

Liz Watts

 @lizwatts101

An accomplished leader with an extremely varied background. Experienced in delivering organisational transformation in UK and international organisations. Highly skilled in change management, complex partnerships, placeshaping, strategic planning, implementing major organisational projects, and management of significant budgets. Outstanding academic record to match experience. Confident and convincing communicator, with sound political insight.

Employment:

<i>Oct 2015 - May 2019</i>	<i>Chief Executive</i>	<i>East Herts Council</i>
Chief Executive of a district council in Hertfordshire. Population 140,000. Staff team 350.		
<i>Oct 2012 – Oct 2015</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>West Suffolk Councils</i>
One of two directors in a shared staff structure across two districts in West Suffolk (St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath). Population 170,000. Staff team 600.		
<i>Feb 2008 – Sep 2012</i>	<i>Chief Finance Officer</i>	<i>St Edmundsbury Borough Council</i>
Management of Finance, Internal Audit, ICT, Procurement, Revenues and Benefits, Risk Management and Business Continuity. Staff team 100.		

<i>Mar 2002 – Jan 2008</i>	<i>Deputy Director of Resources</i>	<i>Office of the High Representative, Sarajevo</i>
The Office of the High Representative is an international organisation set up directly after the war in Bosnia, to oversee the civilian elements of the Dayton peace agreement. I had direct responsibility for 100 staff, in HR, Finance, Procurement, Logistics and Audit.		
<i>Feb 2000 - Feb 2002</i>	<i>Deputy Manager</i>	<i>EU Quick Impact Facility</i>
The Quick Impact Facility was an economic regeneration project which invested relatively modest sums in successful entrepreneurial businesses across Bosnia, in order to create new jobs (at a time when the unemployment rate was 40%).		
<i>Nov 1999 - Jan 2000</i>	<i>Training Manager</i>	<i>The Refugee Council, UK</i>
<i>Sept 1995 – Oct 1999</i>	<i>Assistant to the Chief Executive</i>	
<i>Mar 1992 – June 1995</i>	<i>General Manager</i>	<i>The Old Town Hall Arts Centre</i>
<i>Jan – Sep 1991</i>	<i>UK Producer</i>	<i>Voice of the Turtle</i>

Education & Continuing Professional Development:

2017 - 2018: Solace Ignite programme (action learning set for local government CEOs)
2011 - 2012: Institute of Leadership and Management Level 5 Certificate in Coaching
2008 - 2009: CIPFA membership awarded in March 2010 (distance learning study)
2005 - 2006: ACCA (Association of Chartered and Certified Accountants) membership awarded in 2007
2000 - 2004: University of Warwick Business School (UK), MBA with distinction (distance learning study)
1996 - 1997: Birkbeck University (UK), Diploma in Quality Management
1992 - 1993: Brooklands College Weybridge (UK), Chartered Institute of Marketing Diploma
1991 - 1992: College of William and Mary (Williamsburg, USA), 4 month scholarship study (Women's Studies)

1987 - 1991: University of St Andrews (UK), **MA in Moral Philosophy and Logic and Metaphysics, 2:1**

Board Positions:

Member of West Essex Accountable Care Partnership (2018)

Non Executive Director of Harlow Enterprise Zone (2017- present)

Non Executive Director of Havebury Housing Association (2010- 2013)

Publications:

I edited 'Forgotten Beauty – A Hiker's Guide to Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2000 Metre Peaks' (published in 2005)

I interviewed His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Northern India (published by 'Scotland on Sunday' in 1991).

Voluntary work:

Great Barton Scout Group, Beaver Leader (2011 - 2015)

Rickshaw rider @bserickshaw (2018 ongoing)