



Cumbria
**Local Enterprise
Partnership**

Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership
Redhills
Penrith
CA11 0DT

Applicant Information Pack

Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership
Chair



Our vision is for Cumbria to have one of the fastest growing economies in the UK, in an energised and healthy environment



Foreword

This is an opportunity for an experienced business leader to become Chair of the Cumbria LEP and play a pivotal role in determining its activities to grow the local economy and create new jobs. As Chair of the Cumbria LEP Board, you will have the unique opportunity to help drive forward the economic agenda for Cumbria putting the needs of businesses, its residents and communities first.

We are looking for a persuasive and influential business leader who will bring direction, energy and passion to the role and build on the LEP's reputation as the strategic leader in economic development in Cumbria. You will continue to foster positive relationships with key stakeholders and act at a high level advocate regionally, nationally and internationally. Cumbria LEP Board is establishing an even stronger Private Sector led Board, the Chair will ensure the continuation of its good work and the development of new economic plans through to 2030.

If you are excited by this opportunity and have the proven ability to meet and deliver our aspirations, we would be pleased to receive your application.

Graham Haywood
Cumbria LEP Director

Rob Johnston
Chair, Private Sector
Advisory Panel

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About Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership is one of 38 LEP's across the Country tasked by the Government to drive forward sustainable private sector growth and job creation.

We bring together local businesses, education providers, voluntary organisations and social enterprises as well as the public sector to tackle key barriers to growth. While we are not involved in direct delivery our role is to be a:

- . **Strategic leader:** to develop a long term vision for Cumbria's economy through Local Industrial Strategy to 2030
- . **Co-ordinator:** to create the relationships and networks that are needed for partnership working to flourish
- . **Investor:** we have a proven track record in securing significant investment for the county.
- . **Advocate:** we are a strong voice on behalf of businesses and communities in Cumbria both within the Government and across the Northern Powerhouse.

The business-led Cumbria LEP Board is responsible for setting the vision and strategic priorities for publically funded economic development in the county. It is supported by a small Executive Team which is responsible for the day to day running of the Local Enterprise Partnership.

Thanks to its targeted Strategic Economic Plan, Cumbria LEP has secured over £70m to date from the Government's local Growth Fund to support economic growth in the County.

Purpose of the Board

The key purpose of the Cumbria LEP Board is to provide overall guidance and direction for economic development interventions in Cumbria. Key functions of the Board are to ensure economic development activity in the county is well co-ordinated, that duplication is avoided, and that regular updates on projects and initiatives are undertaken. The Board is also required to approve submissions to Government as required for a whole range of Growth Deal, Infrastructure, Skills and Business Support programmes.

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The Opportunity

This is an opportunity for an experienced business leader to become Chair of the Cumbria LEP Board.

Chair – Role and Responsibilities

The role of the Chair is to lead the Board in defining vision and direction, and in delivering the desired outputs, whilst ensuring that appropriate procedures for governance and management of resources are in place.

The key responsibilities of the post are to:

- Provide strategic leadership and direction to ensure that Cumbria LEP achieves its goals.
- Lead the efforts of Cumbria LEP in developing and implementing an effective vision and strategy that identifies and addresses the key priorities for local economic growth, principally by refreshing the strategic Economic Plan to create a Local Industries Strategy to 2030.
- Effectively chair meetings of the LEP Board, leading it towards decisions that ensure the strategic vision and key objectives of the Partnership are delivered.
- Be an effective influencer and “ambassador” for Cumbria LEP, championing the LEP at local, regional and national levels and working with appropriate partner organisations and individuals.
- Be an effective advocate on behalf of the Cumbria LEP, the businesses and people of Cumbria, in particular at conferences and events/meetings with Ministers, MP’s and key civil servants.
- Reflect the agreed policies of the Cumbria LEP and it’s members in all discussions with partners, stakeholders, local and central Government and its agencies.
- Ensure that the Cumbria LEP (including the Board) adheres at all times to high standards of ethics and governance in public life and is an example to other organisations.
- Ensure that all Board members participate actively in the work of the Board, encouraging their attendance and engagement and keeping regular contact with all members.
- Exert a casting vote in LEP Board decisions if circumstances so require
- Direct the activities and priorities of the Managing Director, setting annual performance targets and conducting reviews and appraisals.

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Person Specification

The Chair should have:

- At least 10 years experience in a senior appointment in the private sector
- Track record in delivering the objectives of complex organisations and Boards
- The ability to think strategically and see the 'big picture'
- Well developed chairmanship skills
- Good communication skills
- Experience of working in multi-faceted partnerships
- Political awareness and acumen
- Understanding of the economic challenges facing Cumbria and how private-sector-led growth can contribute to meeting them
- Experience of working with senior public sector representatives including politicians and Government Ministers.

Time Commitment

The Chair will be expected to attend and chair all Board meetings, currently held every two months.

They will also be expected to represent the LEP at meetings with businesses, stakeholders, other LEP's and with Government officials and Ministers. It is anticipated that the time commitment will be in the region of 4-5 days a month.

Period of Appointment

The Chair will be recruited on the basis of an open advertisement and will serve a three-year term, which may be extended by a further three years (serving a maximum of a six-year term). Extension of the Chair's initial term of office beyond three years will be agreed by a majority of the Board, excluding the Chair.

Remuneration

The Boards positions are not remunerated. Reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed and all expense claims will be published in line with the Boards full transparency requirements.

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Equal Opportunities

The Cumbria LEP Executive encourages applications regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation or age.

How to Apply and Timetable for Recruitment

If you feel you have the skills and experience to meet these challenges and wish to apply for this opportunity, please send your cv with a covering letter by e.mail to info@cumbrialep.co.uk

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| Closing Date | Noon 23 rd February 2018 |
| Short listing | w/c 26 th February 2018 |
| Interviews | w/c 5 th March 2018 |
| Commence Role | Upon approval of the appointment by the LEP Board. |