

Cheshire and Warrington Business Advisory Board

Chair of the Business Advisory Board

Role Description & Person Specification

Position: Cheshire and Warrington Business Advisory Board Chair

Location: Cheshire and Warrington

Remuneration: [£25k per annum]

Term Length: 3 Years

Expected commitment: 1½ day per week on average

Closing Date:

The Cheshire and Warrington Business Advisory Board

2024 sees a new approach for Cheshire and Warrington, with the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership becoming Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington (ECW) and transferring into the ownership of the three C&W local authorities. Alongside this, the local authorities are creating a new Business Advisory Board with a remit to provide LA leaders with support and advice to help them realise the sub-region's vision of becoming the healthiest, most sustainable, inclusive and growing place in the country.

The Business Advisory Board will be involved from the earliest stage in supporting elected members and officers from the LAs and ECW to develop and review the economic strategies that will help deliver the sub-region's vision, ensuring that the 'voice of business' is clearly heard in economic policy making.

The Chair of the Business Advisory Board is a key role, providing leadership and direction to the Business Advisory Board and providing the key link between the Board and the leaders of the local authorities as a non-voting member of the Local Authorities Joint Committee, which has been set up to lead the economic development of Cheshire and Warrington and which also oversees the work of Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington.

Role

The Chair of the Business Advisory Board is a key strategic role in the development, review and implementation of economic strategy in Cheshire and Warrington and will:

- Provide leadership and direction to the Business Advisory Board, promoting a culture of openness, objectivity, collaboration and debate;
- Act as the principal link to the Local Authorities Joint Committee, working closely with elected members as a non-voting member;

- Provide effective representation of the views of the business community to the Joint Committee on the opportunities and challenges facing businesses, ensuring that succinct, comprehensive, timely, accurate and relevant summaries of the Business Advisory Board's views are placed before the Joint Committee to allow them to reach informed conclusions;
- Work closely with Business Advisory Board members, political leaders and officers from the LAs and Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington to ensure that C&W has in place a compelling, evidence-based future strategy and narrative for its economy;
- Be a principal advocate in public and the media of Cheshire and Warrington's vision and economic opportunities;
- Collaborate across a wider geography to bring understanding of and build relationships with the leaders of other Business Advisory Boards and similar organisations to ensure that Cheshire and Warrington plays a full part in and is able to take advantage of the economic opportunities at a North West, Northern and national level;
- Provide leadership to the Board in showing total commitment to equality of opportunity and diversity, including an understanding of the barriers and challenges faced by economically or socially excluded groups;
- Actively uphold the Nolan Principles of standards in public life and provide leadership to the Board so that it is seen as an exemplar in acting with integrity and selflessness for the wider benefit of the Cheshire and Warrington region;
- Preside over board meetings ensuring that time in meetings is used productively, that there is open and constructive debate, that all members have the opportunity to express their views and that any conflicts of interest are managed as appropriate;
- Convene and oversee sub-groups and task-and-finish groups to allow some issues to be considered in more depth by the Business Advisory Board;
- Other aspects of the role, as applicable to Business Advisory Board Members.

Person Specification

Essential Requirements for the role:

- A strong connection and commitment to Cheshire and Warrington and the success of the regional economy;
- A proven and recognised business leader with experience of undertaking leadership roles in business and/or the wider economy;
- Experience of chairing boards and meetings comprising other leaders and senior people with strongly held views;
- High level influencing, relationship and stakeholder engagement skills, including confidence and the ability to present complex concepts in an understandable way and respond constructively to challenge and scrutiny;
- Ability to work effectively, and represent the views of businesses of all types and across all sectors, and to work with political leaders from across the political spectrum;
- Ability to access, build and maintain strong and effective networks and working relationships across the public and private sectors in Cheshire and Warrington and more widely across the North and nationally;
- Appreciation of the issues in the area, including local economic, business, infrastructure, and political landscape and able to provide an advisory perspective on the economy as a whole;

- Politically astute, able to make sense of the full context in which the Business Advisory Board operates and able to guide board members on these issues;
- Able to provide a strategic view of the contribution of Cheshire and Warrington businesses to the economy and the factors which are key to achieving future growth ambitions;
- Has a commitment to both leading and working within a team, open to difference and with strong listening and questioning skills;
- Other personal attributes, as applicable to Business Advisory Board Members.