



**Media Release
5 November 2021**

Loughborough University Chief to join Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust

The Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Robert Allison CBE, the recently retired Vice Chancellor and President of Loughborough University, to its Board of Trustees. Professor Allison will officially take up the post at the Trust's next Board meeting on 25 November 2021.

Having accelerated Loughborough University from an average national league table position of 27 to the top 10 in just eight years, Professor Allison is an expert in leadership, vision setting, commercial acumen and delivering transformational change.

As senior ambassador of a leading, research-intensive university, Professor Allison has established partnerships with higher education institutions around the world. He oversaw a period of significant expansion, including the opening of Loughborough University London on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, a project that has returned a surplus of 12% on operating costs and met Council approved targets two years ahead of plan. During his time at the University there has been significant expansion of the Science and Enterprise Park on the Loughborough site, including its designation by Government as an Enterprise Zone and with it significant investment. He and his colleagues secured two Government funded national centres: National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine and National Centre for Aerothermal and Combustion Technology. They worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence, National Health Service and The Black Stork Charity, to secure Loughborough as the lead university partner with the Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre, Stanford Hall.

Professor Allison was awarded a CBE earlier this year for services to Higher Education, and supporting young people's talent, equality and achievement and holds the Council for Advancement and Support Education (CASE) Leadership Award, for outstanding leadership.

Alongside his role at Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, Professor Allison holds a number of external appointments including Chair of Trustees, St Philip's Centre, Leicester, Trustee of the Oval Multi Academy Learning Trust and Honorary Canon Professor at Leicester Cathedral. He is a member of several speciality advisory groups in UK higher education, such as the national Advisory Committee on Degree Awarding Powers.

Professor Allison said: "*Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, like Loughborough University, is a forward-thinking organisation and I am honoured to be joining the Trustees, in particular to support the Trust's role in education.*"

"I enjoy supporting leadership teams through constructive challenge and I look forward to working closely with fellow Trustees, the Chief Executive and others to develop and deliver its strategy. I recognise the importance of bringing an external perspective and will use my experience to help the Trust implement its ambitious plans."

Sir Trevor Soar, Chairman of the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, said: "*I am very pleased to welcome Professor Allison as a Trustee of Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust. As a charity with "learning" as one of its core objectives, Bob will bring a wealth of experience and expertise from the education sector to our Board and I look forward to working with him.*"

Professor Allison will replace Murray Hallam on retirement, Murray has served on the Board of Trustees since 2013 and has contributed significant expertise during his tenure.

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MORE PRESS INFORMATION

Please contact Lynnette Crisp on 01634 823800 or email lcrisp@chdt.org.uk for further information

Notes to Editors

About Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust

The Historic Dockyard Chatham has over 100 buildings and structures, including 47 Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The site is in the stewardship of the independent charity, Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust (No. 292101).

The Trust's dual objectives of education and preservation are achieved by a strategy of preservation through reuse. Some of the buildings are open to visitors; others are occupied by residential tenants, businesses, and faculties of the University of Kent.

As a fully accredited museum, the Trust collects, preserves, researches and exhibits objects and materials connected with the history of the dockyard and its people. It studies the development of Royal Navy warship design, construction and the use of the River Medway by the Royal Navy. The Historic Dockyard Chatham presents unrivalled status as the most complete and best-preserved dockyard of the Age of Sail anywhere in the world. It immerses audiences in a mighty feat of preservation, innovation education and heritage. It offers access to the ships that shaped the world, from a Victorian antislavery sailing ship, to a Second World War Destroyer and a Cold War submarine as well as the stories of the people who made them. From historic buildings, including the Commissioner's House and officers' quarters to the remarkable Victorian ropery, where the rigging for HMS *Victory* was made, to its collection of maritime archaeology, the Dockyard forms an indispensable part of Britain's naval history and its national heritage.

Visitors to and users of The Historic Dockyard Chatham are fundamental to its purpose and the economic reuse of the site and its buildings. Its staff and volunteers play a vital role in providing a high level of service and customer care. The Trust is also involved in the ongoing regeneration of Medway and The Thames Gateway, with Culture and Heritage at its heart. As part of the Trust's strategy of "Preservation through re-use" recent projects have secured the long-term financial sustainability (on a revenue basis) of the wider Historic Dockyard site.

The economic outputs from the new uses of the recently opened Fitted Rigging House as well as other activities across the site will bring the total annual contribution made to Medway's economy to £26.3m in 2019, building on the 2012 estimate of £16m (64% growth).