

# **N Brown, Growth Company and Harrison Drury: The 13 latest North West hires and promotions**

North West companies have announced a host of top new appointments and promotions over the last week.

Businesses such as fashion giants and law firms are among those to have made major moves.

Below, we round up the latest hires and promotions that we feel you should not miss.

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**If you have a new or recent appointment or promotion that you would like featured in our next round up, please e-mail [jon.robinson@reachplc.com](mailto:jon.robinson@reachplc.com).**

**Partners in Change**



Priya Murphy, Partners in Change

(Image: Partners in Change)

Manchester-based business change and transformation consulting firm Partners in Change has hired Priya Murphy as head of people.

She is a fully certified HR practitioner, with over 15 years' experience in the public and private healthcare sector.

She said: "PiC are growing fast so it's an exciting time to join the business. From the moment I first read their website I knew this was a company I wanted to be a part of. Our values

and integrity really stand out; whether we're working for clients or managing our people we're calm, collaborative and caring."

## Women in Property



Gwenno Jones and Chithra Marsh of Buttress  
(Image: Buttress)

Buttress' associate director Chithra Marsh will take up the role as national chair of Women in Property from March.

She is joined by her Buttress colleague, Gwenno Jones, who will be taking up the reins as [North West](#) branch chair.

Established in 1988, Buttress has offices in Manchester and Leeds working across the heritage, arts and culture, residential, commercial, hotels and leisure, and education sectors.

# MIDAS



Joe Manning, MIDAS

(Image: MIDAS)

Joe Manning has been appointed managing director of MIDAS, Manchester's Inward Investment Agency.

He joins the business from his former role as deputy chief executive at Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership and previously spent time as deputy director for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Mr Manning said: "I am delighted to take on this role at MIDAS. Foreign Direct Investment has a key role to play in creating a greener, fairer, and more prosperous Greater Manchester and it's brilliant to see the city-region's strong investment proposition recognised.

“I look forward to working with our partners in the public and private sector to deliver our internationalisation strategy and continue this important work.”

## **Harrison Drury**



Katy Parkinson and Roger Spence of Harrison Drury  
(Image: Harrison Drury)

North West law firm Harrison Drury has added to its employment and HR team with the appointment of solicitor Katy Parkinson.

Katy, who joins the firm as senior associate solicitor, has 15 years' experience in the legal sector and joins the team from CG Professional in Chorley.

She will advise clients across the region on a full range of employment law matters, as well as offering strategic advice

to clients on large-scale projects such as company restructuring and reorganisation.

Katy will also offer support to the firm's corporate team to advise management teams and business owners on the employment law aspects of company disposals, mergers and acquisitions.

## **DeliveryApp**



Phil Woodbridge, DeliveryApp  
(Image: DeliveryApp)

Manchester-based tech firm DeliveryApp has appointed a new operations director.

Phil Woodbridge, who previously held a senior operations position at Parcel2Go, will assist in developing the offering around technology for DeliveryApp's clients and drivers.

He said: "What DeliveryApp are building is the future of the

logistics space.”

## **Nexer Digital**



Jo Dunning, Nexer Digital  
(Image: Nexer Digital)

Macclesfield-based agency Nexer Digital has appointed a new account director.

Jo Dunning joins to support the company with its plans to increase the work it does in the charity sector.

She said: “Nexer Digital was the perfect move for me. I was looking for a new challenge, but still wanted to work in the pro social/tech for good space where the majority of my experience lies.”

# Curtins



Andy Macfarlane, Curtins

(Image: Curtins)

Engineering consultancy Curtins has welcomed Andy Macfarlane to its board of directors, with overall responsibility for civil and structural engineering in both its Liverpool and Birmingham offices.

Mr Macfarlane joined the Curtins' team as a graduate engineer in 2002, and over the past 20 years he has progressed through to Business Unit Leader in the Liverpool office, while also supporting the Birmingham team.



He said: “Since my first day of work experience whilst at university, Curtins has supported and guided me in developing my career. I have had the opportunity to work as part of teams delivering many exciting and challenging projects across the country, and a platform to influence change in our evolving industry.”

## **Driver Group**



(Image: Shared Content Unit)

Rossendale-headquartered Driver Group has appointed Shaun Smith as its new non-executive chair.

Mr Smith will take up his role on March 23 following the retirement of Driver’s current chair, Steven Norris after eight years in the role.

He is currently a non-executive director of Epwin Group and INSPECS Group.

Mr Smith said: "I have followed the fortunes of Driver Group for some time, a globally successful leader in the provision of high value expert witness, claims and dispute resolution services to clients around the world."

## **N Brown**



Davina McCall and Amanda Holden are brand ambassadors for JD Williams

(Image: N Brown)

N Brown Group has appointed Dominic Appleton as its new chief financial officer, succeeding Rachel Izzard.

Mr Appleton has spent 10 years at The Very Group, most recently as group finance director.

He has previously held CFO roles at online bathroom retailer, VictoriaPlum.com, and footwear brand, Hotter Shoes.

N Brown is headquartered in Manchester and its brands include JD Williams and Simply Be.

## **Growth Company**



Mike Blackburn, Growth Company  
(Image: Jim Winslet / VisMedia)

The Growth Company has appointed a new chairman.

Mike Blackburn OBE, who is current member of the Growth Company's board and former chair of Greater Manchester's Local Enterprise Partnership (GMLEP), will take up the role from the end of March.

Mr Blackburn spent his 36-year career in the private sector working for technology companies, including 25 years at BT.

He said: "I am delighted to be taking on the role of Chair with the Growth Company. The company has had many fantastic

achievements in the last few years and been significant in its support to businesses and individuals during and following the pandemic.”

## **Manchester Law Society**



Nick Johnson, Glaisyers ETL  
(Image: Glaisyers ETL)

Nick Johnson, senior partner at the Manchester-headquartered law firm Glaisyers ETL, has been elected president of

Manchester Law Society.

He takes over from Paul Johnson, corporate partner at Ward Hadaway.

Mr Johnson, a commercial litigation specialist, began his career at the Manchester firm Goldstone Casket and Eva, which merged with Glaisyers in 1993. He was Glaisyers' managing partner until 2018.

Mr Johnson said: "I am honoured to have been elected President of Manchester Law Society, an organisation with a proud history that dates back almost two centuries. After 40 years in the law, I am very much looking forward to taking this opportunity to give back to the profession."

**CMAC Group**



(Image: Niall Carson/PA Wire)

CMAC Group, a Lancashire-based managed ground transport and accommodation specialist, has promoted Dave Rose to the role of director of supply and procurement.

Mr Rose joined CMAC in January 2022 as head of enterprise to drive the company's international expansion.

Chief operating officer Neil Micklethwaite said: "Dave's promotion is part of our drive build on the fantastic success we had in 2022, and plan for the future, by investing in our people in some key areas across the business."

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