

## **Long Term Plans for Towns Board Member Biography**

### **Neil Thomas, Chief Executive & Principal of Dudley College of Technology**

Neil Thomas is the Chief Executive & Principal of Dudley College of Technology. The College is a large general further education college, supporting around 11,000 students per year. This includes young people, adults and apprentices. Employing around 800 staff the College offers provision from Dudley Learning Quarter and Brierley Hill Learning Quarter. More recently, the College has also led on the development of Innovation Park, where the Institute of Technology is based. This park is a collaboration with higher education and private training providers to bring degree level training opportunities to Dudley and will shortly see construction begin on Health Innovation Dudley (funded through Towns Fund). Neil has worked at the College for over 20 years in a variety of roles, holding the role of College Principal since 2017. Prior to his time in education, Neil's technical background is electronic engineering and he worked in the manufacturing sector in the region for a number of years. As well as being the current Chair of the Long Term Plan for Town Board, Neil is also the Chair for Dudley Employment & Skills Board.