

Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership - Recruitment of new Board members

Background

Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership is looking to recruit at least two new Board directors from the private sector to help shape the county's economic future.

The Board positions are seen to offer unique, challenging and rewarding opportunities for experienced, forward thinking business leaders.

Successful candidates will help influence key decisions aimed at delivering growth, jobs and prosperity for Cumbria's economy. They will be passionate about business growth and the need to seize the economic opportunities on offer for our great county.

The roles are envisaged to involve an overall commitment of 2-3 days per month.

About Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership

Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership is a private sector-led private/public partnership which provides a strategic lead in all activities contributing to the growth and vibrancy of the county's economy and takes positive action, using the skills, capability and networks of its partners.

Our vision is simple: to create one of the fastest growing economies in the UK, in an energised and healthy environment.

Cumbria LEP's Board comprises six representatives from the private sector, including the Chair, and six from the public sector. Board appointments are for an initial period of one year, with the option for re-selection thereafter. After the initial year, it is envisaged that appointments will be for three years.

All Board members sign up to a Code of Practice ensuring there is no conflict of interest in taking key decisions that influence development and investment.

Role requirements

- Applicants need to either live or work in Cumbria, spending sufficient time in the county to contribute to its development through the LEP.
- Experience of some of our Strategic Economic Plan sectors, priorities and drivers will be essential. On this occasion we are particularly interested in applicants with experience in the rural, visitor and energy/nuclear sectors to maintain a balance of skills and experience on the Board.
- Providing strategic leadership, challenge, insight and support to the Board and contributing to the development of our ambition to be one of the most successful LEPs in the country; establishing and developing Cumbria LEP's credibility and confidence within the wider economy.
- Contributing to the development of Cumbria LEP and its Board, providing expert advice and guidance.

- Contributing to and having influence over challenging goals and objectives, and ensuring that our strategic aims are delivered through appropriate mechanisms. This may include involvement in implementation activities such as membership or chairmanship of Board sub groups, making decisions or recommendations on funding and support for economic development.
- Actively engaging with all stakeholders, but particularly with the LEP private sector advisory panel and the private sector more widely to capture and engage their interest and facilitate their activity in the Cumbria LEP economic area. This includes participation in Cumbria LEP's engagement structure, for example as a member or chair of at least one of the Board sub groups, and through involvement in stakeholder discussions as required and agreed by the Board from time to time.
- Helping to ensure effective planning, management and financial control procedures are in place and implemented to ensure that all relevant legal and statutory requirements are met and that Cumbria LEP operates in accordance with its Governance principles and its constitution.
- Representing Cumbria LEP locally and nationally, encouraging networking and joint working with other LEPs, Government and private sector organisations.
- Adhering at all times to the standards of conduct set out in the Seven Principles of Public Life (also known as the Nolan standards).

Candidate specification

Cumbria LEP is looking to recruit Board members with the ability to contribute significantly and credibly to the work of the LEP and to assist the Board in its understanding of the needs of the different areas, business sectors and economic activities within Cumbria. This will require the following experience, skills and personal attributes:

Requisite experience and skills for all Board members

- Significant experience in an ownership or senior managerial capacity within an organisation active in the Cumbria LEP area.
- A proven track record of providing strategic leadership and achieving business objectives and of operating effectively at Board level.
- A developed and informed understanding of the Cumbria LEP area, its economy and the factors affecting its economic development.
- An understanding of public sector working and the role of the public sector in supporting economic growth.
- Experience of working directly with the public sector, in particular Local and National Government, is desirable, but not essential.
- Strong political acumen, with a developed and informed understanding of the relevant political landscape but no strongly-held or expressed political affiliations.
- Excellent analytical skills, able to bring logical, intelligent and creative thinking to bear on the complex factors relevant to Cumbria LEP's work and to manage competing priorities effectively. This includes the ability to consider long term implications of decisions.
- You must be able to exercise independent judgement and take decisions for the benefit of Cumbria LEP as a whole, analysing overall risks and benefits, notwithstanding any particular sector expertise which is taken into account in your appointment.
- A record of effective partnership working, in which you have quickly built credibility with both public and private sector partners.

Sector-specific experience

Applicants should be able to demonstrate particular expertise and first-hand experience in one or more of the following sectors/business categories:

- Advanced manufacturing
- Visitor and rural economies
- Energy/nuclear
- M6 corridor connectivity
- Skills & employment
- Infrastructure
- Environment
- Business support.

Personal attributes

- A strong communicator: you must be a confident and effective public speaker in a variety of contexts. You must also be an excellent active listener, able to demonstrate responsiveness to a range of perspectives and opinions.
- A strong partnership worker and effective influencer. You will be able to work collegiately and collaboratively with a range of individuals with differing interests and perspectives, to build new relationships and work effectively across boundaries.
- A connection to, or affinity with, the Cumbria LEP area. It is desirable but not essential for you to have an established reputation and/or public profile/network of contacts within the Cumbria LEP area.
- A credible and effective ambassador for Cumbria LEP. You will have a genuine commitment to the success of the Cumbria LEP.

Selection process

Applications will be considered against the criteria set out above and a shortlist will be drawn up by the chair of the LEP, vice chair private sector of the LEP and the private sector advisory panel.

Interviews will be conducted by the chair of the LEP, vice chair private sector of the LEP and the chair of the private sector advisory panel.

How to apply

Please provide a current CV and covering letter explaining your interest and qualifications for the role.

If you would like to put yourself forward as a potential private sector business representative on the LEP Board, please send a current CV with a covering letter setting out your relevant skills and competences, your reasons for wishing to become part of the Board and what you feel you could contribute. You should include clarification of your sector, geographic and business size category, and levels of experience.

Further information about the LEP, together with a recruitment pack, is available at www.cumbrialep.co.uk

Please send your application to info@cumbrialep.co.uk or post to Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership, Redhills, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 0DT by Friday 12 May 2017.