

C&WLEP - Recruitment of a private-sector Non-Executive Director

1. The opportunity

The Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (C&WLEP) is seeking to appoint a Non-Executive Director (NED) from the private sector to join its board.

This opportunity comes at an exciting time for C&WLEP. The local economy is doing well with GVA growth above the national average over the last 5 years. The LEP is part-way through delivering a multitude of projects and schemes from the £340m+ of funding that has been won since its inception in 2011 and it also has a nationally recognized Growth Hub that is providing excellent support to businesses to help them prosper and grow. The area is performing well in attracting inward investment and has attracted a number of companies over the last 4 years. The emerging West Midlands Combined Authority will provide many more opportunities for the people and businesses that it encompasses and the LEP is playing a significant part in its development.

We are seeking to appoint a director that will help CWLEP meet its obligations contained within its Equality & Diversity Statement.

We are looking for an individual to join the C&WLEP Board who is passionate about Coventry and Warwickshire and is committed to further driving forward the LEP's ambitious agenda.

2. Role Description

- To serve on a high-profile, nationally-recognised private-public board supporting the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
- Contribute to strategic direction and activities,
- Make themselves available for a minimum of 1 full day at any time, as you have to attend board meetings, but ideally would want to be 2 days to include any other meetings as required.
- Be prepared to serve on various bodies including, not only internal C&WLEP related boards and committees but also including representing C&WLEP on West Midlands Combined Authority and Midlands Engine business.

The successful individual will join 17 other NEDs on the LEP Board from across the private, public and university sectors. He/she will therefore have the opportunity to contribute to strategy development with a focus on inward investment and economic growth, job creation, and core enablers. They will also be encouraged to be the lead, on behalf of the Board, for one of the business groups that support the activities of the LEP

It is expected that the NED will champion the LEP's work locally, nationally and internationally, using his/her skills, experience and networks to drive forward the agenda and overcome obstacles.



3. The Candidate

A demonstrable and current track record in the leadership of a sizeable business– ideally in the Coventry and Warwickshire area.

Well connected, with demonstrable and current links with other businesses and/or Whitehall and the ability to influence and champion the CWLEP at the most senior levels.

A clear strategic vision, excellent communication and leadership skills

The successful individual will ideally need to have:

- Strong personal authority and gravitas;
- A proven track record of delivery;
- High business acumen;
- Significant senior level experience in a private sector business which has strong roots in Coventry and Warwickshire;
- Experience of public / private partnership working and of building partnerships that add value;
- The ability to foster joint working across geographies and sectors and actively manage relationships with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure their understanding and secure 'buy in';
- Extensive personal and organisational networks;
- A familiarity with Coventry and Warwickshire;

4. Time commitment

The position is a voluntary non-executive post with a commitment of up to the equivalent of 2 days per month.

The LEP Board, a company limited by guarantee, meets every two months and there is an expectation that NEDs undertake work on the areas that they are leading on in between meetings. This may involve meetings with stakeholders, convening a sub-group and attending events to promote the agenda.

The NED will be supported in this work by the LEP Executive and other key partners.

5. How to apply

Applications are invited from suitable candidates in line with the Role Description and Person Specification. Applicants are invited to submit:

- A detailed CV (no more than 3 pages)
- A covering letter (no more than 2 pages)

The closing date for applications is 23rd February 2019. Interviews are planned to take place in early March.

CWLEP – Equality & Diversity Policy

Our aim is to ensure that the CWLEP Board will provide equal opportunity for everyone. CWLEP is dedicated to supporting a fully inclusive culture and recognises its role in promoting diversity and eliminating discrimination and seeks to do this in the way it conducts itself.

This policy reinforces our commitment to providing equality and fairness to all those who wish to work with or for us and we will not act less favourably on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, ethnic origin, colour, nationality, national origin, religion or belief, or sex and sexual orientation. We are opposed to all forms of unlawful, unfair and inappropriate discrimination.

C&WLEP recognises and embraces the benefits of having a diverse Board, and sees increasing diversity at Board level as essential in representing the diverse community that constitutes Coventry & Warwickshire and in improving its creativity, productivity and ability to innovate. A truly diverse Board will include and make good use of differences in the skills, geographical and industry experience, background, race, gender and other qualities. These differences will be considered in determining the optimum composition of the Board and when possible should be balanced appropriately.

All Board appointments are made on merit, in the context of the skills and experience that the Board as a whole requires to be effective. The Finance & Governance Board of CWLEP will review and assess composition on behalf of the Board and provide advice to the Chairman and ad-hoc Nominations Committee on appointments to the LEP Board, being mindful of achieving the optimum composition. In identifying suitable candidates for appointment to the Board, candidates will be considered on merit against objective criteria and with due regard to the benefits of diversity on the Board.

The Finance & Governance Board of CWLEP Board will nominate from its number to act as its Champion for Equality and Diversity on any Nominations Committee.