



North East LEP Chair Recruitment pack

May 2020



Foreword

This opportunity is for an experienced and inspirational business leader to become the Chair of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP). This person will play a pivotal role in driving growth in the local economy and work to create more and better, and most importantly sustainable, jobs across the North East of England.

As Chair you will have a unique opportunity to continue to build on the success of the region, but also provide critical economic leadership as we respond to the impacts of COVID-19. Ultimately this role will allow you to drive forward a vibrant and dynamic economic agenda, which puts the needs of business, residents and communities front and centre. We are committed to returning our region to pre-COVID-19 levels of employment and GVA and the growth trajectory we have seen in recent years.

We are looking for an influential and persuasive senior business leader who will bring direction, energy and passion to the role and build on the North East LEP's reputation as the strategic regional leader in economic development.

You will continue to foster positive relationships with key stakeholders and act as a high-level advocate regionally, nationally and internationally. The North East LEP Board is a true partnership of public, private, education and VSCE representatives and is well established; the Chair will ensure the continuation of its good work.

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.

Heidi Mottram
Vice Chair

About the North East Local Enterprise Partnership

The North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP) is an established public, private, education and VCSE sector partnership.

We are one of thirty-eight LEPs in the country and are responsible for setting the economic agenda for the region to promote and develop economic growth across the North East. The geography covers the local authority areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland.

A summary of our roles

Strategic leadership

We provide strategic economic leadership, focused on growing a more productive, inclusive and sustainable regional economy. Our overarching aim is to create 100,000 more and better jobs in the ten years from 2014 to 2024.

To focus our efforts, we produce, monitor, evaluate and refresh the region's Strategic Economic Plan which acts as a blueprint for the activities that need to take place to improve our economy and deliver more and better jobs. The Strategic Economic Plan has been informed and endorsed by the region and has wide buy in and engagement. It has been used as the foundation of our draft Local Industrial Strategy and our evolving response to Covid-19.

We're funding many key projects with partners across our six focus areas. Our programme of work and funds are focused on the following specific areas of activity to successfully deliver the Strategic Economic Plan.

- [Business growth](#)
- [Innovation](#)
- [Skills, employment, inclusion and progression](#)
- [Transport connectivity](#)
- [Investment and infrastructure](#)
- [Policy, strategy and research](#)

More information about North East Strategic Economic Plan and delivery programmes can be found at nelep.co.uk

Securing investment

We directly manage the £55m North East Investment Fund, £270m Local Growth Fund, and around £400m of anticipated Enterprise Zone income. We also influence the allocation of €560m European Funding and work closely with the £120m North East Fund.

Coordination and regional stakeholder engagement

The North East LEP has played a pivotal role in supporting and shaping the regional economy and continues to be instrumental in the development of regional economic strategy work.

Effective and inclusive coordination and stakeholder engagement is critical to deliver these roles effectively and over the past few years we have seen our convening role strengthen as we regularly gather in excess of 200 partners to our engagement events.

This approach has also allowed us to lead the development of the North East Local Industrial Strategy, which is an evidence-based delivery plan extending to 2030 that addresses how the region and government will work together to maximise our contribution to UK productivity and improve regional living standards.

More recently, we have led the collaboration with the business community, the North of Tyne and North East Combined Authorities, to coordinate and mobilise the North East Covid-19 Economic Response Group. The aim of the Group is to provide maximum support for businesses in the immediate term and to plan for long-term economic recovery following the pandemic.

The North East LEP Board

The Board provides the overall governance for the LEP and is accountable for its strategic direction and overall decisions. It also works closely with the Executive Team to fulfill the agenda.

Chair – roles and responsibilities

The role of the Chair is to lead the Board in defining vision and direction, and in delivering the overall decisions for the LEP.

The key responsibilities of the post are:

- To inspire confidence in the business community, government, the seven Local Authorities and two Combined Authorities, investors and all other key partners and stakeholders, that the North East LEP understands the needs and opportunities of business and can effectively articulate these into strategic economic policy and delivery.
- To provide an authentic and respected voice of business on behalf of the LEP Board, Members and Executive Team on matters of economic strategy and growth to government, partners and to the media.
- To chair the North East LEP Board so that all Board members can fully and effectively contribute, and the Board can reach balanced and informed positions on key issues.
- To work closely with the senior executive, so that there is a unified and coherent approach to all matters, that fully utilises the available expertise.
- To represent the North East LEP and the wider business community on the Combined Authority Boards, NP11 and other Strategic Boards as appropriate.
- To promote the North East LEP region as an outstanding location to invest and grow and to directly encourage and stimulate investment in the region.
- To support the executive in ensuring the organisation is run effectively so that it can continue to deliver its strategic objectives to support the North East LEP area.

Person Specification

The successful Chair should have:

- Significant 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
- Experienced and confident public speaker
- Experience of working in multi-faceted partnerships
- Political awareness and acumen
- Understanding of the economic challenges facing the North East 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 North East LEP Board meetings, currently held every two months in the North East of England. They will also be expected to represent the North East LEP at meetings with businesses, stakeholders, other LEPs and with government officials and ministers. It is anticipated that the time commitment will be in the region of five days per 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).

Remuneration

The Chair will receive an annual remuneration of £20,000, which will be reviewed annually as part of the budget setting process.

Equal opportunities

Applications are encouraged regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation or age.

For more information contact the North East LEP's Chief Executive, Helen Golightly by email at helen.golightly@nelep.co.uk