



Applicant Information Pack

Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership Ltd

Appointment of Private Sector
Non-Executive Business Director/s

FOREWORD

This is an opportunity for an experienced business leader to become a Non-Executive Director of the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Ltd) – or OxLEP – and play a pivotal role in driving growth in the local economy and creating sustainable jobs. There are 37 Local Enterprise Partnerships across England. They are business led partnerships between local authorities, private sector businesses and HE/FE partners. They play a central role in determining local economic priorities and undertaking activities to drive economic growth and job creation, improve infrastructure and raise workforce skills within the local area. LEP boards are led by a business Chair and board members are local leaders of industry (including SMEs), educational institutions and the public sector.

As one of the 37 LEPs our responsibility is to support the County area of Oxfordshire, as at the 1st April 2019 the overlapping geography with the South East Midlands LEP (SEMLEP) was removed. We are formally constituted as a Company Limited by Guarantee (Not for Profit), responsible to Central Government for the delivery of grant and investment programmes. **These two roles will represent wider business interests of the Oxfordshire Business community.**

As Non-Executive Director, you will have a unique opportunity to drive a dynamic and vibrant economic agenda which puts the needs of business, our residents and communities front-and-centre. Oxfordshire has already demonstrated significant economic progress including recognition that we have the most innovative economy across the 37 LEPs in England. Our potential is reinforced with an ambitious and innovation-led Strategic Economic Plan which sets the foundations for successful City Deal and Local Growth Fund submissions, which together have contributed in excess of £200m into the local economy; leveraging over £2bn of investment from across public and private business sectors. In addition, we submitted our “Trail Blazer” Local Industrial Strategy to Government in December 2018 and hope to sign off the document with government in July 2019. This approach opens up opportunities for further dialogue with government, building upon our Science Innovation Audit outcomes and Innovation Strategy objectives.

We are particularly looking for persuasive and influential senior female business leaders from a range of sectors who can bring energy and passion to the OxLEP Board.

You will continue to foster positive relationships with key stakeholders and act as a high-level advocate regionally, nationally and internationally. Our Board is well established, representative of a wide range of private and public interests and has active engagement of the two Oxford universities.

Our Board is Business led, having 18 Non-executive directors of which 6 represent the 6 Local Authorities across the county, the remaining 12 Directors are Business, University or FE College nominations. Our work programme and delivery responsibilities include investment support into Infrastructure, Business Support, Skills and Apprenticeships, Inward Investment, Innovation and European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) grant programmes. Our Board remains focused upon delivering against our Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan priorities and driving prosperity for our businesses and communities through our trailblazer Local Industrial Strategy, supporting our Global Innovation Ecosystem and internationalisation agenda.

[OxLEP refreshed Strategic Economic Plan](#)

[Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy - Technical Negotiating Draft](#)

The successful individuals will become a Director of the company and is encouraged to have a role on Board Committees/Sub-Groups and represent the company at external events. In so doing, they will

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represent the views and interests of the OxLEP Board, ensuring that decisions are taken in the best interests of Oxfordshire's economy.

The individuals must work within Oxfordshire and ideally live in Oxfordshire. We recognise, however, the significant commitment such roles require and therefore we will seek to ensure that the commitments and responsibilities are balanced with both work and external personal commitments, to enable effective performance of the duties required.

If you are excited by the opportunity to play your part in driving the growth of one of the most innovative counties in the country and can demonstrate the ability to meet and deliver our aspirations, we would be pleased to receive your application. Applicants wishing to put themselves forward as Private Sector Non-Executive Board Directors need to provide a current CV and supporting statement setting out what they see as the key challenges and opportunities for Oxfordshire's economy, the skills and qualities they can bring to the Board and why they are interested in the role.

To arrange a confidential and informal discussion about this opportunity, please contact:

Nigel Tipple – Chief Executive

Tel: 0345 241 1196 or email: chiefexec@oxfordshirelep.com

More information on our Board recruitment process can be found via:

www.oxfordshirelep.com/about/our-governance/key-policies-procedures

I look forward to hearing from you.

Jeremy Long

Chair

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ROLE DESCRIPTION

It is essential that we appoint exceptional candidates, as the challenges facing Oxfordshire as a dynamic and growing innovation-led economy are critical to the success of both the local and national economy.

The Board would like to see applications from individuals who are underrepresented on the Board and can:

- Provide passion for growing and scaling up business in Oxfordshire
- Empathise in order to be able to work with and influence a wide range of people, often in sensitive situations
- Strengthen and raise the profile of the business community in Oxfordshire
- Demonstrate appropriate gravitas in commercial and political environments
- Demonstrate business leadership to present a high profile in Oxfordshire, nationally and Internationally
- Support the next phase of growth and prosperity for our businesses and communities
- Understand business needs, have credibility and can harness the power of our business community to ensure we maximise the potential of Oxfordshire

The LEP Board meets quarterly; this involves an absolute minimum commitment of eight days per annum. Additional input outside of meetings is necessary which is anticipated to be at least a further eight days per annum supporting committee and sub-group working or events.

While this is a voluntary role and attracts no remuneration or contractual obligations, expenses arising from undertaking duties are available in accordance with the company's policy.

As OxLEP is a Limited Company (not for profit) the successful candidate will become a Director of the Company and their details will be filed at Companies House. This invokes certain legal duties and responsibilities which candidates are expected to be familiar and comfortable with.

We would particularly encourage individuals whose experience, skills, gender and ethnicity are under-represented on the Board to apply. The Board recognises that we have some skills gaps, notably: marketing, environmental, technology sector, visitor economy, rural business or third sector/social enterprise businesses.

Attention is drawn to our recently published Draft Local Industrial Strategy, Innovation Strategy and Science Innovation Audit – Transformative Technologies which highlights future opportunities and sectors.

Non-Executive Private Sector Directors will:

- Represent the business interests of the county by setting the strategic direction and purpose of the organisation through the Board, helping to create an environment in which the Oxfordshire economy will grow to benefit all
- Actively engage in the work of the Board, ensuring that the interests of business are voiced and that we are united (and motivated) towards a common goal and purpose
- Actively seek to promote the interests and ambitions of OxLEP in high-level negotiations with key influencers in government, business and community, with the broad aim of driving a positive future for the county and OxLEP's role in supporting it
- Maintain a clear and informed view of the strengths and challenges facing the local and national economy

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- Champion our work, our objectives, outcomes and results to relevant partners, organisations, networks and the media

Experience and attributes:

Non-Executive Directors must be able to demonstrate the following:

- A strong commitment to, and understanding of, the Oxfordshire area and in particular the challenges of local private sector businesses
- A clear strategic vision, with a demonstrable understanding of the drivers of economic prosperity, the challenges and opportunities facing the county and the ability to work with business, local authorities, MPs and national government to support Oxfordshire's economy
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills; be articulate and able to influence, broker, build strong networks, deal with media attention and represent OxLEP in a local and national context
- Significant and current experience of leading a business based in the county
- Empathy, in order to be able to work with and influence a wide range of people often in sensitive situations
- Be well-connected, with demonstrable links to other businesses and organisations
- Ability to convey the wider messages and support for our common goals.

Eligibility criteria:

- Private Sector Directors: Only those persons who either live within or have a material economic base within the operational area (defined as Oxfordshire County), who are not eligible under any of the other categories of directors and who meet any requirements relating to specific skills and experience required to fill any Private Sector Director vacancies, shall be eligible for appointment as Private Sector Directors
- This role is a county wide role and therefore the applicant should have a clear, current economic interest within Oxfordshire

Terms of appointment:

- Commitment to serve for a minimum three-year term with an option to extend by agreement of the Board for a further term of up to two years (maximum five)
- Absolute minimum commitment of 16 days a year, including sub-group engagement, meetings, event attendance and ambassadorial duties
- This is a pro bono appointment, in line with most other LEPs across England
- As you are representing others, there are responsibilities attached to the role. To be an effective NED you will need to:
 - Adhere to the 7 Nolan principles of public life, see annex 1 attached
 - Engage with the wider business community and other sectors
 - Speak on behalf of private sector business interests to ensure that its contributions are included in the discussions and activities of local and national government.
 - Let the Chair and CEO know if you feel you may have a conflict of interest related to any items on business.

Remuneration:

The Board positions are not remunerated. Reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed when on official board business and all expense claims will be recorded in line with the Board's full transparency requirements.

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Equal opportunities:

OxLEP encourages applications regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation or age and is keen to actively engage with those groups currently underrepresented on our Board.

How to apply and timetable for recruitment:

If you feel you have the skills and experience to meet these challenges and wish to apply for this opportunity, please send a CV with a covering letter to:

Lyn Davies
Director of Corporate Services
OxLEP Ltd
First Floor
Jericho Building
City of Oxford College Campus
Oxpens Road
Oxford
OX1 1SA

Or e-mail: lyn.davies@oxfordshirelep.com

Key dates

Advertised:	Wednesday 29 th May 2019
Closing date:	Wednesday 3 rd July 2019 (5pm)
Short-listing:	W/C 15 th July 2019
Interviews:	W/C 22 nd July 2019

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Annex 1 Nolan – 7 Principles of Public Life

The principles apply to all those in sectors that deliver public services, as LEPs are responsible for the management and defrayal of public money we have committed to the application of these principles in all we do.

They were first set out by Lord Nolan in 1995 and they are included in the [Ministerial code](#) and are set out below.

1. Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

2. Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

3. Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

4. Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

5. Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

6. Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

7. Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behavior. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behavior wherever it occurs.

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