

Cumbria Local Nature Partnership is seeking to recruit a new Chair.

Cumbria's brand is defined by our location and unique environment; it has provided the resources for innovation that have made Cumbria globally renowned. However, we continue to witness the decline of nature in Cumbria as climate change, development pressure and modern day life impact on our surroundings that have provided us with vital natural resources. Once common species have become rare, and treasured landscapes are changing.

We need our natural systems to provide for us. We rely on it to supply essentials such as food, clean air and water and to underpin the quality of our lives by supporting health, recreation and fulfilment. It also provides our economic base.

Environmental growth will change our thinking and practice; it will ensure that nature can sustain and support our communities and businesses in the future.

Can you help lead this change?

The Cumbria Local Nature Partnership (CLNP) is searching for a senior level high profile individual who can provide leadership and act as an influential advocate for the Partnership's purpose, vision and functions.

Whilst not necessarily drawn from an organisation/background working for the natural environment he/she must understand the importance to Cumbria of a healthy and robust natural environment. They must also have experience of, and strong links to the business community, and must want to help ensure the natural environment is managed sustainably for the benefit of nature, people and the economy.

About Us

The CLNP is a government recognised self-sustaining strategic partnership. It is made up of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people. It helps decision makers in its local area to manage the natural environment as a system and to embed and sustain its value.

The purpose of an LNP is to:

- Drive positive change in the local natural environment, taking a strategic view of the challenges and opportunities involved, and identifying ways to manage it as a system for the benefit of nature, people and the economy;
- Contribute to achieving locally the Government's national environmental objectives, including the identification of local ecological networks, alongside addressing local priorities;
- Become local champions influencing decision-making relating to the natural environment not least in a social and economic context, in particular it should work closely with local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards.

The key to a successful CLNP is an effective Chair and Board. The CLNP Board, including the Chair, consists of a maximum of twelve members. Representation is split between organisational representatives and individual members.

The role of the Board is to set and review the strategic direction of the Partnership's work ensuring continuity and momentum towards implementing its defined objectives. They provide a high level steer and are responsible for decisions regarding strategy, policy, objectives and expenditure.

Main Responsibilities of the Chairperson role:

The Chair will:

- Bring his/her knowledge and experience to bear on the CLNP's activities;
- Work with the Board members and the CLNP Secretariat to set the strategic direction of the CLNP within its geographical remit through effective priority setting and monitoring of delivery;
- Attend and Chair Board meetings ensuring they are run effectively and to time;
- Act as a figurehead for the CLNP at a senior level, representing its interests locally, regionally and nationally;
- Ensure positive working relationships are developed and maintained with key organisations e.g. Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership;
- Ensure that publicity, bids for resources and other appropriate events and issues are led in alliance with other CLNP members;
- Where necessary undertake other roles e.g. involvement in staff recruitment.

The Chair will not be directly employed by the CLNP but can be from one of organisations comprising the Board. He/she is selected by the Board and must be entirely independent.

Time commitment

It's estimated that the Chair will need to dedicate approximately one day a month to the role.

The Board currently meets twice yearly for up to 2 hours. Meetings are usually held in Penrith or alternatively in Kendal. Between meetings, the Chair will work with the CLNP Secretariat to deliver the Partnership's strategy and action plan.

The Chair may also be called upon on an ad hoc basis to represent the CLNP and champion its work at external meetings, conferences or for publicity.

The role of Chair is entirely voluntary and has no associated salary, wage or other payment. Expenses may be claimed when carrying out duties on behalf of the CLNP but only with prior agreement with the CLNP Board.

Person Specification

The successful candidate will demonstrate the following:

- Experience of leadership at a senior level;
- Good Chairmanship;
- A knowledge of Cumbria's natural environment and the main environmental challenges facing it;
- A good understanding of the commercial sector, particularly involving one or more of the following fields: business development; sales and marketing or fundraising.
- Experience of a non-executive role.

The candidate will be:

- An excellent communicator with good interpersonal skills;
- Able to build productive relationships with all kinds of interest groups, business types and individuals;
- Confident, professional and highly motivated;
- Able to enthuse and motivate others.

To Apply

If you would like to discuss the role further, call Graham Jackson-Pitt on 01539 816 300. To apply, send your cv and a covering letter explaining why you would like the role and your reasons for applying to grahamjp@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk or post to:

Graham Jackson-Pitt
Senior Living Landscapes Officer
Cumbria Wildlife Trust
Plumgarths
Crook Road
Kendal

LA8 8LX

For further info about our work visit: <http://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/groups-and-partnerships>

Deadline for applications is 9am on Monday the 6th of March.

Following shortlisting successful applicants will be invited to interview.