

Biographies of Panelists

SBC Business Breakfast & AGM – 4 October 2011

Here you can access information about all the panelists taking part in the SBC Business Breakfast. Those taking part on the day will address the issue of ***Economic Disadvantage in the Age of Austerity*** via a panel debate. With their skills and experience in a particular area of these topics, they will seek to stimulate debate among delegates.

Keith Aitken - Facilitator

Keith Aitken is a writer and broadcaster. Born and educated in Edinburgh, he spent 15 years in senior editorial posts at the Scottish and Fleet Street offices of the Scotsman, during what is now widely regarded as a distinguished period for the paper. Starting as a graduate trainee, he rose swiftly to be, in succession, parliamentary correspondent, labour correspondent, industrial editor, economics editor and chief leader writer.

Since turning freelance in 1995, Keith has been a columnist for The Scotsman, the Herald, Holyrood Magazine and Scotland on Sunday. He currently writes a long-running weekly column in the Scottish Daily Express, for which he also compiles a hugely popular weekly prize crossword.

Panelists

Peter Kelly, Director, Poverty Alliance

Peter joined the Poverty Alliance as Policy Manager in 2002, becoming Director in 2004. Peter is responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the organisation, ensuring that the Alliance is delivering the objectives set by the board and members. Peter also represents the Alliance in a variety of forums and networks including Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector, the Scottish Drugs Forum, Energy Action Scotland and the European Anti-Poverty Network. He is also involved in a variety of official advisory forums including the Scottish Government's Tackling Poverty Program Board and the DWP's Social Inclusion Advisory Group. Peter is also Company Secretary on the Board of the Alliance.

Dr Jim McCormick, Scotland Adviser, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Jim McCormick is an independent adviser on public policy. He is Scotland adviser to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and was previously Director of independent think-tank the Scottish Council Foundation for five years. He is co-founder of research partnership, McCormick-McDowell.

He has a keen interest in deliberative public involvement methods and is a member of the Scottish Government's Tackling Poverty Board.

Mark Laing, Managing Director, Nairn's Oatcakes

Nairn's Oatcakes operates a small number of programs that benefit the local community by offering jobs to local people with disadvantages. They have worked in partnership with Haven Products Ltd and Job Centre Plus for a number of years to identify suitable people, most often with learning difficulties to work within their organisation.

As Scottish Business in the Community's Small Company of the Year, Nairn's Oatcakes demonstrates business, society and environment benefits from its responsible and sustainable business practices.

Brian Devlin, Business Director, Amey (in Scotland)

Amey employs over 2,000 people in Scotland and ensures that people development is always a core focus by investing in graduate schemes, apprenticeships, work experience and wellbeing initiatives. Across Scotland Amey has taken a responsible approach to positively impacting upon local communities and engaging staff involvement throughout all levels of the business.

As Scottish Business in the Community's Large Company of the Year, Amey (in Scotland) demonstrates committed and long term stewardship of their company and have aligned their values and business strategy with the future needs of society and the planet.

John Telling, Corporate Affairs Director, MITIE

John Telling joined MITIE in 1992 and has held a variety of operational and corporate management roles in that time. He sits on the executive board and has been the Group Corporate Affairs Director since 2007, responsible for strategic customer relationships, marketing, investor and public relations, corporate responsibility, public affairs and corporate communications.

MITIE's Real Apprenticeship scheme has been running successfully since 2005, removing barriers to employment faced by people from disadvantaged communities and provides unemployed people on the job work placement with a view to securing full time employment.