

# North East LEP Board Members' Recruitment pack

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## Foreword

This opportunity is for experienced and inspirational business leaders to join the North East Local Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP) and play a pivotal role in driving growth in the local economy and creating more and better, and most importantly sustainable jobs across the North East.

You will have a unique opportunity to help to lead the economic growth of the North East. Ultimately this role will allow you to drive forward a vibrant and dynamic economic agenda which puts the needs of business, our residents and communities front and centre. It is a unique time for the North East as businesses emerge from the challenges of the pandemic, now facing cost of living increases, and as we champion the levelling up agenda and progress greater devolution.

We are looking for influential and persuasive senior business leaders who will bring direction, energy and passion to the role and build on the North East LEP's successful reputation.

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. These roles will ensure the continuation of its good work at such a critical time.

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.



**Lucy Winskell**

Chair of the North East Enterprise Partnership

## About the North East Local Enterprise Partnership

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**The North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is a public, private and education partnership and is responsible for promoting and developing economic growth in the local authority areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland.**

**Our ambition is clear – to create more and better jobs for the North East of England.**

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The Government's Levelling Up White paper published in February 2022 clarified the emerging role of LEPs that will focus on:

- Representing the business voice – collaborating and engaging with, listening to and feeding business views into national and regional policy and investment decision making
- Strategic economic planning – taking the regional lead to develop and coordinate research and economic evidence around the North East economy to inform regional strategy and decision making
- Improving skills – working to ensuring North East residents of all ages have the opportunity to develop skills that match the opportunities in the labour market
- Growing businesses – supporting businesses to start, grow and thrive and to create an environment where they can learn from each other to create more and better jobs
- Managing funds – continue to manage the region's enterprise zone funding and other funding streams secured for investment to grow the regional economy.

Our Annual Delivery Plan sets out how we will deliver this agenda. We will continue to:

- Coordinate and provide evidence and data to inform regional economic strategy work with partners to grow the North East economy
- Lobby government on issues of economic importance to our region
- Act as an advocate and champion for business, education and community interests
- Provide strategic economic leadership and local accountability
- Demonstrate added value and efficiency; and
- Commit to working at the regional level and across local administrative boundaries.

The North of Tyne Combined Authority is our designated Accountable Body. Their role is to hold our funding, employ our team and carry out a public probity role to ensure our processes and decision making is fit for purpose.

The Levelling Up White Paper and LEP Review clarify Government's ambition to see expanded devolution arrangements in the North East, with the role and functions of the LEP integrated within these democratic arrangements. This would see a potential transition of the LEP Board into a strong business board working alongside elected political leaders – with LEP Board members playing a key role in ensuring a positive, collaborative transition with a strong voice for business.

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## Strategic Leaders

Growing a more productive, inclusive and sustainable regional economy is a key priority for the LEP with an overarching aim to provide 100,000 more and better jobs in the ten years to 2024. In order to do this, we produced the region's Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) in 2014, which acts as a blueprint for the activities that need to take place to improve our economy and meet this aim. The SEP has a clear focus and policy direction and is owned by all of our key partners, with well-defined programmes of work.

Details of the SEP and our key work areas are set out at [www.nelep.co.uk](http://www.nelep.co.uk)

The North East LEP has made significant progress to date and continues to strive towards improving and enhancing the North East economy.

## Purpose of the LEP Board

The LEP Board provides the overall governance for the LEP and is accountable for its strategic direction and overall decisions, as well as working with the Executive Team, partners and Government to fulfill the full agenda.

## Board member - Roles and Responsibilities

### The key responsibilities of the role are:

- To inspire confidence in the business community, government, the seven Local Authorities and two Combined Authority, investors and all other key partners and stakeholders, that the 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 fully and effectively contribute to the Board to reach balanced and informed positions on key issues.
- To work closely with the senior LEP Executive, so that there is a unified and coherent approach to all LEP matters, that fully utilises the LEP Executive expertise.
- To represent the LEP and the wider business community on sub-boards or other regional structures 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.

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## Person Specification

- The successful Board Member 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 communication skills
- 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

Board members are expected to prepare for and attend all LEP Board meetings, currently held every two months. They will also be expected to occasionally represent the LEP at meetings with businesses, stakeholders and with Government officials, as well as be a member of one of the LEPs sub-boards. It is anticipated that overall this will average about 2 days per month.

## Period of Appointment

The Board member will be recruited on the basis of an open advertisement for a period of a term (three years). During this time, it is likely that there will be a period of transition to new regional structures, where championing the business voice will be essential, feeding into regional decision-making.

## Remuneration

Board members are not remunerated for their time.

## Equal Opportunities

Applications are encouraged regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, background or age. A diverse Board is essential for the success of the organisation and effective guidance and decision-making.

## Application process

Please send a covering letter setting out why you think you are suitable to this role and what you would contribute to help shape the growth of the North East economy, along with an up to date CV.

These should be sent to the Chief Executive, Helen Golightly by 9am Friday 26 August 2022:

✉ [helen.golightly@nelep.co.uk](mailto:helen.golightly@nelep.co.uk)

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