

**County Durham Economic Partnership**

**Chair – Job role & Person Specification**

**(Voluntary Role)**

**Background Information**

The County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) takes a leading role in developing the economy of County Durham. We believe passionately that improving the economy is a vital part of improving the lives and opportunities of the people in County Durham. Together with partners from across the business, public, voluntary and community sectors, the partnership has a key role in shaping 21st century economic opportunities in County Durham.

The CDEP works through a partnership structure with representation from public, private and voluntary and community sector organisations that make up the membership of the Partnership. These are all members of the various Working Groups that make up the structure of the Partnership, with a Board to set the strategic direction and focus the activity of interested parties. The CDEP’s role in providing representation and cohesion is central to moving the economy of the County forward. The CDEP’s strength of voice behind the economic agenda is considerably more powerful than any single partner could provide, which has become even more evident during the coronavirus pandemic. The effects of the pandemic will be with us for a number of years to come and it is this joint voice and partnership working that will support us through this challenging period.

The County Durham Economic Partnership has a successful track record (spanning eighteen years) of promoting the economic wellbeing of the County. The County Durham [Regeneration Statement](https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2385/Regeneration-Statement) outlines the underlying ambition of creating sustainable places where people want to live, work, invest and visit can be achieved. As we move forward together, a future Economic Strategy will pave the way for economic recovery and then prosperity in County Durham.

For the Economic Partnership, supporting the economy is about adding value to communities both economically and socially and partners believe that to unlock the entrepreneurial and successful career potential within the economy we need a well

co-ordinated investment strategy and committed leaders to help deliver our vision.

In addition to local economic development, working with the wider County Durham Partnership Framework and the new Government supported Local Enterprise Partnerships for the northern region also presents a huge opportunity for positive change. The [County Durham Vision 2035](http://www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/article/8453/County-Durham-Vision-2035) sets the scene for where we want to be in this timeframe and the Economic Partnership will have a prominent role in taking forward the ambition for More and Better Jobs.

As the previous Chair has now stepped down from this role, having secured a different role, the CDEP Board is currently recruiting a new Voluntary Chair. We are seeking an inspiring, progressive and committed individual to lead the Board in unprecedented times and with changing conditions for the local economy. The CDEP would like to hear from you if you believe that you have the ambition, acumen and track record to help develop the County Durham Economic Partnership and the local economy.

# Further information on the County Durham Economic Partnership can be found at the following website: <http://www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/article/8484/Economic-Partnership>

**JOB ROLE AND PERSON SPECIFICATION**

**Role Specification**

In order to ensure the Board achieves its remit, the Chair will be expected to (with the support of the Secretariat):

* Join up partnership working from public, private and voluntary sectors.
* Provide strategic direction and leadership to the CDEP.
* Make sure that the Board is productive and motivated, by chairing board meetings in a professional and positive manner, and by establishing a good working rapport with each board member and by engendering a good ‘team’ spirit.
* Set agendas for board and recognise the work of others in maximising opportunities for collaborative working.
* Ensure the County Durham Economic Partnership maintains good working relationships with key partners.
* Act as an ambassador for the County and provide a key representative role.
* Work within the framework of the wider County Durham Partnership and County Durham Vision to help maximise the effectiveness of a range of agencies in improving social, environmental and economic opportunities for the County.
* Be an active participant in County Durham Partnership meetings, providing relevant information about the work of the CDEP to other sectors/partners.

**Person Specification**

*Skills and Attributes*

* An inspiring, progressive and committed individual to bring a new perspective and commercial attitude to shaping the future of the County Durham Economy.
* A dynamic leader with demonstrated experience in entrepreneurship and change management.
* Drive and the ability to motivate and inspire others.
* Strong interpersonal, communication and negotiation skills and the ability to develop effective, sustainable partnerships.
* A commitment to the aim of achieving sustainable economic development and prosperity and fostering the role of all sectors in achieving it.
* An ability to understand interrelated issues around the social, environmental, cultural and business drivers of the County’s economy.
* An ability to work effectively with the full range of stakeholders - public, private and voluntary & community sector at a County and Regional level.
* An ability to represent effectively the Partnership, its vision, values and objectives often while subject to media attention.

*Background and Experience*

* A proven track record of success as an organisational leader and deliverer of strategic objectives.
* Experience of chairing groups or boards of senior individuals, non-executives, or trustees in either a commercial, voluntary or public sector context.
* Experience of successfully brokering partnerships, joint ventures or complex deals.
* A detailed knowledge of the County (through residence, work, strong association) with a good operational network of regional contacts.
* Experience of negotiating on a ‘regional’ and national level.

The Chair will be expected to adhere to normal conflict of interest arrangements and be expected to declare in which they might have an interest.

**Time Commitment**

The time commitment required will include:

* Chairing all Board meetings (quarterly)
* Attend a number of County Durham Partnership meetings on a rolling basis
* Conferences and other representational activity
* Working meetings
* Meetings with key partners and stakeholders

**Terms and Conditions**

The role is likely to involve up to two days per month. It will involve travel throughout the North East area. The post will not be remunerated but reasonable expenses will be paid.

# The appointment will be for a maximum term of three years, with the potential to be appointed for a further period by mutual agreement of the CDEP.