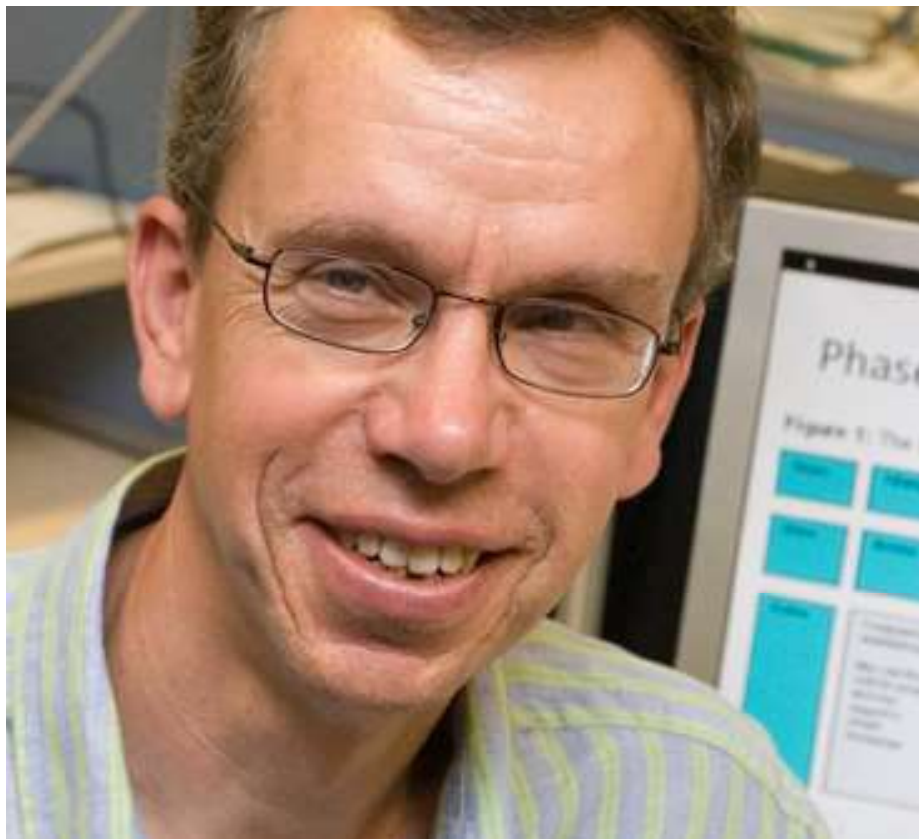"Established in 2004 the Nigel Wright NE IT Directors' Forum meets every quarter to discuss topical issues affecting their discipline."

### About the report author, Colin Ashurst

My working life has been a journey of learning how to help individuals and organisations succeed with innovation and change. My teaching, research and practice all align around this goal. I emphasise getting stuck in and learning by doing.

### MY EXPERIENCE

The first stage of my career was qualifying as a Chartered Accountant (Ernst & Whinney). I then moved into IT consulting and management (Deloitte Haskins & Sells, Asda, Microsoft). After 25 years in this variety of roles I moved into higher education to teach and research.

Alongside my own teaching and research I've been Director of Learning and Teaching at both Durham University Business School and Newcastle University Business School. My aim has been to bring innovation to management education and leadership development to better prepare students for a complex world. My goal was to enable students to develop new perspectives and 'know how' so they can make a positive contribution in the workplace and the world.

Along the way, in addition to the ACA, I picked up an MBA, PhD and professional qualifications including CEng with the British Computer Society. I now value being a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA).

### About the Nigel Wright IT Directors' Forum

Established in 2004 the Nigel Wright NE IT Directors' Forum meets every quarter to discuss topical issues affecting their discipline. With Directors from many different industry sectors, the subjects covered have been varied and take a top level view of issues so they are appropriate to a wide section of the forum members.

Members of the forum include Directors from Professional Services, Higher Education, Local Council, Manufacturing, Software Services, Financial organisations and Media companies.

Whilst the topics are generated by the members, Nigel Wright organise the meetings and provide speakers. Nigel Wright are supported by Newcastle University Business School who work in collaboration with Nigel Wright.

Newcastle University Business School have continued to support the forum and provided access and resources to research topics involved in the successful management of technology within organisations. One of the first piece of research explored Business Transformation and resulted in workshop events covering Managing the Investment Portfolio: Exploring Best Practices: IT Attention Deficit and most recently, Competing with IT.