

Cumbria Local Nature Partnership Chair

Background Information and Role Description

Cumbria's Natural Environment

Cumbria has an amazing range of landscapes and geology, supporting a diverse and rich wildlife. However, we continue to witness the decline of nature in Cumbria as climate change, development pressure, land management and modern day life impact on our natural environment. Once common species have become rare and wildlife habitats have been lost, degraded or fragmented. It now an imperative not only to prevent further losses, but to work towards reversing the damage and declines. 'Nature Recovery' is needed - restoring and reinstating habitats and wildlife in such a way to ensure that we can sustain a healthy environment into the future. The government's 25 Year Environment Plan and the draft Environment Bill show a commitment to recover nature, and tools are being put in place to help this change.

We also need our natural systems to provide for us. We rely on our 'Natural Capital' to supply essentials such as food, clean air and water. It also underpins the quality of our lives by supporting health, recreation and fulfilment. We need a change in our thinking and practice to ensure that economic growth and development recognises the value of our natural environment and helps maintain and recover nature.

Can you help lead 'Nature Recovery' and promote the changes needed for a Natural Capital approach to economic development?

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 they 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, statutory agencies, local authorities and businesses. It helps decision makers in Cumbria 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 working closely with local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards.

The core focus of the CLNP's work is to lead on, promote and co-ordinate 'Nature Recovery' across Cumbria. In particular this means working with partners to develop a Nature Recovery Network for Cumbria, underpinned by Local Nature Strategies. As part of this work the CLNP aims to bring together a wider partnership of organisations to come up with a common vision for 'Nature Recovery' and develop a plan which ensure wildlife thrives. In addition the CLNP aims to ensure that the value of our natural environment is recognised and that Natural Capital approaches are embedded into decision making and economic development.

The key to a successful CLNP is an effective Chair and Board. The CLNP Board, including the Chair, currently consists of a maximum of twelve members, but this is soon to increase to twenty. 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.

Role Description:

The Chair will:

- Work with the Board members and the CLNP Officer to help 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 good governance and that they are run effectively and to time;
- Act as a figurehead for the CLNP at a senior level, representing its interests locally, and potentially regionally and nationally;
- Ensure positive relationships are developed and maintained with key organisations e.g. Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership;
- Promote collaborative working and the Partnership;
- Work closely with any staff allocated to the CLNP, although these staff will be line managed by the host organisation (currently Cumbria Wildlife Trust);
- The Chair is a voluntary position and can be either independent or from one of organisations comprising the Board.

Time commitment

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

The Board currently meets between two and four times a year for up to 2 hours. Meetings can be held around Cumbria but are usually held in Penrith or in Kendal. Between meetings, the Chair will work with the CLNP Officer to deliver the Partnership's strategy and action plan.

The Chair may also be asked to represent the CLNP and champion its work at external meetings, conferences or for publicity.

The role of Chair is entirely voluntary. Expenses may be claimed when carrying out duties on behalf of the CLNP.

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. Some science background could be useful but not essential.
- 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 Paul Evans (CLNP Officer) on 01539 816300. To apply, send your cv and a covering letter explaining why you would like the role and your reasons for applying to paule@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk or post to:

Paul Evans
Cumbria Local Nature Partnership 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 9th of March.

Following shortlisting successful applicants will be invited to interview.