

Chairperson

Role and Person Specification

The Lake District National Park and World Heritage site is recognised both locally and globally as a living working landscape and a special place. The Lake District National Park Partnership, comprising 25 Partners, is committed to taking approaches and management decisions that help move toward the achievement of our shared 2030 Vision for the Lake District that it will be:

An inspirational example of sustainable development in action. A place where its prosperous economy, world class visitor experience and vibrant communities come together to sustain the spectacular landscape, its wildlife and cultural heritage. Local people, visitors, and the many organisations working in the Lake District or have a contribution to make to it, must be united in achieving this.

In 2015 the Partnership adopted the current Partnership's Plan every partner endorsed and has ownership of this Plan. Whilst this document already exists there remain opportunities for the Chair to further develop and enhance delivery of this Plan and to oversee the development of the next Partnership Plan (2020-2025).

We require a dynamic leader, who is able to command the respect of all the key sectors working in the Lake District National Park, to chair the Lake District National Park Partnership. The role will require the candidate to have experience of high level working over a number of years. We are looking for a seasoned and accomplished impartial Chair with significant experience of Chairing at Board Level in any sector and experience of working with stakeholders at all levels.

The Lake District National Park Partnership is an established group of leading organisations that have a role to play in realising the shared Vision for the Lake District National Park. In 2016, we celebrated 10 years of working together. A lot has been achieved, but there is a lot more to do. We want to see the next 10 years characterised by a step change in delivery on the ground, securing new funding streams through visitor giving and charitable donations and working together more effectively to safeguard our special qualities and outstanding universal values for the benefit of our communities, visitors and businesses.

As we move into a period of significant challenge and opportunity the Partnership is seeking a Chair able to help us navigate a path that ensures the best outcomes for the Lake District National Park, and a strong Partnership with ever deepening and strengthening working relationships.

Chairing, negotiating and influencing, and presentational skills are clearly central to effective performance in this role, but it is equally important that the Chairperson has the personal qualities that support the building and maintenance of strong working relationship and elicits continued commitment to delivering a shared vision.

Key skills to success in this role will be:

1. Brokering and negotiation

- The successful candidate should be able to provide an independent perspective and to demonstrate the negotiating and influencing skills essential when acting in a brokering role between different, sometimes conflicting, elements of the Partnership

as we work to ensure on the ground delivery of environmental improvements, the retention of cultural heritage, and a thriving local and visitor economy.

- The Chair will be required to represent the Lake District National Park Partnership, not any individual Partner, in discussions with a range of organisations and stakeholders at a local, regional, national and potentially international level.

2. Knowledge of the Lake District National Park

- A detailed understanding of the current and potential future issues that affect the Lake District National Park and the broader political context would be desirable for this role.

3. Leadership and motivation

- An ability to articulate the Vision for the Lake District National Park in leading the Lake District National Park Partnership to enable its realisation.
- An understanding of our approach to partnership working and ability to ensure the Partnership operate accordingly, and continue to develop becoming more and more effective.
- The ability to act as an independent broker for partners, challenging and holding to account as well as supporting.
- Ability to demonstrate adept performance as chair of groups with a range of different interests.
- High level leadership and motivational skills for the Partnership, and Partnership team.

4. Communication

- The successful candidate should be an effective communicator both in written and oral form.
- There will be a requirement from time to time to be the spokesperson for the Lake District National Park Partnership at key events, good presentational skills are therefore essential.

5. Facilitation and representation

- Have an ability to engage and network with a range of different stakeholders to realise the Vision, both within the public, private and charity sectors.
- Demonstrate knowledge of regional, national and international organisations and networks.

6. Time commitment and resources

There will be no more than 6 formal Lake District National Park Partnership meetings in a year, more normally one per quarter at which the Chair will officiate. These meetings are supported by a range of 'Task Groups'¹, developing topic based practitioner groups and Partnership networking events that look to provide time and space for the exploration of relevant topics in an informal context whilst supporting the development of closer Partner relations. Attendance at these supporting meetings is not a requirement but may be useful on occasion. The Chair may also occasionally be required to attend meetings on behalf of the Lake District National Park Partnership or provide statements to the media.

An overall time commitment of no more than 2 days a month is required.

¹ Currently these are: Business Task Force, Climate Change Subgroup, External Funding Group. Work is underway to reshape a previous Forestry and Farming group.

The Partnership is supported by a small staff team based at the Lake District National Park but made up in part of Officers seconded to from Partner organisations. The work of this team is focused on driving forward delivery particularly of the actions identified as 'Breakthrough Actions' in the Partnership's Plan, they also provide administrative support.

Expenses will be paid according to approved duties – to be agreed by the Lake District National Park Partnership.

7. Appointment and term

The appointment of a Chairperson will follow a formal external recruitment process; Partners will be involved in the selection and interview stages. The term of Chairperson will be three years followed by an election within the Lake District National Park Partnership. During the initial term the Chair will need to oversee the continued reporting on delivery of the current Partnership Plan, the production of a State of the Park report and the development of a new 5 year Partnership Plan. There will be a two term maximum. Resignation can be submitted at any time to the Partnership.