



**ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY  
CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY GROUP**



# **Annual Report**

## **2012-2013**

## Introduction



I am very pleased that the last year has been one in which the positive efforts of businesses across the UK – working hard to help pull the UK out of recession and supporting their employees – has been more widely recognised, helping to rebuild trust in business. This is a welcome contrast with some recent years, when various crises and scandals cast a shadow over the work of the many, many responsible businesses on which we all rely daily.

The year has not been without its challenges as, for example, the continuing debate about where and how businesses pay taxes and the use of zero hour contracts, demonstrates. At the same time there has been increasing recognition that many businesses have learned from mistakes made during past recessions and the ability of employers to reach flexible agreements with employees has enabled many businesses in this recession to avoid mass redundancies. Of course we are not “out of the woods” yet and as economic growth slowly resumes there is still widespread concern about the level of unemployment in the UK and, in particular, unemployment among young people, which can have a lifelong impact on them. Job insecurity can also have a debilitating effect upon employee morale and performance so it is important that the issues of employee well-being and engagement are effectively addressed by business.

I am keenly aware of the huge effort which many responsible businesses have made within their workplaces to support their employees through better policies on health and well-being. I also welcome the way in which businesses are reaching out to help disadvantaged people in their communities through skills-led volunteering, partnerships with education providers and other imaginative community programmes.

Many APCRG members are actively involved in programmes which support education in local schools and colleges and help to improve the employability skills of young people. We heard about some of these at our meeting in May 2012 when a panel of five speakers from Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Manchester Airport Group, Jaguar Land Rover, John Laing and Shell gave a really encouraging and practical account of their work with schools and undergraduates, their work experience programmes, apprenticeships schemes and their support for the National Skills Academies.

The Business Class initiative is an interesting, collaborative initiative which brings together clusters of schools and businesses to tackle challenges identified by the schools and drive

forward improvement. Companies are also working with homeless people to help them get back on track and ready for work. Marks & Spencers is one of the companies that led the way in this area with its Mark-Start initiative and I am delighted that others are now taking up this challenge. Yet other companies are helping people to overcome problems such as alcohol and drug dependency; and some companies such as National Grid have a proud history of working with offenders and former offenders to help them into work. Companies such as Timpsons attest to the loyalty and reliability of former offenders who are given an opportunity to work and where this works well it is of undoubted benefit to the individual, the company and the community. The commitment of the Ministry of Justice to supporting rehabilitation by providing more meaningful and productive work and training for prisoners while in prison and the development of social impact bonds and the social investment market may lead to a huge expansion of opportunity in this area; and I hope that businesses large and small across the country will seize it.

As part of the global community, the UK faces some immense challenges in the years ahead, including most glaringly climate change and an ageing society. It is only with the full support of innovative and responsible businesses that we will be able to meet these challenges successfully. These challenges also create huge opportunities, as witnessed by the rapid growth of the “green economy”. I am confident that UK businesses will meet these challenges because we are an innovative and entrepreneurial people. I believe this is an exciting time to be in business and that the best companies will succeed by “doing good”.

I welcome the broad recognition by business leaders of the need to ensure that their business model is sustainable. The concept of sustainability is still being developed and refined and it will be interesting to see how quickly ideas such as the circular economy become commonplace. In the meantime, far-sighted business leaders are seeking to ensure that their companies are adaptable, resilient and benefit all stakeholders.

I have learned a great deal from the meetings we have held over the last year and been much encouraged by the many accounts of good practice that I have heard. The APCRG will be as busy as ever over the next twelve months, providing more opportunities for Parliamentarians and Associate members to learn more about responsible business practice. I greatly look forward to working with the Officers and members in the year ahead.

The Group would not be as successful as it is without the active support of my fellow Officers and our excellent secretariat, provided by Central Lobby Consultants. I would particularly like to thank my fellow Officers: Jonathan Djanogly, Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen, Martin Horwood, Baroness Howe of Idlicote, John Robertson and Lord Sheppard of Didgemere.



Baroness Greengross, Chairman 2012-13

## **Meetings held 2012-2013**

### **The legacy of the 2012 Olympic Games - October 2012**

At our first meeting after the summer recess the Group discussed the legacy of the London 2012 Games that had been held to great acclaim during the summer. The guest speakers were Dennis Hone, Interim Chief Executive of the London Legacy Development Corporation, Baroness Grey-Thompson and Fred Turok, Chair of the Public Health Responsibility Deal Physical Activity Network. Members heard about the on-going physical and economic regeneration of the Olympic Park; the efforts being made by responsible companies to promote health in the workplace and community through a legacy of more widespread involvement in sport and physical activity; and the impact the Paralympic Games has had on attitudes towards - and opportunities for - people with disabilities.

### **Measuring Impact - December 2012**

Being able to measure their impact is a prerequisite for companies wishing to demonstrate their contribution to society and benchmark their performance. At our last meeting of 2012 the guest speakers were: Dr Alan Knight of Business in the Community who talked about the development of BITC's CR Index; Pamela Webb of Zurich Community Trust, who spoke about the work of the London Benchmarking Group; and Brian Smouha, the Founder of Coalition for Efficiency (CfE) who spoke about the valuable role business volunteers can play in helping charities to measure their impact.

### **Media responsibility post "hackgate" - January 2013**

The Leveson Report was published in November 2012 giving us all several weeks before we met in January 2013 to consider whether a blueprint had been laid which could ensure that in the future media organisations in the UK exercise their power responsibly. At our first meeting of 2013 members discussed the controversial issues arising from the need to balance protecting privacy against media intrusion with the need to uphold the freedom of the press to report in the public interest. Our guest speakers were: Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty, Martin Moore, Director of The Media Standards Trust and Chris Blackhurst, the Editor of *The Independent*.

### **Corporate reporting & gender equality in the workplace - March 2013**

This meeting gave members an opportunity to discuss the extent to which changing corporate reporting requirements may help to deliver greater gender equality in the workplace, whether because companies want to protect the reputation of their brands among stakeholders or by focussing board attention on these issues. The guest speakers were: Jo Swinson, the Equalities Minister and Minister for Employment Relations and Consumer Affairs; and Helena Morrissey, the Chief Executive of Newton Investment Management. The issues discussed included: whether reporting on the gender balance within companies will help ensure more

women have non-executive and executive roles at board level; whether reporting on the gender pay gap will help reduce it; and the possible impact of narrative reporting on the career choices made by girls and young women.

### **AGM - May 2013**

The Group's AGM – a requirement of the Parliamentary rules for Approved Parliamentary Groups - was held in May. All the existing Officers agreed to be re-nominated and were elected unopposed. Jonathan Djanogoly also agreed to be nominated and was elected unopposed. The Officers discussed ideas for meetings in the year ahead and a provisional programme was agreed. All members are encouraged to contact the Secretariat to suggest subjects for future meetings.

### **Sustainability, the Green Deal & transition to a low carbon economy - May 2013**

At our meeting in May 2013 members discussed the work underway within British companies to ensure their own sustainability and to support the Government's carbon reduction targets. Our guest speakers were: Julian Walker-Palin, Head of Sustainability at Asda Stores Ltd; John Swinney, Business Development Director – Public Services at Carillion plc; and Sefton Laing, Head of Research and Innovation, RBS Group Sustainability.

### **Employee engagement & well-being - July 2013**

At our last meeting before the summer recess the Group returned to the issues of employee engagement and well-being; and discussed how employers can build great workplaces. The guest speakers were: Professor David MacLeod and Nita Clarke, co-authors of *Engaging for Success*, the independent report for Government on the role of employee engagement in business; Grace Mehanna, BITC's Workwell Campaign Manager; Lynn Graham, HR Business Partner Diageo Northern Ireland; and Vanessa King, Board member of Action for Happiness and the architect of its *Doing Well from the Inside Out* programme.

## **Membership of the APCRG**

### **Officers:**

**Chair:** Baroness Greengross OBE

**Vice-Chairs:** Jonathan Djanogly MP, Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen, Baroness Howe of Idlicote, John Robertson MP, Lord Sheppard of Didgemere.

**Hon. Secretary:** Martin Horwood MP

### **MPs:**

Tony Baldry, Ed Balls, Gregory Barker, Anne Begg, Hazel Blears, Peter Bottomley, Vincent Cable, Kenneth Clarke, Michael Connarty, Rosie Cooper, Ian Davidson, Jonathon Djanogly, Jonathan Evans, Nigel Evans, Hywel Francis, Michael Gove, Stephen Hammond, Barbara Keeley, David Lammy, Tim Loughton, Andy Love, Ian Lucas, Fiona Mactaggart, Jim McGovern, Michael Meacher, Madeleine Moon, Michael Moore, Jessica Morden, Nicky Morgan, Jamie Reed, Barry Sheerman, David Simpson, Ian Stewart, Gareth R Thomas and Ed Vaizey.

### **Peers:**

Lord Aberdare, Lord Alton of Liverpool, Baroness Andrews, Lord Bhatia, Baroness Blood, Lord Brennan, Baroness Brinton, Lord Browne of Madingley, Baroness Buscombe, Lord Butler of Brockwell, Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Lord Clement-Jones, Baroness Coussins, Baroness Cumberlege, Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, Lord Debden, Lord Faulkner of Worcester, Lord Freeman, Lord Gavron, Baroness Goudie, Baroness Gould of Potternewton, Baroness Grey-Thompson, Lord Harrison of Chester, Lord Haskel, Lord Haskins, Lord Hastings of Scarisbrick, Baroness Hayman, Baroness Hooper, Lord Howard of Lympne, Lord Howarth of Newport, Lord Howell of Guildford, Lord Joffe, Lord Jones, Lord Jones of Birmingham, Lord Judd, Lord Lester of Herne Hill, Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke, Lord MacGregor of Pulham Market, Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall, Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer, Lord Mitchell, Baroness Noakes, Baroness Northover, Lord O'Neill of Clackmannan, Lord Paul, Lord Peston, Lord Phillips of Sudbury, Baroness Pitkeathley, Baroness Prashar, Baroness Prosser, Lord Puttnam, Baroness Richardson of Calow, Lord Sharman, Baroness Sharp of Guildford, Lord Sheldon, Lord Simon of Highbury, Lord Stevenson of Coddenham, Lord Stone of Blackheath, Lord Taylor of Warwick, Lord Touhig, Baroness Valentine, Baroness Warwick of Undercliffe, Baroness Whitaker, Lord Williamson of Horton and Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale.

### **Associate members:**

Allen and Overy LLP, Alliance Boots, Apax Partners, ASDA Stores Ltd, Associated British Foods plc, AXA UK, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, BBC, British American Tobacco, British

Land, BT plc, Camelot Group plc, Capita Group plc, Carillion, Carphone Warehouse, CEMEX, Centrica plc, City of London Corporation, Clifford Chance LLP, Cluttons, Coca-Cola Enterprises Limited, Deloitte LLP, Diageo plc, EE Ltd, E.ON UK, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Fujitsu UK, Gentoo Green Group Ltd, Hallmark Cards plc, Heineken UK Ltd, Hermes Equity Ownership Services Ltd, Hogan Lovells LLP, IKEA Ltd, Imperial Tobacco Group plc, Institute of Business Ethics, Interserve, Intu Properties plc, Jaguar Land Rover, JD Williams, John Laing, John Lewis Partnership, Johnson Matthey, JTI, KPMG LLP, Legal & General Group plc, Liberty International plc, Linklaters LLP, Manchester Airport plc, Marks and Spencer plc, Mayer Brown International LLP, MITIE, National Grid, Nationwide Building Society, NM Rothschild & Sons Ltd, Northumbrian Water Ltd, Olswang LLP, Premier Moves Ltd, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Provident Financial plc, RBS, Reed Elsevier, Rolls Royce plc, Santander UK, Shared Impact, Scottish Power plc, Serco Group plc, Shell UK Ltd, Siemens plc, Southern Water, Tata Consultancy Services, Thales Holdings UK plc, The Co-operative Group, The Heaven Company, Unipart Group Ltd, University of Nottingham, Warburtons Ltd, Whitbread, WPP, White & Case LLP, Yorkshire and Clydesdale Bank Foundation and Zurich Insurance plc.

### **Subscriber members:**

Guardian News and Media, National House Building Council, Nottingham University, Pirelli UK Tyres Ltd and Princes Foods.

### **Finance and Registration**

The Group is officially registered with the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and it is on the Approved List as a recognised All-Party Parliamentary Group. Further information about the Group is available on our website at: [www.apcrg.org.uk](http://www.apcrg.org.uk)