



What is the **Finance Leaders Group** and why has it been established?

Rail Forum members are encouraged to share our new initiative - Finance Leaders Group - with their Finance Director/Manager.

Over the last few years, Finance departments have continued to manage the fiscal impacts of the various shocks across industry and the world: Brexit and Covid provided new challenges to manage and now we see impacts on interest rates. Through dialogue with members, we understand that finance professionals see value in coming together and having access to a network of finance professionals operating within the rail sector to support their activities.

We are delighted to have the following finance professionals involved in this initiative:

Introducing our inaugural Chair

Natasha Bingley – Finance Director

Joining Tecforce in 2008 Natasha was responsible for the management accounting, reporting into the Owner. In 2012, MCT Group acquired Tecforce, and Natasha was able to steer strategic enhancements around accounting systems to underpin the planned growth of the business. Natasha's role has expanded her role to include HR, IT Project Management & Commercial and in 2018 she qualified as a Chartered Management Accountant. In 2019, Natasha was appointed Finance Director and oversees the strategic development and drive for operational improvement in close collaboration with the MD and the Senior Management Team.



Introducing our Partner



David Crump – Corporate Finance Director

David is a Chartered Certified Accountant and a member of the specialist Corporate Finance faculty of the ICAEW. David has specialised in Corporate Finance since 2005, deal managing all forms of corporate finance transactions including mergers, acquisitions, disposals, MBO's, MBI's, refinancing, fund raising, and succession planning for owner-managed businesses and mid-corporates. Work covers all business sectors, including rail, with transactions generally being in the £2m to £50m range.

PKF Smith Cooper – an ambitious and multi-award winning firm – is the home of PKF in the Midlands. As the region's leading firm of trusted accountants and business advisors, we operate across key geographies in Derby, Nottingham, Birmingham, and Ashbourne.



What does the Finance Leaders Group do?

The group is designed to provide a twice-yearly forum for finance professionals across the membership to come together and:

- ✓ Receive updates on financial changes
- ✓ Raise and discuss topics/ issue
- ✓ Share best practice
- ✓ Hear from selected guest speakers on key topics
- ✓ Become part of a peer network to enable member-to-member support.

Who can get involved?

This initiative is specifically for finance professionals of member companies only. If you are a Finance Director / Manager, then this is for you.

“ Participating in Rail Forum’s Finance Leaders Group provides an opportunity to both contribute, from the experience as a FD of an SME, but also to learn from others with different experiences and perspectives. ”

Natasha Bingley, Finance Leaders Group Chair

“ I’m delighted to be part of this new initiative from the Rail Forum which will facilitate debate not only on factors affecting the rail industry, but also other macro factors faced by businesses in every sector. I’m looking forward to collaborating with finance professionals as part of the Finance Leaders Group and hope the wider perspective offered by PKF Smith Cooper will add value to the group. ”

David Crump, Finance Leaders Group Partner

What if I can’t attend a meeting?

A summary of anonymised discussions topics and questions will be made to enable us to provide additional signposting / planning for next meeting. We can share this to interested finance professionals within the membership.

If you have a question to raise to the group, then you can table this by emailing Cat@Railforum.uk – you can indicate if you wish the question to be attributed to you or anonymised.

Dates for your diary

Our first two online meetings have been scheduled:

- Thursday 15 June 12:30 – 14:00 (working lunch so we expect you to have your sandwich with you)
- Wednesday 14 December 12:30 – 14:00 (working lunch as above)

To register your place please visit: www.railforum.uk/events and select the Finance Leaders Group. Pre-registration is essential.

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact Cat@railforum.uk