

Lawrence Knowles

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Professional Profile

Senior executive and board director with more than 35 years' experience leading organisations, advising boards and delivering strategic, financial and operational governance across commercial and public sector environments.

Extensive experience in financial management, organisational leadership, governance, policy development, business transformation and stakeholder engagement. Throughout my career I have managed substantial budgets, held full profit and loss responsibility, led multidisciplinary teams and supported boards in making effective strategic decisions.

Since becoming semi-retired in 2021 I have focused on supporting the Collingham community through voluntary leadership roles and by developing Collingham.org and the LocalWalks platform, promoting village life, heritage, walking, tourism and community engagement.

I am now seeking to combine my executive leadership experience with my commitment to the local community as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

Core Competencies

- Governance and Board Support
- Responsible Financial Management
- Strategic Planning
- Report Writing & Board Papers
- Community Engagement
- Risk Management
- Volunteer Leadership
- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook, Teams)
- Financial Management & Budget Control
- Policy Development & Compliance
- Committee Administration
- Project & Programme Management
- Stakeholder Management
- Contract & Supplier Management
- Staff Leadership & Development

Community Leadership & Projects (2021 - Present)

Chair - Collingham Youth & Community Centre

Provide strategic leadership for the charity, chair trustee meetings, oversee governance, financial planning, policy development and improvements to village facilities.

Secretary - Collingham in Bloom

Committee administration, meetings, communications, minutes, project coordination and support for environmental initiatives throughout the village.

Volunteer - Inspire Library, Collingham

Support local community initiatives and help residents engage with library services.

Vice Chair - Collingham & District Local History Society

Support governance of the Society while leading digital transformation and preservation of historical records.

Committee Member - Trent Vale Trail

Work with volunteers and partner organisations to develop and maintain the Trent Vale Trail for residents and visitors.

Founder - Collingham.org and LocalWalks

Created community digital infrastructure promoting village organisations, local heritage, walking routes, healthy recreation, tourism and community communication.

Relevant Experience

Independent Consultant / Founder | KNect Solutions Ltd | 2016 - Present

- Provide strategic advice to organisations on governance, operational improvement, business transformation and executive leadership.
- Independent adviser retained by Capita to review and help recover a major programme involving six district and parish councils.
- Conducted independent reviews of governance, business processes, stakeholder engagement and programme delivery before recommending improvements.

- Worked directly with executive teams and boards to improve organisational performance, strategic plans and governance frameworks.
- Managed commercial budgets and contractual relationships.

Associate Director | Deloitte | 2019 - 2021

- Worked with major public and private sector organisations delivering business transformation and governance reviews.
- Responsibilities included strategic programme assurance, business process improvement, executive stakeholder management, procurement and supplier engagement, and organisational reviews.

Managing Director - Corporate | Safe Computing Ltd | 2015 - 2016

- Responsible for the Corporate Division with full profit and loss responsibility.
- Executive leadership of HR, Finance and Credit Control divisions, including budget ownership, financial reporting, policy development, Board reporting, contract negotiation, public sector business development and team restructuring.

Managing Director | MidlandHR (MHR) | 2001 - 2010

- Reported directly to the Chief Executive and Chairman with full P&L responsibility.
- Led budget planning, financial management, Board reporting, strategic planning, sales, marketing, operations, policy development and corporate governance.
- Grew the company from £8m to £24m turnover.

Vice Chairman - Technology | MidlandHR | 2010 - 2014

- Reported directly to the Chairman with Board attendance and responsibility for strategic planning, governance of major technology investment, recruitment and leadership of sixty specialists, supplier management, executive presentations and risk management.
- Although technology-focused, this role required extensive governance, financial oversight and board-level decision making.

Earlier Career

- Held senior management and software leadership positions with MidlandHR, progressing through development management into executive leadership before appointment as Managing Director.
- Founded Images Software, successfully developing and publishing commercial software.

Governance & Leadership Experience

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed multi-million-pound budgets • Prepared reports and papers for boards • Produced organisational policies and procedures • Led strategic planning • Chaired meetings and executive reviews • Worked closely with public sector organisations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held full profit and loss responsibility • Developed governance frameworks • Managed organisational risk • Managed contracts and suppliers • Led organisational change programmes • Built collaborative relationships with stakeholders at every level |
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Education & Professional Development

King Edward VI Grammar School, Spilsby: A Levels: Maths, Physics and Geography.

Cranfield University School of Management: General Management Programme.

Institute of Directors: Leadership, Finance, Strategy and Marketing programmes.

University of Nottingham: Currently studying for a Master's degree in Machine Learning.

Local Council Development: Prepared to undertake the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA).

Additional Information

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident of Collingham with an excellent understanding of the local community. • Strong written and verbal communication skills. • Full UK driving licence. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced working with trustees, volunteers and community organisations. • Comfortable working independently and managing competing priorities. • References available on request. |
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