

Bios for AGM to be held on Wednesday 30th March 2022 at 6.00 p.m.

New Directors

Alan Shield (nominated by Durham County Council)

Alan is a Councillor for Leadgate and Medomsley and is a member of the Derwentside Independents.

His council appointments are Leader of the Durham Group, Portfolio holder for Equality and Inclusion and member of the Cabinet. He has appointments for the following, Citizens Advice Durham, Consett Churches Detached Youth Project, Durham City Access for All, North East Disability Resource Centre, Project Genesis. He is a school governor for Leadgate Primary School and Our Lady and St Joseph's Primary School. Formerly employed by Durham Christian Partnership.

Re-appoint serving Directors

Keith Greenwell

I worked in teaching and advisory roles in Special Education after leaving the petro-chemical construction industry. I was motivated by a wish to teach disadvantaged youngsters skills to have some control over their lives. I have been a volunteer for over 20 years in the credit union movement in various roles from collector to Director. I have experienced fellow volunteers working together to achieve a better life for themselves and their communities. I wish to serve a final 3 year term as a Director to foster and encourage volunteering. I will contribute to a succession plan to ensure that NEFirst CU will continue its work in the long term.

Lorraine Holmes

I was in local government earlier in my career and was a Board member of the Association of Direct Labour Organisations and Northern Arts. My later academic career as a political theorist changed direction to become a senior administrator whose remit was to work as part of a team to secure research funding and then oversee the multi-million pound grants to ensure that they conformed to the funders rules and delivered the projects. I started my credit union career at Teesdale Credit Union over 20 years ago and remained as a Director when Teesdale merger with Durham City Credit Union to become Durham County Credit Union. I have continued as a Director for the last 15 years.

I enjoy my role as Company Secretary which involves liaising with the regulators and being responsible for the submission of all our regulatory requirements. I am excited by the introduction of the SOAR on-line banking portal and would like to continue to serve as a Director for a further 3 years.

Kevan Jones MP

Sid Rooke

Worked for 30 years in the Civil Service in various roles from Inspector (Fraud and Non – compliance) to Head of Business and Corporate Planning for a Government Department.

Moved to the charity sector and worked on several projects including Homelessness, Night Stop, Drug Abuse and a North East Asylum Seeker project.

My involvement in the credit union sector stretches back some 25 years. Initially with the birth of Durham City and District Credit Union, through several mergers with the likes of :

- Teesdale CU
- Gateshead First CU
- Cestria CU
- Northern Oak CU
- East Durham Study Gp
- Shildon CU
- Northumberland CU
- Prince Bishops Community Bank

To emerge as NEFirst Credit Union.

During these 25 years I remained a Director of the merging Credit Union holding several roles including Treasurer, Business Development and Chair.

Supervisory Committee

Peter Mackie

I first joined Duham City Credit Union in 2003. On my retirement from teaching, I became a volunteer working first in the Durham office, then at Birtley and latterly in Stanley. I joined the Board as a director in 2016, becoming chairman in 2017. During my time as chairman, we merged with Prince Bishops Community Bank and Northumberland Credit Union. On completion of my fifth year as chairman I am standing down from the Board but seek the support of members to become part of the Supervisory Committee which plays an important role in supporting members by examining and reporting on the operation of the credit union's policies and procedures. I believe my Credit Union experience has prepared me for this role.