



Association of
Democratic Services
Officers

Board Member Profile

Mark Towers: ADSO Company Secretary

I have been the Director of Governance at Blackpool Council since 2013 and Monitoring Officer since 2011 reporting to the Chief Executive. I am also the Deputy Monitoring Officer for the neighbouring Fylde Borough Council.

I was also on the ADSO Board from its inception in 2009 to 2015 as the Director of Training and Development before standing down to undertake a part time role as Company Secretary with the Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which I undertook together with my council role from 2015 to 2019. At the Council my department covers currently not just Democratic Governance but Legal Services, Information Governance and Life Events (Registrars, Coroners support and Bereavement Services).

I am the Company Secretary of ADSO and have a wealth of experience in that area being the Group Company Secretary for the Council's 7 companies and with Matthew Kane lead the ADSO training course on that topic.

I believe passionately in good governance and fully support ADSO's role in the professionalisation of the sector. A good committed, proactive and skilled Democratic Services Officer can bring so much to the smooth running of a Council, being the eyes, ears and advisors to those in senior leadership and governance roles. I am also a strong advocate for people from a democratic governance background being appointed to the roles of Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer, as I believe the relationships which are built up with elected members and Chief Officers and the skills and experience needed in dealing with constitutional and behavioural issues are part of the makeup of a good Democratic Services Officer.

I look forward very much to supporting ADSO and the sector as much as I can in the role of Company Secretary and Board member and am sure that ADSO will continue to go from strength to strength.