

Honorary – Dr Rob Hull (Doctor of Philosophy)

Monday 30 July 2018 | 10:00

Guildhall School of Business and Law

Vice-Chancellor, it is my pleasure to present to you Dr Rob Hull for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy honoris causa.

Rob Hull has dedicated his life to social justice and education.

A distinguished 30-year Civil Service career included a significant contribution to the granting of university status to former polytechnics. As a result of this, North London Polytechnic became the University of North London and the City of London Polytechnic became Guildhall University. Their merger led to the establishment of London Met.

Rob also served as secretary of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, a hugely influential role in the development of the Higher Education sector.

Since retiring as Director of Young People at the Department for Education and Skills in 2004, Rob Hull has devoted himself and made an extraordinary personal contribution to improving the education and life chances for young and disadvantaged people particularly in Islington and the City of London.

On a voluntary basis and bringing to bear his considerable skills and experience, his work has impacted on Higher Education, schools and fighting poverty through wide ranging charity work.

Rob was been a member of the Board of Governors of London Metropolitan University from 2010 to 2017 and Vice Chair from 2013.

This was been a time of significant challenge and change for the University and Rob is widely recognised to have been one of the main driving forces for reform. He was a member of the board of the Students' Union.

He was involved in the transition of both Chair and Vice Chancellor and was held by Board members, executive directors and student officers in the highest esteem for his wisdom, energy and unselfish commitment of time.

In the schools arena, Rob was Chair of the ad hoc Joint Committee which was tasked with devising a transformation programme for Golden Lane schools in the City of London. At the time, Rob was Chair of Governors at Prior Weston School and he led the review of provision for Prior Weston, Richard Cloudesley School and the Golden Lane children's centre which led to the delivery of a new combined campus, transforming the facilities and services for the children involved.

Rob's leadership contribution to the project is typical of him, reflecting his experience, desire to pool resources for the greater good, his firmly gentle persuasiveness and the unstinting commitment of his own time and energy.

He continues to contribute to local schools as chair of governors, chair of Holloway school and a senior member of Islington Schools Forum which is charged with the difficult task of continuously raising standards across the Borough.

His contribution to charity work follows the same pattern. He is Vice Chair of the Cripplegate Foundation a long established charity fighting poverty in east London and a Trustee of Islington Giving a body established to coordinate and extend the reach of individual charities.

He was for many years chair of ELATT which offers free local training in work skills. He is a Trustee of Education Action an international charity helping reformation of war-torn regions. This portfolio has unifying themes and purposes; creation of opportunities for those who are most disadvantaged in our society. Rob's contribution to all of these is skilled, impactful and given with enormous personal generosity of time and spirit.

Vice-Chancellor, Dr Rob Hull has displayed an unselfish dedication to improvement of our community and social justice, values which lie at the heart of the mission of London Metropolitan University. I present him to you for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy *honoris causa*.