

Board member specification, profile and requirements

Criteria

It is desirable that applicants should demonstrate the following:

Knowledge / Experience

- Experience of operating across their sector, acting as representatives or sector leaders with the support of the local business community
- Evidence of regular and active participation in industry wide networking / business events
- Substantial experience in running successful businesses or promoting aspirations / enterprise;
- Experience / interest in influencing decision-making to promote growth and enterprise
- Experience of liaison with regional, national or international government agencies
- Experience of supporting and championing initiatives to encourage growth, productivity or skills

Skills

- Ability to contribute effectively to developing strategy
- Ability to act collaboratively towards achieving shared aims;
- Ability to undertake financial and qualitative analysis of proposals;
- Ability to promote and communicate the views of the Board, representing it to external stakeholders;
- Ability to act as a conduit between the Board / CA and the business community;
- Ability to engage the confidence of the Mayor, CA and represent the vision, values and objectives of the Board / CA

Profile

The business board is seeking fair representation amongst its membership which includes geography, sector and diversity.

The business board is dedicated to supporting a fully inclusive culture. We recognise that we have a role in promoting diversity. All board members are appointed on merit, being mindful of ensuring the optimum composition on our Board.

Appointments will be sought from all sectors, and applications from candidates with a diverse range of experience is welcomed. We support applications from all sections of the community, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, faith or disability. Candidates are sought with a range of experiences, and are equally welcomed from large, well established firms and those who represent smaller and entrepreneurial firms.

We are particularly looking for people who are industry leaders and active in the following sectors

- Agri-food, drink and Horticulture
- Advanced manufacturing and materials
- Life Sciences
- Digital
- Small / Medium Size Businesses (one board member will be appointed specifically to represent the interests of the SME sector)

We strongly encourage candidates who can demonstrate support from representative / sector bodies, for example, having served / actively participated with organisations such as Cambridge

Network, Chambers of Commerce; Visit Cambridge and Beyond; Opportunity Peterborough Bondholder Network or similar, or a sector-led representative body.

Requirements

All Board members must not:

- be a member, officer of the Combined Authority, or a County Council, Unitary Council, District tier Council within the area served by the Business Board*, or otherwise employed under the direction of a local authority;
- be a non-executive director or officer of an NHS Trust;
- be subject to a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order;
- be subject to a sexual risk order or be on the sexual offenders register;
- be subject to a civil injunction or criminal behaviour order;
- be disqualified from acting as a director, a charter trustee or charity trustee
- within 5 years before the date of submission of application, have been a director or person of significant control of a company subject to a creditors compulsory liquidation
- within 5 years before the date of submission of application, have been convicted of any offence and have had passed on them a sentence of imprisonment, whether suspended or not, for a period of not less than 3 months without the option of a fine

Candidates should not have made substantial personal contributions to any recognised political party, and must not serve as an officer in any recognised political party

Candidates must live in the area served by the Business Board, and / or be employed by, or have a substantial interest (by virtue of ownership / control) in businesses in the area served by the Business Board*

Any candidates who are unclear regarding their personal adherence to this criteria may seek to discuss this with the Monitoring Officer of the Combined Authority prior to application. Candidates will be requested to confirm that they meet these criteria during the application process.

* This includes the County of Cambridgeshire (including Peterborough); and the areas of West Suffolk, North Hertfordshire, South Kesteven, Rutland, Kings Lynn and West Norfolk, and Uttlesford

Other

Candidates should be aware that the Business Board will be advising the Combined Authority and Mayor on funding decisions. Board members will be required to adhere to the principles of public life in undertaking their role (the “nolan principles”); they will be required to complete a public register of interests, and take steps to identify, declare and resolve interests they may have in decisions.

Candidates should highlight at application stage where they believe their business interests may cause significant conflict with their potential Business Board role and any steps they expect to undertake to resolve this should they be appointed.