

## Agenda Item 9

### **Biographies of the witnesses for the panel meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2009**

#### **Zoe Osmond, University of Brighton**

Zoe is the Business Development Manager – Environment, in the School of Environment and Technology at the University. It is a business facing university with strong expertise in environmental technologies and services, including:

- Sustainable organisations
- Environmental management
- Low carbon technologies
- Community engagement

Their aim is to link the best academic and business brains to lead to powerful applied innovation. Examples of the projects they have worked with businesses on include:

- Developing biofuel pellets from wood waste
- Developing thermally efficient swimming pool covers
- Commercialising a soil clean up technology

#### **Professor Jim Lynch,**

Professor Lynch is a senior adviser for SEEDA who was appointed to develop the International Institute for Sustainability (IfS) and a Science and Innovation Campus in Sustainability in the Thames Gateway.

The IfS is a place where business people and academics can work together to address major challenges to society and develop solutions.

The Campus aims to bring academics and businesses together to accelerate innovation in terms of products and processes. It will unite the best public and private research in areas such as sustainable technologies, to support the sustainable development of the Thames Gateway.

He is also Distinguished Professor of Life Sciences at the University of Surrey, Chairman of Terraform PLC and Director of C-Questor PLC.

#### **Gary Smith and Rob Macey, GMB** (biographies to follow)

## **Mike Herd, SInC**

Mike Herd has been the Director at the Sussex Innovation Centre, a technology business incubator, since 1997. The Centre, based at the University of Sussex, provides tailored accommodation and assistance to over 80 early-stage technology companies and has developed a wide range of specialist entrepreneurial support initiatives. The Centre has a high profile nationally, an excellent track record and is frequently cited as an example of best practice.

Mike was named Sussex Businessman of the Year in November 2000 and given the National Achievement in Business Incubation Award in 2007. Sussex Innovation Centre was runner-up in the 2004 UKBI's Incubator Exemplar awards.

Mike joined the Innovation Centre after 15-years in the oil industry, where as a rock physicist and petroleum engineer, he undertook technical projects in over 20 countries, as well as running consultancy and software groups.

## **Sharon Greenaway and Alan Harris, Centre for Business Enterprise Kingston College**

Sharon Greenaway is the Director of the Centre for Business Enterprise at Kingston College and Alan Harris is the Centre Manager.

Kingston College and Carshalton College have jointly established the Power and Assessment Training Centre. It is a dedicated state-of-the-art assessment and training facility, which delivers training for the Gas and Electrical industries.

In the near future, the centre will be expanding further and delivering sustainable energy training courses, specifically for Wind Turbine and Solar Panels. The Centre has a vast amount of staff expertise, which continually develops bespoke courses within a range of energy environments.