

vocL is a place where leaders engage with the major questions shaping business and society, while championing the role of business as a force for good: from growth and Britain's economic confidence to changing models of ownership and the impact of AI.

Upcoming vocL Events: Topics & Participation Questions

The vocL event season from September through to April brings together a connected series of conversations, with each building on the last.

We start with good leadership and its impact on society before moving through good growth, the confidence and voice of British business, what businesses need to thrive, human leadership in an AI age, the future of work, employee ownership and technological change, and finally a major AI focused event in London in April.

Each conversation is chaired by Juergen Maier or another vocL Associate, with additional perspectives from leading figures across business, politics and the media.

At the heart of these conversations are our Leader Programme members, the vocL Voices. Each event provides five opportunities for them to contribute: **one Voice to frame the conversation, three to join the panel, and one to provide closing reflections.**



The Dimensions of Good Leadership in Business and its Impact on Society



In person, @Edelman London |

Chaired by Juergen Maier with Louise Gatenby

As the first event in the sequence, it establishes the broad values-based territory for vocL: **what do we actually mean by good leadership, and what responsibility does a business leader have beyond their own organisation?**



What Will It Take to Get Britain Growing?



Online Panel | Chaired by Juergen Maier

Moving from the characteristics of good leadership to one of the major issues on which business leaders need to exercise it: **growth**. This deliberately broad question gives us scope to **discuss investment, productivity, industrial strategy, skills, infrastructure and regional growth.**



Does British Business Still Have a Voice?

Are we telling the story of our strengths and potential confidently enough?



Online Panel | **Chaired by Paul Drechsler**

The discussion will explore the role of business leaders in creating a more **optimistic, confident and constructive national conversation** – one that acknowledges genuine challenges without allowing them to define the story.



Unlocking Britain's Potential: What Business Needs to Thrive



In person, @WSP in London | **Chaired by Juergen Maier with Andy Street**

The discussion will explore the conditions British businesses need to thrive, including investment, skills, regional growth and the practical barriers that can prevent businesses from expanding and creating jobs.



Leading in the Age of AI: What Remains Uniquely Human?



Online Panel | **Chaired by Tom McCallum**

This discussion will focus on what happens to leadership as AI becomes embedded in our organisations and decision making. What becomes more important when leaders increasingly have access to the same technology, information and AI generated advice? Judgement, curiosity, authenticity, empathy, trust, communication and the ability to create genuine human connection all become fascinating areas for discussion.



Who Gets to Shape the Future of Work – and Is Business Ready?



Online Panel | **Chaired by Juergen Maier**

Exploring who is shaping the future of work and whether business is ready for what comes next. The discussion will consider changing expectations of work, skills and leadership, alongside the growing impact of technology and AI. **Crucially, whose voices are influencing these changes and who risks being left out of the conversation?**



Employee Ownership: Great Business Model, Great Voices?



In person, @Manchester | **In partnership with the Employee Ownership Association**

We will explore employee ownership as a practical model of responsible business and what it means for **leadership, engagement, responsibility and voice**.

Does giving people a genuine stake in an organisation change how confidently they contribute and how decisions are made? What does leadership look like when ownership and responsibility are more widely shared?

We will also consider whether employee ownership changes how businesses approach decisions around AI, automation, skills and the future of work.



AI, Business and Society



In person, @London

Unlike Tom's December panel, this will be much broader than leadership itself. We can examine what the acceleration of AI means for business, work, skills, productivity, trust, responsibility and society – and what responsible business leaders need to do about it.

Event Season Flow



We look forward to welcoming you to these important conversations.