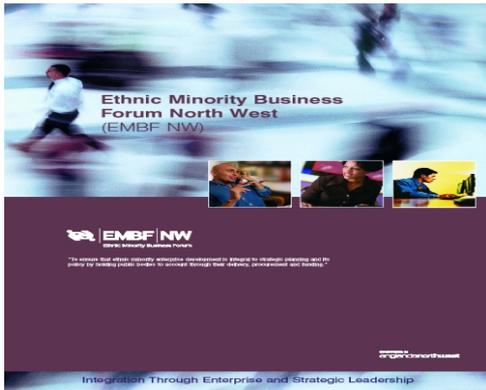


The vision of the Ethnic Minorities Business Forum North West (EMBF NW) is:-“To build on an outstanding enterprise culture where the North West is internationally recognised and held up as a beacon for generating world class BME businesses, which continues to outperform the rest and generate significant wealth and jobs for the economy.”



## A Major opportunity for Improvement...

A significant proportion of the BME business population still has a major opportunity to make an even greater contribution to the regional Economy.

BME businesses have succeeded to date, despite facing obstacles such as lack of access to finance and government business support structures, coupled with a lower level of skills.

72% of the indigenous population is economically active versus 52% of the BME population. Research suggest this represents a massive 48,000 BME people who are not economically Active.

The RES has identified that the North West region needs to get another 80,000 people contributing to reach the national employment average and close the GVA gap. Hence, this BME grouping could therefore make a big contribution in helping the North West reach its targets, if it could become economically engaged.

A significant share of the BME population is earning approximately 55% of the national average, due in part to lack of opportunity, lower skills base and discrimination.

The RES has identified a £10bn GVA gap in the area of productivity, which can partially be addressed by the up-skilling of BME businesses - both owners and employees.

Securing greater access for more BME businesses to international markets and government procurement markets will lead to further growth for the North West’s economy.



Pic 1, some of the original board members, p2, Qassim Chairs EMBF NW Launch, p3 Rochdale Asian Business Network Annual Dinner, initial set up in 1996 by Qassim Afzal & ABI Media Marketing Consultancy, contracted by The City Councils Business Link & TEC.

