

# THE NORTHERN ASIAN POWERLIST 2020

Celebrating the Contribution of Asian Influence and Impact Across the North of England

#NAPowerlist

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#### Introduction

The inaugural Northern Asian Powerlist 2020 showcases the prominent businesses, professionals, influencers, women, media, politicians and third sector across the Northern Powerhouse.

### **Our Supporters**

We would like to thank our key supporters who have contributed their time and energy to this project from its inception.















Sharon Jandu Project Director T +44 7807 474885 E sharon@yaba.uk.com

Against the background of global uncertainty, whether due to the COVID-19 pandemic or political unrest, we are celebrating the brilliance of people across all of our towns and cities in the north of England. British Asians have made a substantial contribution to our places and identities, and this is about recognising them and their stories. We want these brilliant people to be role models for people of all backgrounds to strive, to achieve and to be their best.

The Asian community makes an enormous contribution to UK plc, providing the backbone of UK enterprise with a share of over 11% of new business start-ups. The British Asian community generates around 10% of the country's GDP despite making up only 4% of the population, according to research published by the CBI.

The Asian community has for decades provided a powerful and varied contribution to the UK and, in particular, the north of England. Often silently, the Asian community has supported our communities in every town and city across the north of England. The Northern Asian Powerlist is a timely and important recognition and celebration of this contribution, and seeks to tell the multitude of stories that have come to light during the development of this Powerlist.

The Northern Asian Powerlist is about recognition and celebration. We are excited to showcase the Asian communities' talent for doing brilliant things across the north of England. 2020 marks the first year of this celebration. From our work to date, it is clear that the Asian community is making a powerful contribution to all walks of life in every town and city, whether business, cultural, academic or civic.

We are keen to ensure that we bring to the surface these examples of accomplishment and achievement across the north of England, not only to highlight the brilliant things happening in the north, but also to act as an encouragement to the next generation.

We will be recognising extraordinary achievement and success from British Asians across the north of England every two years.

Our Powerlist categories reflect the eclectic mix of contributions to the north of England and the UK more widely. Whether in manufacturing, tech, financial services, healthcare, hospitality, research, medicine, legal services or politics, our Asian communities have been enriching places from Widnes to Whitley Bay and Beverley to Birkenhead – the Asian community is making its presence felt and we are excited to celebrate this.

This year's categories include:

- Politics and Diplomacy
- Digital and Technology
- Women in Business
- Business Leaders
- Emerging Talent Entrepreneurs and Emerging Leaders
- Inspiring Professionals
- Thought Leaders
- Cultural Icons
- Social Changemakers
- Food and Drink

#### **Project Board**

Our project board have worked diligently to bring the project from its humble inception to life. Our thanks go to Karen French, Daniela Douse, Holly Maxwell and Wendy Ramshaw from Squire Patton Boggs, Jennie Holdstock at Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership, Canon Simon Baldwin from Leeds Beckett University, Heather Watson from NatWest and Simon Collingwood for his communications support.



## A Foreword From Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea CBE DL

It gives me great pleasure to support the celebration of the contribution and impact British Asians are having in every community across the North of England. The Northern Asian Powerlist 2020 list has profiled the achievements of the top Asian businesses, professionals, influencers and politicians. From the media and the arts to science, technology and medicine, the Asian community is making its presence felt.

As the birthplace of the industrial revolution, the North has a long history of fostering innovation. Contributing to nearly 19% of the UK's GDP, the North represents over 15 million people and more than one million private sector businesses. With over 20 universities, many of them globally renowned, it presents a great academic and research ecosystem geared to science and technology innovation. Connected to the rest of the world through seven international airports and 12 major ports, it is a high-potential and high-impact region. For the UK to prosper, it needs to increase its productivity across all regions, and it needs to harness every bit of talent available across the North and beyond. We have so much talent across all of our communities. This list not only highlights the achievements of a diverse UK Plc and the North in particular, but also acts as an inspiration for generations to come.

Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea CBE DL

## The Northern Asian Powerlist Westminster Launch

The official launch of the Northern Asian Powerlist was hosted at the House of Lords by the Rt. Hon. Baroness Warsi of Dewsbury. The Northern Asian Power group has a focus to support levelling up, and to pledge the Northern Powerhouse Asian business communities' commitment, contribution and engagement to support the Northern Powerhouse. There were presentations from:

- Jake Berry, in his former role of Minister for the Northern Powerhouse
- Altaf Sadique, Ganedata and member of the Northern Asian Power Group (Yorkshire Chapter)
- Naveen Ahmed, Roomzzz and Icon Inc and member of the Northern Asian Power Group (Yorkshire Chapter)
- · Shabir Pandor, Leader of Kirklees Council
- Manni Boss™, 88M group and member of the Northern Asian Power Group (Yorkshire Chapter)
- Ammar Mirza CBE, President of the Federation of Asian Business

This was followed by a roundtable organised by the Yorkshire Asian Business Association (YABA) and the Federation of Asian Business at the House of Commons to discuss future engagement and collaboration. The roundtable was chaired by Rt. Hon. Virendra Sharma, MP and Chairman of the Indo-British All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), and attended by distinguished guests Lord Karan Bilimoria; Lord Waverly; Henri Murison, Director, Northern Powerhouse Partnership; Vijay Goel, Chairman of Assocham UK; and Keith Madeley MBE.

We were delighted to be joined by a delegation from the Northern Powerhouse and national Northern Asian Powerlist supporters, including representatives from:

- Department for International Trade
- Confederation of British Industry
- Kirklees Council
- The Parklane Group
- MyLahore
- The India Business Group
- The Piece Hall
- Squire Patton Boggs
- · Leeds Beckett University
- Women in Business Network
- Association of International Accountants
- Al Murad Tiles
- Clear Wealth Management







### Northern Asian Powerlist 2020 Overall Winners

It is an honour and a privilege to present our overall winners. These individuals topped our inaugural 2020 list of the most influential people of Asian heritage across the Northern Powerhouse.

Category	Winner	Judges Comments
Politics and Diplomacy	The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP Chancellor of the Exchequer	Rishi Sunak has his hands on levers of power. He is an excellent communicator with widespread business experience and has proved to be a diligent constituency MP who has actively engaged with business throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. He has shown real leadership and is confident in handling his new status.
Digital and Technology	Furqan Alamgir Founder and Chief Executive of Connexin	One of the leading smart cities providers operating in the UK today.  An active entrepreneur, an ambassador for Imperial College and a member of the Northern Powerhouse Partnership, as well as an ambassador to the Goldman Sachs High Growth Business Development Programme.  Furqan also worked as a Surgical Registrar in the NHS, which has led him to believe technology will play a huge part in how healthcare is delivered over the coming years. He has a special interest in telehealth, and the use of IT and, in particular, the internet in providing 21st-century healthcare.
Women in Business	Karina Jadhav  Managing Director of Menagerie Restaurant	Having started out with no prior business training, Karina has gone from running a stall at Manchester's Food and Drink festival to creating a one-of-a-kind, vibrant and different dining experience in a most competitive and challenging market.  Karina has firmly cemented herself and her business as front-runners on Manchester's thriving hospitality scene.
Business Leader	Simon Arora Chief Executive Officer of B&M Group	Simon embodies everything we believe makes a business leader – he is someone who is the ultimate role model. Simon has transformed B&M from a struggling loss-making business to one of the leading global retailers, employing thousands of people. Simon demonstrates an inspirational success story creating wealth generation and employment. Simon is a global thinker, and encourages other Asian businesses to reach out to the wider businesses community, recognising the potential of having an integrated and diverse business. If we are to have a progressive economy post Brexit, we need to foster this kind of thinking, that Asian business leaders can aspire to be the Chief Executive of a major listed business, and that it is possible. Simon is excellent by all standards and inspirational. Simon really was the standout candidate, an outstanding business leader with a powerful reputation who will inspire others to succeed.
Emerging Talent Emerging Entrepreneurs	Sonya Bachra-Byrne Co-founder and Creative Director of AVIE	Sonya has a great story and business, which is a real advocate for Yorkshire.  We were particularly impressed that the debut collection was selected as <i>Drapers</i> "Brand to Watch for 2019", and later that year was nominated and won the category for "Best Emerging Brand of the Year 2019" by <i>Drapers</i> . We were even more so impressed that the business has refocused on a bespoke service in light of the changes faced by retailers amidst COVID-19.

Category	Winner	Judges Comments
Emerging Talent Emerging Leader	Amir Hussain Chief Executive of Yeme Architects	Amir has demonstrated his ability to lead within a non-traditional sector. He is a role model who provides innovative solutions that impact on others within his sector to inspire ambition Amir's work at the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership and across the region is highly regarded.
Inspiring Professionals	Syima Aslam  Managing Director and Artistic Director of the Bradford Literature Festival	Syima builds confidence through the power of her work and her exemplary leadership. She exemplifies new and unique ways for arts and culture to stay influential and impactful among other businesses and organisations and be able to have an even stronger impact on society.  Throughout history, people have used the arts to promote understanding and inspire change when faced with challenges that divide us. Syima's effective and influential programming within arts and culture has demonstrated the power to convey and inspire societal change, reflecting a contemporary Britain.
Thought Leaders	Nazir Afzal OBE  Former Chief Crown Prosecutor for North West England	A clear number one pick in the year he publishes his book, <i>The Prosecutor</i> , Nazir Afzal OBE remains as committed and focused as ever on changing cultural, political and ideological expectations, attitudes and preconceptions that surround women's rights and the rights of the vulnerable in particular. Mr. Afzal has challenged the establishment and won, saving lives in the process. His refusal to allow the sexual exploitation of vulnerable young girls by organised gangs was a remarkably courageous endeavour that required him to place himself and his family in danger. What is particularly inspiring is – as is apparent from his recent interviews published in <i>The Times</i> – his unwavering determination to continue to offer his expertise at the very highest level in order to improve the life chances for those often at the very lowest levels of modern society.
Cultural Icons	Kully Thiarai Creative Director, Leeds 2023	We found Kully an outstanding candidate. She has over 30 years of experience of working in the performing arts across the UK as a theatre maker, artistic director and arts consultant. Since commencing in the post as Leeds Culture Trust Leeds2023 Creative Director in January 2020, Kully has used her vast professional experience and prominence and strong social values to advocate the importance of culture in British society.
Food and Drink	Mohammed Ishaq MBE  Managing Director, Punjab  Kitchen	Mohammed is the strongest contender for the Northern Asian Powerlist Food and Drink category. As Durham and Sunderland Business Executive of the Year, Mohammed was also awarded an MBE for his services to innovation and the economy. Seeing the business grow from only 10 staff to now serving over 120,000 patients a week and employing over 100 people is inspiring. They are now the largest supplier of special diet meals to the public sector, which is an incredible feat. Having started back in 1996, when Mohammed used to make meals for ethnic patients in hospital, to now making food for people with dysphagia and dietary needs, its awe-inspiring how many people's lives The Punjab Kitchen will have improved.
Social Changemakers	Hanif Malik OBE and Rifhat Malik MBE	Hanif Malik OBE and Rifhat Malik MBE are a truly inspirational couple who have dedicated the past 25 years to making social change in the communities of Leeds and the surrounding district and in the voluntary work they undertake overseas. Described as the "Asian Power House Couple" by colleagues and friends, they work tirelessly and selflessly for those who are less privileged and in supporting people from all backgrounds irrespective of race, colour or creed.

### Response From Our Winners



"As founder of Yeme Architects (YA), I have developed it into a critical-thinking, multifaceted and multiple award-winning design practice. Combining an acute understanding of aspirational and communicative design with a strong focus on social/tech trends has led to incredible outcomes, growth and involvement in nationally significant projects. Furthermore, having operated extensively in challenging regeneration areas, YA has successfully raised aspirations, engagement and long-term consequences. Applying visionary, creative parameters to commercial projects has subtly (yet profoundly) altered results, leading to improved social and viability outcomes."

**Amir Hussain, Chief Executive, Yeme Architects** 



"I am both humbled and delighted for this recognition. What I do would not be possible without the great team around me and the customers who have believed in us and embraced the pioneering technology that Connexin is known for. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the judges and those who nominated me."

Furqan Alamgir, Chief Executive Officer, Connexin



"We are absolutely delighted and honoured to have been selected as the winners of the Social Change-makers category. So many people of an Asian background play such a vital role in their communities, which goes unrecognised. The Northern Asian Powerlist is a fantastic initiative to acknowledge this unheralded work and we sincerely hope that our success can inspire others in the community to keep striving to make a difference."

Hanif Malik OBE and Rifhat Malik MBE



"I am delighted to have been selected as the winner of such a prestigious category amongst so many admirable nominees, all of whom are paying the way for Asian business women in the North"

Karina Jadhav, Managing Director, Menagerie Restaurant & Bar



"I am thrilled to have been selected as the winner in the Cultural Icons category of the Northern Asian Powerlist. Leeds and Bradford have played such an important part in enabling me to make a career in the arts and I am grateful for all the support and inspiration I have received over the years. The north is rich with talent and creativity. I am delighted to be able to play my part in nurturing talent and unlocking opportunities for others, celebrating the vitality of our diverse cultural heritage across the UK and the Northern Powerhouse".

Kully Thiarai, Creative Director, Leeds 2023



"I am truly delighted to have been nominated for this award and have had many proud moments across my career. One of the proudest moments in business was receiving an MBE in the Queen's Honours List for services to innovation and the economy in Tyne and Wear, which I dedicated to my mother, as I have never forgotten that it was her recipes which made all this possible, and to my wife, without whose support and partnership I would not have been able to dedicate the time I have to our business. I'm also very proud to have blazed a trail in hospital catering and to have contributed to improving the lives and wellbeing of patients, as well as contributing to ground-breaking concepts within the catering sector.

It's a little clichéd, but I have always lived by the motto, "The impossible we can do at once, miracles will take a little longer." That's how we have run the business. We pride ourselves on the ability to turn an idea into reality in a matter of weeks rather than the months or years compared to larger more corporate businesses. I'm an old-school businessman who secures new business first and beds it in before moving on to the next stage of expansion. I have learned much in my tenure. I continue to learn new and more dynamic ways of operating, and will continue to do so for years to come."

Mohammed Ishaq MBE, Managing Director, Punjab Kitchen



"To be recognised by your peers is both a delight and a responsibility, particularly in these challenging times. This award honours the many people to whom I owe my good fortune. The diversity of this great nation is its strength and I am so pleased that we continue to celebrate it."

Nazir Afzal OBE, Former Chief Crown Prosecutor for North West England



"I am humbled and shocked to receive such a prestigious award as Emerging Entrepreneur of 2020! It is wonderful to receive such an acknowledgement, especially during these unprecedented times that we are all navigating. I am honoured to be part of the Northern Asian Powerlist. A huge thank you to the Northern Powerhouse community and the supporting partners that have made this happen."

Sonya Bachra-Byrne, Creative Director, AVI



AVIE "B&M is proud of its North West roots and our strong record of job creation for tens of thousands of colleagues we now employ across the North. I applaud this initiative that seeks to encourage the important contribution that the Asian community is making to the economy and life in the region more broadly."

Simon Arora, Chief Executive Officer, B&M Group



"Being named the Inspiring Professional in the Northern Asian Powerlist 2020 is a huge honour, for which I thank the judges sincerely. Inspiration is what drives me, in my professional and personal life; when I founded Bradford Literature Festival in 2014, inspiring children, young people and diverse, socioeconomically disadvantaged communities through the written and spoken word was, and remains, my ultimate ambition.

As a mother, showing my teenage daughter that Asian women are in professional leadership roles, influencing and having a positive impact on our communities and in our region, has been one of the great motivators of my life for the last 17 years. I am proud to be included in a list that includes so many exceptional and, themselves, inspirational peers who offer such a strong collective proof – particularly to young people like my daughter – of our community's power, influence and achievements."

Syima Aslam, Chief Executive and Artistic Director, Bradford Literature Festival



## A Message From Roger Marsh OBE DL

The Northern Asian Powerlist 2020 shines a spotlight on the significant and sustained contribution of the Asian business community across the Northern Powerhouse. It is an opportunity to celebrate the exceptional business and cultural leaders who are driving innovation and economic growth and accelerating the success of our regions, the North and the UK as a whole.

The North is a place where diverse businesses thrive and this report showcases, and is dedicated to, the many inspirational business and cultural leaders from across the Northern Powerhouse.

International collaboration, trade and investment are crucial to ensure sustained economic growth and we are committed to developing stronger links with the Indian subcontinent to drive forward global trade and inward investment initiatives.

India, for example, is now the UK's second-largest source of foreign direct investment and connecting the Northern Power-house to India – one of the fastest-growing economies in the world – will further boost this growth. Trade between the UK and India was worth £24 billion in 2019 and presents a huge opportunity for businesses across the North. Expanding and deepening our trade relationships with the Indian subcontinent is key to supporting business growth and recovery as we transition from Europe and meet the challenges presented by the global pandemic.

I am honoured to be part of the judging panel of the Northern Asian Powerlist 2020 and I hope you will join me in celebrating the success of the Asian business community across the Northern Powerhouse in the pages that follow.

Roger Marsh OBE DL, Chair of the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and NP11



## Politics and Diplomacy: Winner and Shortlist

The Politics and Diplomacy category celebrates the movers and shakers who shine in the field of politics and diplomacy.

These are some of the most energetic and dynamic individuals representing strategic relations in the political arena. These can be people who are well known or those who work quietly behind the scenes.



Overall Winner	The Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer
North East	Cllr Irim Ali, Member for Neighbourhoods and Public Health, Newcastle City Council
	Cllr Mohammed Javed, Mayor, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
North West	Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester
	Mo Isap, Co-chair, Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership and the Founder and Chief Executive of IN4.0 Group
	Pasha Shah, Senior Policy Adviser, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Yorkshire and the Humber	The Rt. Hon. Baroness Warsi of Dewsbury, Member of the House of Lords
	Cllr Mazhar Iqbal, Cabinet Member for Business and Investment, Sheffield City Council



File:Official portrait of Rishi Sunak crop 2.jpg" by Chris McAndrew is licensed with CC BY 3.0. To view a copy of this license, visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0.



## A Message From the Consul General of India, Birmingham

India and the UK share a robust commercial and economic relationship that has strengthened over the years. In the wake of the current pandemic, the past few months have brought significant international and domestic challenges for both India and the UK. Yet as the global economy slows, the connection between the two countries is as strong as ever.

The Indian diaspora, the largest ethnic minority group in the UK, has played an important role in strengthening the links between the two countries. The Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi, warmly describes the UK's Indian diaspora community as a "living bridge" between the two countries. With not only valuable contributions to industry and business, but also to the areas of academia, literature, arts, medicine, science, sport and politics, the diaspora adds to the rich tapestry of British culture, which is widely acknowledged and appreciated. It represents the best of Indian culture, ethos and values, and their hard work, discipline, law-abiding and peace-loving nature make them role models for other communities.

As per the latest reports, the Indian diaspora-owned businesses are making a significant contribution to the UK economy, recording combined revenues of £36.84 billion and employing just over 174,000 people. They also pay over £1 billion in corporation tax and invest close to £2 billion through capital expenditure. Since March 2020, the UK and India have partnered on several fronts, beginning with a modest supply of close to 45 million tablets of paracetamol from India to the UK, to the signing of the MoU between Astra Zeneca/Oxford University and the world's largest vaccine producer, Serum Institute of India, to produce a billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines, once approved.

As the Consul General of India based in Birmingham, I convey my best wishes to the Indian diaspora in the region. We strive to support the Indian investors who are operating in the North, and try to facilitate and assist in every way we can. Given the North of England's core economic strengths in the digital, life sciences, advanced manufacturing and energy sectors, close alignment with the key strategic and economic interests of both nations presents a major opportunity for the North to play a critical role in shaping the future of the UK-India relationship. I wish YABA all the success in its endeavours.



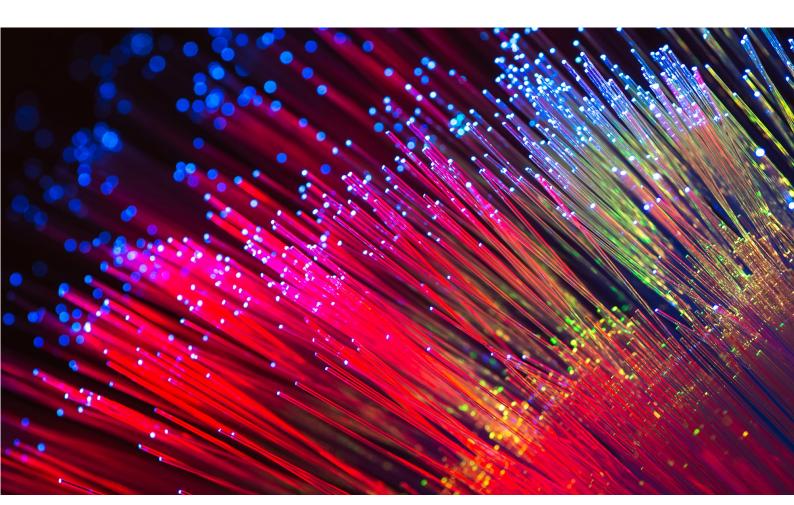
Dr. Shashank Vikram Consul General of India Birmingham



## Digital and Technology: Winner and Shortlist

The Digital and Technology category shines a spotlight on the individuals who are riding the technology wave from fintech to artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain.

Overall Winner	Furqan Alamgir, Founder and Chief Executive, Connexin
North East	Professor Santosh Shrivastava, Co-founder, Arjuna Solutions
	Sarat Pediredla, Chief Executive, hedgehog lab
	Tan Ellahi, Founder, Zookabu
North West	Asad Shamim, Chief Executive, Furniture in Fashion
	Jamil Khalil, Founder, Wakelet
	Mashukul Hoque, Founder, Datacentreplus
Yorkshire and the Humber	Ashwain Rayit, Director and Raj Rayit, Technical Director, SARAS Technology
	Gurdip Singh, Founder, and Harjit Moore, Chief Executive, Freeze Debt





## A Message From the High Commission of Bangladesh

I am very pleased to hear that YABA is going to profile the top 100 Asian businesses, professional influencers and third sector leaders across the north of England for 2020. This is, indeed, a very encouraging initiative!

The Asians constitute 4% of the UK's total population and they are contributing over £120 billion each year to the UK economy. I have been apprised that YABA was founded to recognise the unique achievements of the Asian business community for the UK economy and British society. I much appreciate the activities YABA is pursuing for addressing the business issues faced by the Asian business community, especially focusing on the business sphere of the north of England.

I congratulate YABA for bringing out this publication, which I believe will provide us with useful information on Asian impacts and influences across the UK's Northern Powerhouse.



HE Ms Md. Shahidul Islam
High Commissioner for Bangladesh



### Women in Business: Winner and Shortlist

Celebrating the women behind the headlines at some of the most prominent and high-achieving companies, and those who own and run successful businesses.

Overall Winner	Karina Jadhav, Managing Director, Menagerie Restaurant
North East	Anu Kaura, Head of Legal and Group In-house Lawyer at Malhotra Group PLC
	Hina Joshi, Principal Associate, Mayvin Associates
	Sabrina Din, Manager, Teacher Time
North West	Asma Younus, Travel and Lifestyle Blogger, JetSetChick. com
	Jo Ahmed, Partner, Deloitte
	Nisha Katona MBE, Founder of Mowgli Street Food
Yorkshire and the Humber	Usha Parmer, Chief Executive, Sunrise Radio
	Fara Butt, Sales and Marketing Director, The Shire Bed Company
	Salma Chaudhry, Director, The Halal Cosmetics Company





## A Message From Nicola Chance-Thompson DL

It has been a real honour to be a judge in the Northern Asian Powerlist 2020 awards. I am passionate about ensuring that we showcase and recognise those who are making a real contribution to the North and the UK. You are leading the way and inspiring others to have ambition and to succeed.

It is clear from all of the great entries that we saw, in all of the categories, that the British Asian community continues to be a positive disruptor and makes a tremendous impact to our economy and for people. Thank you for all you do.

I congratulate everyone who has been nominated and those who received an award. You all make Britain proud.

Nicola Chance-Thompson DL and Chief Executive of The Piece Hall Trust



### **Business Leader: Winner and Shortlist**

The Business Leader category showcases the contribution of the leaders of Asian businesses to the UK economy, from SMEs to major listed companies.

Our shortlist demonstrated exceptional leadership, driving forward strong business growth and innovation strategies, with people who are prominent role models within their sectors.

Overall Winner	Simon Arora, Chief Executive Officer, B&M Group
North East	Ammar Mirza CBE, Innovation & Business Growth Expert & Angel Investor
	Imran Khaliq, Group Director, Gainford Group
	Meenu Malhotra, Founder and Chairman, Malhotra Group PLC
North West	Bilal Hassan Ghafoor, Managing Director, Manchester Super Stores
	Iqbal Ahmed OBE, Director and Chief Executive Officer, The Seamark Plc
	Khalid Saifullah MBE DL, Managing Director, Star Tissue     UK
Yorkshire and the	Arnie Singh, Managing Director and Owner, City Taxis
Humber	Harpreet and Pam Banwait, Managing Directors, Strong Life Care Limited
	Munir Mamujee, Managing Director, m2R education
	Zeb Pervaiz, Managing Director, SKA Developments





## A Message From the Manchester India Partnership

I was honoured to support the North Asian Power List Report as a judge. It is a fantastic initiative that will help to promote and showcase the strong talent that is present across the north of the UK and the impact and contribution they play in the Northern economy.

The Manchester India Partnership (MIP) was established in February 2018 to build and strengthen trade, investment, cultural, and educational ties between India and Greater Manchester.

India has the fastest growing economy in the world and the MIP brings together businesses, universities and the public sector to develop a strategic approach to engaging one of the UK's most important international partners.

There are numerous similarities between India and Greater Manchester's ambitions, making them ideal collaborators. Initiatives backed by the Indian government, such as Digital India, Make in India and Clean Energy India, align perfectly with Greater Manchester's research and innovation strengths in technology, advanced manufacturing and energy – creating huge opportunities for collaboration across trade and investment plus broader cultural, visitor and academic connections.

Nicole Strickland, India Project Manager, Manchester India Partnership



## Emerging Talent (Entrepreneurs and Leaders): Winner and Shortlist

In our Emerging Talent category, we focus on the ones to watch and the next-generation role models across business, commerce or third sector.

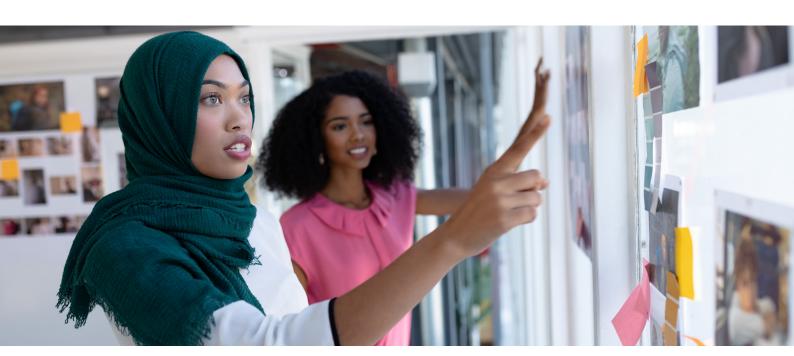
We recognise those who have exceeded their initial targets for growth and already show importance within their sector or industry through significant product/service innovation and leadership.

#### **Emerging Leaders**

Overall Winner	Amir Hussain, Chief Executive, Yeme Architects
North East	Imran Khaliq, Group Director, Gainford Group
	Sanjee Ratnatunga, Founder and Director of Ideas for Change Consulting
North West	Abhishek Singh, Head of Hero Global Design
	Advita Patel, Founder, Comms Rebel
	Mohammed Hannan, Head of Digital, AstraZeneca UK
Yorkshire and the Humber	Sasha Bhat, Head of Commissioning – Mental Wellbeing, NHS Bradford
	Zahra Niazi, Programme Lead, Bradford For Everyone

#### **Emerging Entrepreneurs**

Overall Winner	Sonya Bachra-Byrne, Co-founder and Creative Director of AVIE
North East	Nazia Aftab, Managing Director, NPA Human Resources Consultancy
Yorkshire and the Humber	Omar Bahadur, Chief Executive and Co-founder, Faraday drinks





## A Message From the High Commission of Pakistan

I congratulate YABA and its partners on producing a publication that I believe will provide us with useful information on Asian impacts and influences across the UK's Northern Powerhouse.

This report recognises the powerhouse of economic activity that constitutes the British Asian community, particularly in the north of England, and recognises its immense contributions across all walks of life. From the fields of arts and media, to science, technology and medicine, the Asian community is making its presence felt, not only across the UK but also across the globe.



HE Mr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria High Commissioner for Pakistan



## Inspiring Professionals: Winner and Shortlist

The Inspiring Professionals category shines the light on the Northern Powerhouse role models in the workplace who inspire the next generation of professional talent.

Overall Winner	Syima Aslam, Managing Director and Artistic Director, Bradford Literature Festival
North East	<ul> <li>Anu Kaura, Head of Legal and Group In-house Lawyer at Malhotra Group PLC</li> </ul>
	Ben Banerjee DL, Vascular Surgeon at Sunderland Hospital
	<ul> <li>Kossar Kitching, Barrister at Trinity Chambers in Teesside and Newcastle</li> </ul>
North West	Dr. Kondal Reddy Kandadi, Deputy Vice Chancellor at The University of Bolton
	Rizwan Ahmed, Director, Rings Homecare Services
	Shalina Begum, Business Editor, Manchester Evening News
Yorkshire and the Humber	Amir Hussain, Founder, Yeme Architects, and Leeds City Region LEP Board Member
	<ul> <li>Luxmy Gopal, Presenter, Reporter, Video Journalist at BBC Look North</li> </ul>





## A Message From Professor Roopinder Oberoi, University of Delhi

It is indeed an immense privilege and pleasure to commemorate the persistent entrepreneurship spirit among the British Asian community. Its contribution to generate more than 19% of the GDP highlights how it has emerged as an engine of innovation and wealth creation in the UK. The list of entrepreneurs in the report acknowledges its enormous contribution. This report is based not only on the empirical knowledge about Asian entrepreneurs and their entrepreneurial journey, but also is the outcome of extensive work of curating their individual stories as the lone entrepreneur who starts out small and, with their persistent will, scaled and sustained their ventures.

The report takes the reader into the actual world of top Asian business leaders to explore a relatively uncharted territory in a systematic and comprehensive way, so vividly portrayed in these pages.

The report is about extraordinary innovators and entrepreneurs doing the right thing while fighting over risky conditions and making difficult decisions – and, above all, working very, very hard. It is indeed a joy to read – but above all, to apply these lessons from remarkable leaders to one's own enterprise.

It would be a great pleasure to host an event at the Centre for Innovation and Social Enterprise, University of Delhi to strengthen the joint collaboration on research, entrepreneurship and innovation between India and the British Asian community.

Professor Roopinder Oberoi, Founder of the Centre for Innovation and Social Enterprise, University of Delhi



## Thought Leaders: Winner and Shortlist

The Thought Leaders category recognises those for who an innovative way of thinking is the norm. From academia and healthcare to policy and innovation, these thought leaders have been championing closer collaborations through their relentless research and commitments.

Overall Winner	Nazir Afzal OBE, Former Chief Crown Prosecutor for North West England
North East	Dr. Hari Shukla MBE OBE, noted equality campaigner and humanitarian
	Nitin Shukla, Policy Performance and Scrutiny Officer, Northumbria Police
	Vasant Oswal, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons
North West	Dr. Nighat Awan OBE, Chief Executive, Shere Khan Group
	Mohammed Amjed Khan, Consultant Cardiologist and Honrary Vice President of British Medical Association
Yorkshire and the	Qari Asim, MBE, Senior Imam at Makkah Mosque, Leeds
Humber	Rashik Parmar MBE, IBM Fellow and Vice President Technology – Europe, and Leeds City Region LEP Board Member
	Amarjit Singh, Founder of Yorkshire Asian Business     Association





## A Message From the High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

I have the pleasure in writing a foreword for this publication that profiles the top 100 Asian businesses, professionals, influencers and leaders across the North of England, showcasing the Asian influence, assets, wealth and their impact across the UK on economic, social and culturally diverse achievements.

This mission recognises the role played by British Sri Lankans in strengthening economic, social and cultural ties between the UK and Sri Lanka. Hence, we join hands in celebrating the achievements of the British Asians and the value, colour, glamour and diversity they have added to the community.

I wish to acknowledge the organisers for the remarkable initiative of recognising British Asian influencers and applauding the Asian presence and contribution. The engagement of the eminent panellists in conducting the difficult task of selecting candidates in diverse fields is noteworthy.

Among the top 100, British Asians represent the extraordinary movers and shakers of diverse sectors such as business, politics and diplomacy, digital and technology, food and beverages, research and innovation, environment, social and cultural, as well as business leaders, especially women, and emerging entrepreneurs, inspiring professionals and other individuals that have made a profound difference to the society.

Finally, I wish to congratulate all the winners for their achievements and initiatives, as well as for being inspirational leaders and role models for the next generation.



Saroja Sirisena High Commissioner Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



### Cultural Icons: Winner and Shortlist

The Cultural Icons category features prominent individuals who help nurture and showcase culture and creative talent. These creatives have much to celebrate beyond business and trade, making waves with their iconic performances and thought-provoking narratives.

Overall Winner	Kully Thiarai, Creative Director, Leeds Culture Trust (Leeds 2023)
North East	Vikas Kumar MBE, Director, GemArts
North West	Shobna Gulati, Actress
Yorkshire and the Humber	Shanaz Gulzar, Artist and Producer     Nick Ahad, Journalist





## A Message From the High Commission of Afghanistan

Britain's Asian business community plays a key part in the country's economy. However, the real importance of its contributions goes far beyond; these enterprises are underpinning the UK's global connectedness and openness and continue to boost positive development outcomes across smaller economies. Over the years, British Asians have helped introduce a wide range of new business opportunities and they provide a bridge into the rapidly evolving South Asian region.

As Afghanistan aspires to build a sustainable economy, the ever-increasing interconnectedness facilitated by the British Asian community has become a vital source of investment and innovation. Commercial opportunities driven by actors based in the UK will play an important role in growing economic opportunities and creating jobs in Afghanistan, as well as helping us to get to grips with the most important trends in the world economy.

This report recognises the powerhouse of economic activity that constitutes the British Asian community, particularly in the north of England, and recognises its immense contributions across all walks of life. From the fields of arts and media, to science, technology and medicine, the Asian community is making its presence felt, not only across the UK, but also across the globe.



HE Said T. Jawad

Ambassador of Afghanistan to the United Kingdom



## Food and Drink: Winner and Shortlist

The Food and Drink category showcases the individuals who champion the food and drink sector.

Overall Winner	Mohammed Ishaq MBE, Owner, The Punjab Kitchen		
North East	Jaf Ali Dabbawal, Director, Dabbawal		
	Nagma Ebanks-Beni, Commercial Director, Prima Cheese		
North West	Bilal Hassan Ghafoor, Managing Director, Manchester Super Stores		
	Nisha Katona MBE, Founder of Mowgli Street Food		
	Raj Somaiya, Chief Executive, Payal		
Yorkshire and the Humber	Asghar Ali, Chief Executive and Shakoor Ahmed, Managing Director, MyLahore		
	Bobby Patel, Owner, Prashad		
	Mohammed Aslam MBE, Managing Director, Aagrah		
	Younis Chaudhry, Owner, Regal Food Products		





## A Message From Squire Patton Boggs

We have been involved with the Northern Asian Powerlist project from its concept stage and have been excited about its purpose and potential throughout.

We are a global law firm with rich heritage in the North going back more than 130 years, with humble beginnings in Bradford. We are proud to serve the regional needs of the Northern Powerhouse, which is a key focus of our strategy and investment by our Leeds and Manchester offices.

For us, supporting the rich tapestry of Asian businesses and communities is in our DNA, which is why we also have offices and desks across Asia and support diversity and inclusion across our whole business.

This project means more to us than just words. It is important we practice what we preach, whether that be through levelling up our communities or through being involved in major infrastructure and business projects, allowing us to enhance the role of our firm in advancing diversity initiatives in the communities we serve.

Being part of the Northern Asian Powerlist is not just about what it means in the Northern Powerhouse, but also what it means for us on the international stage. We have been supporting Asian businesses with their international expansions and inward investment strategies for years and we have been working with MIP, YABA and the Department for International Trade to ensure that businesses understand the challenges and opportunities for global trade post-Brexit.

I, personally, have had the honour of being asked to be a judge in the Food and Drink category, which was not an easy task, along with sitting on the project board throughout the project. I have been blown away by the talent, the culture, the quality and the untapped potential of those nominated, shortlisted and, of course, the winners that we have been able to shine a lens on across our truly amazing Asian communities.

#### Karen French, Partner, Squire Patton Boggs



## Social Changemakers: Winner and Shortlist

The Social Changemakers category highlights the outstanding individuals that are making an impact and bringing about lasting social change.

These revolutionaries are at the helm of innovative business models, bold movements and charitable developments, making a noteworthy social impact.

Overall Winner	Hanif Malik OBE and Rifhat Malik MBE	
North East	Nadeem Ahmad, Regional Partnerships Manager, North East Strategic Migration Partnership	
	Ranjana Bell MBE	
	Yasmin Khan, Founder, the Halo Project	
North West	Farrah Qureshi, Chief Executive of Global Diversity     Practice	
	Azim Kidwai, Chief Executive of Mercy Mission UK	
	Anwar Ali, Co-founder and Chief Executive of Upturn Enterprise Limited	
Yorkshire and the	Adeem Younis, Founder, SingleMuslim.com	
Humber	<ul> <li>Professor Zahir Irani, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic, Innovation and Quality), University of Bradford</li> </ul>	
	Jasvinder Sanghera, Founder of Karma Nirvana	





## A Message From Leeds Beckett University

We are proud to be sponsors of the Northern Asian Powerlist 2020 – and honoured to celebrate the achievements of all the winners and shortlisted nominees.

The Asian community makes an exceptional contribution to Yorkshire and the North – and it is exciting to play a part in the first Powerlist to showcase the extent and value of this contribution. From politics to culture, technology to food and drink, entrepreneurialism to social change, this report is testament to the outstanding impact the Asian community is having across the Northern Powerhouse.

At Leeds Beckett University, we are proud of our northern location and we pride ourselves in being an anchor institution for the city and for Yorkshire, driving economic growth and supporting business success. We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of everyone on the Northern Asian Powerlist – each nominee is a role model for our students, staff and business community, helping us to raise the aspirations of our students and show them the standard of opportunities available to them here in the North.

I was delighted to have the opportunity to be a judge in the Thought Leaders category – innovative thinking and collaborative working is central to all that we do at Leeds Beckett University and all of our shortlisted candidates are outstanding examples of how these can be used to achieve brilliant things.

Canon Simon Baldwin, Head of Enterprise and Operations at Leeds Beckett University

## Meet Our Judging Panel

Our independent judging panel had the unenviable task of deciding who made the Northern Asian Powerlist from over 270 entries. The judges based their decisions on leadership, innovation, impact, success and community contribution.

Judging Panel		
Name	Role and Organisation	
Canon Simon Baldwin FEEK	Head of Enterprise and Operations, Leeds Beckett University.	
Steve Bennett FRSA FloD FCIM	Founder and Managing Director, TransitionPlus Ltd and Business of Science Ltd.	
Dr. Joanna Berry	Associate Professor Entrepreneurship, Durham University Business School; Director (Business, Enterprise and Innovation), Durham Energy Institute; and Regional Vice-Chair, IoD Yorkshire & North East.	
Mike Berry	Managing Director, BGS International Ltd and former Managing Director, 600 Group.	
Lt Colonel Andrew Black	Head of Army Engagement North East & Yorkshire, MOD.	
Milton Brown	Founder of KLTV, and qualified Organisational Development Consultant.	
Nicky Chance-Thompson DL	Chief Executive, The Piece Hall.	
Phil Foster	Commercial Director, Teesside International Airport.	
Karen French	Partner, Real Estate, Squire Patton Boggs.	
Professor Nigel Garrow	Head of Department for Finance, Accounting and Business Systems (FABS), Sheffield Business School.	
Kate Hainsworth	Chief Executive, Leeds Community Foundation, and Leeds City Region LEP Board Member and Diversity Champion.	
Beckie Hart	Director for Yorkshire and the Humber, Confederation of British Industry (CBI).	
Juliette Healey	Northern Agent, Bank of England.	
Ninder Johal DL	Managing Director of Nachural Communications and HRA Loudspeakers, and Black Country LEP Board Member, Communications and Marketing Board Lead, and Diversity Champion.	
Anjum Khan	Director of the Asian Business Chamber of Commerce (ABCC).	
Gill Laidler	Group Editor and Founding Partner, <i>TopicUK</i> Magazine and <i>Yorkshire Businesswoman</i> .	
Qasim Majid	Chief Executive, Wow Group of Companies Ltd; President, Asian Businesses Chamber of Commerce; and Exec Director, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.	
Roger Marsh OBE DL	Chair, Leeds City Region LEP and NP11.	
James Mason	Chief Executive, Welcome to Yorkshire.	
James Mitchinson	Managing Editor, Yorkshire Post.	
Henri Murison	Director, The Northern Powerhouse Partnership.	
Barney Mynott	Regional Director, Federation of Small Businesses (FSB).	
Jo Purves	Pro-Vice-Chancellor International and Regional Partnerships, The University of Salford.	
Professor Monder Ram OBE	Director of the Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship (CREME), Aston Business School, Aston University.	
Simone Roche MBE	Chief Executive and Founder, Northern Power Women.	

Judging Panel		
Name	Role and Organisation	
Dr. Dave Smith	Chief Executive, Sheffield City Region.	
Dr. David Spicer	Director of Business Engagement, Faculty of Management Law and Social Sciences, the University of Bradford.	
Dan Storer	Director of Business Development, MIDAS.	
Caroline Theobald	Managing Director, The Bridge Club North.	
Lee-J Walker	Managing Director, The Business Desk.	
Heather Waters	Strategic Lead Growth Business Support for Women in Business, NatWest Bank.	
Philip Turnbull	Chief Executive, Association of International Accountants (AIA).	
Sharon Watson	Chief Executive and Principal, Northern School of Contemporary Dance; and former Artistic Director of award-winning Leeds-based company Phoenix Dance Theatre.	



## A Message From The Business Desk.com

2020 has been quite the year already. But it has demonstrated the strength that comes from diversity – and how connected to and dependent on each other we all are.

It is also a year that has seen us reevaluate what leadership means and how we expect leaders to use their status and power.

The Northern Asian Powerlist is a great platform to celebrate those individuals who have made a difference to their own business, cultural and local communities and, in doing so, had a positive impact on our northern and national communities.

The Business Desk. com is chuffed to be part of this and we offer our sincere congratulations to everyone included in this inaugural list

Lee-J Walker, Joint Managing Director, TheBusinessDesk.com

#### Meet the Northern Asian Powerlist Founders

The Northern Asian Powerlist founders set up the Yorkshire Chapter with the aim of profiling the top Asian businesses and professional influencers across the north of England and to develop the organisation to showcase the Asian wealth and influence across the UK's Northern Powerhouse, as well as to indicate the economic achievements of the Asian community.

The founders had an objective of working towards creating a better environment for business, international trade and economic growth. Their aim was to provide a collective, progressive voice to regional and local government and policymakers on the key issues and challenges facing the region.

The founders set the course for the Northern Asian Powerlist to form of regional boards, the Northern Asian Powerlist will operate across the North East, North West and Yorkshire and Humberside, representing the best of Asian businesses and influencers.

Naveen Ahmed	Park Lane Group
Manni Hussain	88M Group
Suki Thethi	Avtar Construction
Ismail Murad	Al-Murad
Younis Chaudhry	Regal Food Group
Altaf Sadique	Gane Data
Asghar Ali	MyLahore
Sharon Jandu	NAP Board, Business Administration

## Comprehensive Northern Asian Powerlist

Name	Title and Organisation	Category	Location
Abhishek Singh	Head of Hero Global Design	Emerging Talent: Emerging Leaders	North West
Adeem Younis	Founder, SingleMuslim.com	Social Changemakers	Yorkshire and Humber
Advita Patel	Founder, Comms Rebel	Emerging Talent: Emerging Leaders	North West
Amarjit Singh	Founder of Yorkshire Asian Business Association	Thought Leaders	Yorkshire and Humber
Amir Hussain	Chief Executive, Yeme Architects	Emerging Talent: Emerging Leaders and Inspiring Professionals	Yorkshire and Humber
Ammar Mirza CBE	Innovation & Business Growth Expert & Angel Investor	Business Leader	North East
Andy Burnham	Mayor of Greater Manchester	Politics and Diplomacy	North West
Anu Kaura	Head of Legal and Group In-house Lawyer at Malhotra Group PLC	Inspiring Professional and Women in Business	North East
Anwar Ali	Co-founder and Chief Executive of Upturn Enterprise Limited	Social Changemakers	North West
Arnie Singh	Managing Director and Owner, City Taxis	Business Leader	Yorkshire and Humber
Asad Shamim,	Chief Executive, Furniture in Fashion	Digital and Technology	North West
Asghar Ali	Chief Executive, MyLahore	Food and Drink	Yorkshire and Humber
Ashwain Rayit	Director, SARAS Technology	Digital and Technology	Yorkshire and Humber
Asma Younus	Travel and Lifestyle Blogger, JetSetChick.	Women in Business	North West
Azim Kidwai	Chief Executive of Mercy Mission UK	Social Changemakers	North West
Ben Banerjee DL	Vascular Surgeon at Sunderland Hospital	Inspiring Professionals	North East
Bilal Hassan Ghafoor	Managing Director, Manchester Super Stores	Business Leader and Food and Drink	North West
Bobby Patel	Owner, Prashad	Food and Drink	Yorkshire and Humber
Cllr Irim Ali	Member for Neighbourhoods and Public Health, Newcastle City Council	Politics and Diplomacy	North East
Cllr Mazhar Iqbal	Cabinet Member for Business and Investment, Sheffield City Council	Politics and Diplomacy	Yorkshire and Humber
Cllr Mohammed Javed	Mayor, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	Politics and Diplomacy	North East
Dr. Hari Shukla MBE OBE	Noted equality campaigner and humanitarian	Thought Leaders	North East
Dr. Kondal Reddy Kandadi	Deputy Vice Chancellor at The University of Bolton	Inspiring Professionals	North West
Dr. Nighat Awan OBE	Chief Executive, Shere Khan Group	Thought Leaders	North West
Fara Butt	Sales and Marketing Director, The Shire Bed Company	Women in Business	Yorkshire and Humber
Farrah Qureshi	Chief Executive of Global Diversity Practice	Social Changemakers	North West
Furqan Alamgir	Founder and Chief Executive, Connexin	Digital and Technology	Yorkshire and Humber
Gurdip Singh	Founder, Freeze Debt	Digital and Technology	Yorkshire and Humber
Hanif Malik OBE	Community Leader	Social Changemakers	Yorkshire and Humber
Harjit Moore	Chief Executive, Freeze Debt	Digital and Technology	Yorkshire and Humber
Harpreet Banwait	Managing Directors, Strong Life Care Limited	Business Leader	Yorkshire and Humber
Hina Joshi	Principal Associate, Mayvin Associates	Women in Business	North East

Name	Title and Organisation	Category	Location
lmran Khaliq	Group Director, Gainford Group	Business Leader and Emerging Talent: Emerging Leaders	North East
Iqbal Ahmed OBE	Director and Chief Executive Officer, The Seamark Plc	Business Leader	North West
Jaf Ali Dabbawal	Director, Dabbawal	Food and Drink	North East
Jamil Khalil	Founder, Wakelet	Digital and Technology	North West
Jasvinder Sanghera	Founder of Karma Nirvana	Social Changemakers	Yorkshire and Humber
Jo Ahmed	Partner, Deloitte	Women in Business	North West
Karina Jadhav	Managing Director, Menagerie Restaurant	Women in Business	North West
Khalid Saifullah MBE DL	Managing Director, Star Tissue UK	Business Leader	North West
Kossar Kitching	Barrister at Trinity Chambers in Teesside and Newcastle	Inspiring Professionals	North East
Kully Thiarai	Creative Director, Leeds 2023	Cultural Icons	Yorkshire and Humber
Luxmy Gopal	Presenter, Reporter, Video Journalist at BBC Look North	Inspiring Professionals	Yorkshire and Humber
Mashukul Hoque	Founder, Datacentreplus	Digital and Technology	North West
Meenu Malhotra	Founder and Chairman, Malhotra Group PLC	Business Leader	North East
Mo Isap	Co-chair, Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership and the Founder and Chief Executive of IN4.0 Group	Politics and Diplomacy	North West
Mohammed Amjed Khan	Consultant Cardiologist and Honrary Vice President of British Medical Association	Thought Leaders	North West
Mohammed Aslam MBE	Managing Director, Aagrah	Food and Drink	Yorkshire and Humber
Mohammed Hannan	Head of Digital, AstraZeneca UK	Emerging Talent: Emerging Leaders	North West
Mohammed Ishaq MBE	Owner, The Punjab Kitchen	Food and Drink	North East
Munir Mamujee	Managing Director, m2R education	Business Leader	Yorkshire and Humber
Nadeem Ahmad	Regional Partnerships Manager, North East Strategic Migration Partnership	Social Changemakers	North East
Nagma Ebanks-Beni	Commercial Director, Prima Cheese	Food and Drink	North East
Nazia Aftab	MD of NPA Human Resources Consultancy	Emerging Talent: Emerging Entrepreneurs	North East
Nazir Afzal OBE	Former Chief Crown Prosecutor for North West England	Thought Leaders	North West
Nick Ahad	Journalist	Cultural Icons	Yorkshire and Humber
Nisha Katona MBE	Founder of Mowgli Street Food	Food and Drink and Women in Business	North West
Nitin Shukla	Policy Performance and Scrutiny Officer, Northumbria Police	Thought Leaders	North East
Omar Bahadur	Chief Executive and Co-founder, Faraday drinks	Emerging Talent: Emerging Entrepreneurs	Yorkshire and Humber
Pam Banwait	Managing Directors, Strong Life Care Limited	Business Leader	Yorkshire and Humber
Pasha Shah	Senior Policy Adviser, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government	Politics and Diplomacy	North West
Professor Santosh Shrivastava	Co-founder, Arjuna Solutions	Digital and Technology	North East
Professor Zahir Irani	Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic, Innovation and Quality), University of Bradford	Social Changemakers	Yorkshire and Humber
Qari Asim, MBE	Senior Imam at Makkah Mosque, Leeds	Thought Leaders	Yorkshire and Humber

Name	Title and Organisation	Category	Location
Raj Rayit	Technical Director, SARAS Technology	Digital and Technology	Yorkshire and Humber
Raj Somaiya	Chief Executive, Payal	Food and Drink	North West
Ranjana Bell MBE	Diversity and inclusion champion	Social Changemakers	North East
Rashik Parmar MBE	IBM Fellow and Vice President Technology – Europe, and Leeds City Region LEP Board Member	Thought Leaders	Yorkshire and Humber
Rifhat Malik MBE	Community Leader	Social Changemakers	Yorkshire and Humber
Rizwan Ahmed	Director, Rings Homecare Services	Inspiring Professionals	North West
Sabrina Din	Manager, Teacher Time	Women in Business	North East
Salma Chaudhry	Director, The Halal Cosmetics Company	Women in Business	Yorkshire and Humber
Sanjee Ratnatunga	Founder and Director of Ideas for Change Consulting	Emerging Talent: Emerging Leaders	North East
Sarat Pediredla	Chief Executive, hedgehog lab	Digital and Technology	North East
Sasha Bhat	Head of Commissioning – Mental Wellbeing, NHS Bradford	Emerging Talent: Emerging Leaders	Yorkshire and Humber
Shakoor Ahmed	Managing Director, MyLahore	Food and Drink	Yorkshire and Humber
Shalina Begum	Business Editor, Manchester Evening News	Inspiring Professionals	North West
Shanaz Gulzar	Artist and Producer	Cultural Icons	Yorkshire and Humber
Shobna Gulati	Actress	Cultural Icons	North West
Simon Arora	Chief Executive Officer, B&M Group	Business Leader	North West
Sonya Bachra-Byrne	Co-founder and Creative Director of AVIE	Emerging Talent: Emerging Entrepreneurs	Yorkshire and Humber
Syima Aslam	Managing Director and Artistic Director, Bradford Literature Festival	Inspiring Professionals	Yorkshire and Humber
Tan Ellahi	Founder, Zookabu	Digital and Technology	North East
The Rt. Hon. Baroness Warsi of Dewsbury	Member of the House of Lords	Politics and Diplomacy	Yorkshire and Humber
The Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak MP	Chancellor of the Exchequer	Politics and Diplomacy	Yorkshire and Humber
Usha Parmer	Chief Executive, Sunrise Radio	Women in Business	Yorkshire and Humber
Vasant Oswal	Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons	Thought Leaders	North East
Vikas Kumar MBE	Director, GemArts	Cultural Icons	North East
Yasmin Khan	Founder, the Halo Project	Social Changemakers	North East
Younis Chaudhry	Owner, Regal Food Products	Food and Drink	Yorkshire and Humber
Zahra Niazi	Programme Lead, Bradford For Everyone	Emerging Talent: Emerging Leaders	Yorkshire and Humber
Zeb Pervaiz	Managing Director, SKA Developments	Business Leader	Yorkshire and Humber

