



The Worshipful Company of Engineers

(Incorporated by Royal Charter 2004)

The Junior Warden 2020 - 2021



Sir Michael Bear

BSc MBA CEng Hon FEng Hon FICE FRICS

Sir Michael's background has been anything but traditional. The son of a South African geologist working for the British Colonial Service, Michael was born in Kenya, went to primary school in Cyprus, boarding school in Bristol, and obtained his degree in Civil Engineering at a South African university.

He has held senior positions in both the property and construction industries. Over the last 40 years he has worked in the international construction industry, including the US, Europe, China, the Far East, West Africa and South Africa, latterly for Balfour Beatty where he also worked on their development and private finance initiative (PFI) and public-private partnerships (PPP) projects. In the City of London, as Chief Executive of the Spitalfields Development Group, he was responsible for bringing the regeneration at Spitalfields to a successful conclusion. He was Regeneration Director at Hammerson plc until December 2012 and a Non-Executive Director of Arup between 2009-2015.

Sir Michael was a member of Lord Green's Ministerial Strategic Advisory Group and worked for UKTI setting up the Regeneration Investment Organisation and held the role of Chairman until March 2016. Sir Michael was Co-Chair of the CEO Forum for UK/China Infrastructure and Chairman of the High Value Opportunities Supervisory Board for UKTI. He was appointed as UK Special Envoy for Sustainable Urbanisation – China by the Chancellor in September 2014 – 2017 and is currently a Senior Advisor to Connected Places Catapult, an HMG supported organisation. Sir Michael was appointed as Professor for Sustainable Urbanisation at Sheffield University in 2016. He has been awarded honorary doctorates from Cranfield University, Southbank University and City University.

In the Charity sector he is a Governor of Coram, having served as President and was until recently, a Vice President of RedR.

Over the last 15 years 2003-2018, Sir Michael has served as an elected Councilman and then Alderman of the City of London. He served as Sheriff of the City of London in 2007/8 and Lord Mayor of the City of London in 2010/11.

Sir Michael was knighted in the 2012 New Year's Honours for services to regeneration, charity and the City of London.

Sir Michael was elected to be the Junior Warden of the Worshipful Company of Engineers on 16 March 2021 and installed on 5 May 2021.