



Lee Aston BA(Hons)BFP FCA

Business Appointment: Head of Finance Lyons Davidson Solicitors

Personal introduction:

I am an experienced finance professional having held senior positions in both practice and in business. I qualified with a Bristol general practice firm before moving to a big 4 firm where I worked in audit, M&A and an internal management role whilst seconded to Frankfurt. I have been a member in business for the last 12 years with senior finance roles in two top 100 law firms based in the West of England.

I live and work in Bristol and I am Trustee of two local charities.

Your involvement with ICAEW

My involvement with ICAEW spans over 25 years and started as a committee member and subsequently Chair of BADCASS followed by Vice Chair of ICAEW Student Council. I was President of WESCA in 2008 and I was elected a member of Council in 2010. I have been proud to represent the West of England as one of the elected council members for nearly 10 years, during which time I spent two terms as a member of the Committee of Council governance sub-committee.

I have been a member of the West of England Committee (representing firstly younger members, then business members) for 20 years and regularly attend meetings and events where I have an opportunity to meet with a wide variety of members and students.

Motivation and ability to be a member of Council

I would like to be re-elected to Council as I believe we, as the ICAEW, are at a very important juncture in our history. I believe that it is important that the West of England continues to have a strong voice from both of its Council members and is representative of its diverse membership both professionally and geographically. I am absolutely committed to our Institute and have held it very close to my heart since I was a student member. I am very proud to call myself a Chartered Accountant, I believe that our qualification is a badge of honour and integrity and I am delighted to play my part in ensuring that it remains so for many generations to come.

I believe it is important that Council represents not only the practice based member but also those in business. I am able to contribute to debates relating to both.

I do not underestimate the time commitment that is necessary to fulfil the role of elected member of Council. I am lucky to have the full backing of my employer who sees the importance of this role not only to ICAEW but also to the local business community of Bristol and the West of England.

Strategic focus

The effects of audit reform are wide-ranging and we need to ensure that we as an Institute remain ahead of the pack and are at the forefront of restoring trust in our profession where it may have broken down. The Covid crisis has been a difficult but key time for ICAEW members both in business and practice and the recovery from Covid will be a tremendous opportunity for ICAEW and our members to play a leading role and we must make the most of this by sharing knowledge and acting together to benefit both recovering and new born businesses.

Whilst looking at the specific challenges mentioned above it is still vital that ICAEW remains relevant to members both in business and practice. The profession is evolving and it is important to address the needs of our future professionals and attract quality individuals from all backgrounds by flexing our skill set syllabus and examination regime and making the profession accessible to all. At the same time we need to support employers to train our students and listen to their needs and issues.

I have experience in practice both small and large, I have had significant experience around strategy and budget setting having served on several boards and I have also created a wide network of contacts locally over many years which gives me an insight into all of these areas that will enable me to make a valuable contribution on behalf of the West of England.

Communication with members in your constituency

As mentioned earlier, I am an active member of the District Society and attend as many of the events organised by the committee as possible. I attend ICAEW led local courses and focus groups which usually involve informal conversations with members although doing this remotely in the current environment can be a bit of a challenge. I would look to create more ways of interacting with members post Covid and already have plans to set up surgeries throughout the year where I will be available to listen to members and discuss their areas of concern.

Nominators

Ololade Adesanya
Angela Appiah Shippey
Timothy Lerwill
Lisa Gardner
Caroline Watson

Declaration of interests which are relevant to the business of ICAEW

Membership of, or interests in, formal bodies or groups, including other professional bodies ⁱ :	None
Membership of ICAEW Council, ICAEW Boards and other ICAEW committees:	ICAEW Council
Partnerships, Directorships or beneficial interests in companies:	Director Pecuniam Limited, Director Above and Beyond Limited Director ECM Limited Trustee Friends of Redmaids Highschool
Professional or social relationships with individuals who have business relationships or who compete with the ICAEW:	None
Any other matters you feel should be identified:	None

ⁱ This includes employment by a professional body.