprise Centre,  
Bridge Street, Derby. DE1 3LD

### MANSFIELD

Clerkson House, St.Peters Way,  
Mansfield. NG18 1BQ

### LEICESTER

Unit 1 Bath Lane Mill, Friars Mill,  
Bath Ln, Leicester. LE3 5BJ

### CHESTERFIELD

Commerce House, Millennium Way,  
Dunston Road, Chesterfield. S41 8ND

### THE BRIAN CLOUGH BUSINESS CENTRE

John Smith Enterprise Centre,  
200-222 Cotton Ln, Derby. DE24 8GJ

### NOTTINGHAM

8 Experian Way, ng2 Business Park,  
Nottingham. NG2 1EP

### LEICESTER FOOD PARK

High View Close, off Lewisher Road,  
Leicester. LE4 9LJ

# Who we are



**Scott Knowles**  
Chief Executive



**Diane Beresford**  
Deputy Chief Executive



**Chris Hobson**  
Director of Policy and External Affairs



**David Pearson**  
Director of Partnerships



**Lucy Robinson**  
Director of Resources



**Lesley Young**  
Executive Support Manager and Company Secretary



**Kathryn Edwards**  
Head of Finance



**Zoe Waistell**  
Head of Marketing



**Paul Stuart**  
Head of Enterprise



**Paul Humphreys**  
Head of Scale Up Services



**Paul Needham**  
Head of Employment Services

## Board of Directors (as of 15 December 2021)



**Ian Morgan OBE**  
*Chair of the Board*  
Wellglade



**Lindsey Williams**  
*President*  
Futures Housing Group



**Eileen Richards MBE**  
*Immediate Past President*  
Eileen Richards Recruitment



**Stuart Dawkins**  
*Vice-President*



**Craig Brothers**  
Affari Media



**Mark Deakin**  
Turner & Townsend



**Dr Peter Dewhurst**  
University of Derby



**Kevin Harris**  
RSM UK Audit LLP



**Jaffer Kapasi OBE**  
J A Kapasi & Co



**Dr Cham Kang**  
Qinesis



**Martin Rigley MBE**  
Lindhurst Engineering



**John Robinson**  
The Institute of Export & International Trade



**Dawn Whitmore**  
SMB College Group



**David Williams**  
Geldards LLP



**Neil Williams**  
Amazon UK



## Strategic Partners



## Patrons



East Midlands Chamber (Derbyshire Nottinghamshire Leicestershire)  
0333 320 0333 info@emc-dnl.co.uk www.emc-dnl.co.uk