

Pride in Place

Central Barrow and Hindpool

Role Description: Independent Chair, Central Barrow Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board

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Deadline: 5pm, Wednesday 11th February

How to apply: Submit CV + a supporting statement (maximum word count 1000) to michelle.scrogham.mp@parliament.uk.

Overview

To deliver the Pride in Place Programme, Neighbourhood Boards are being set up in every funded neighbourhood across the country. Each Board will be led by an independent Chair.

We are seeking an Independent Chair to help establish, and then lead, the Neighbourhood Board for central Barrow. The chair will oversee the £20 million, 10-year, Pride in Place investment in central Barrow and Hindpool.

This is a unique opportunity to act as a champion for your community and make sure that decision-making by the board is being led by the views of local residents, including those who are not often involved in decisions about their area.

As Chair, you will help set up a board and guide it in creating a 10-year Pride in Place Plan with local residents. The primary job of the Chair is to be a champion for the area and to embody the community-led spirit of the programme. The Chair should have a deep connection to central Barrow and Hindpool. They can be new to this kind of work, and don't need to have had experience of being a board chair. What matters most is a commitment to seeing change through and improving the lives of those in their community.

This is expected to be a voluntary role, similar to that of a school governor or charity trustee. However, to ensure that Neighbourhood Boards have the right leadership, and to open the position up to candidates who might otherwise be unable to put themselves forward, a small basic payment may be provided from the programme's dedicated capacity funding to remunerate Chair time. More detail on this can be found in the programme prospectus.

The position will be an initial 2-year fixed term with the possibility of extension after that initial period.

What are we looking for?

- A respected leader who has strong links to the area.
- Someone who is passionate about the communities of central Barrow and Hindpool
- Someone with excellent communication skills, and someone who can bring people together.
- A person with a commitment to fairness, inclusivity, and resident-led decision-making.

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- Ability to build consensus and joint sense of purpose around the mission to improve the area.
- Skills in finding consensus, navigating conflict calmly and impartially, never allowing ego to get in the way of progress.
- Someone who can bring together community groups and prioritises community engagement as a central pillar of the programme.
- Thinks laterally and creatively about solutions to problems and ways to draw in community voices.

The Chair should not be:

- A gatekeeper or clique-builder; the Board should have a range of voices, including ones that differ from the Chair's.
- Seeking to push personal agendas – this is about what the community wants.
- The only decision-maker or expert in the room.
- The day-to-day delivery lead: this is a strategic post.

Skills and attributes of a good Chair:

- Fair and balanced, ensuring that all voices are heard
- Good at facilitating conversations, particularly when differences of opinion emerge
- Open to learning, feedback and development, and an interest in mentoring and upskilling others
- Welcoming, open and listens deeply to others
- Calm under pressure and manages conflict well
- Has time to prioritise the role

Key Responsibilities

- Help recruit and convene a board, with majority representation from local residents.
- Lead and chair the Neighbourhood Board, with support to ensure there is effective governance and collaboration.
- Stand up for your community and champion local voices.
- Ensuring underrepresented voices are heard.

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- Oversee the development of the Pride in Place Plan which will set out the vision over the next 10 years.

Why Apply?

- Play an important role in shaping the future of these amazing communities, that have been forgotten for too long.
- Help deliver lasting change for a community you care deeply about.
- Help ensure that this huge investment is spent wisely, and on projects that local people actually want.

How to Apply

If you are passionate about our local community and would like to lead this innovative project then we would like to hear from you.

Please submit CV a supporting statement outlining your connection to the area, relevant experience, and a summary of the approach you would bring to leading the board (maximum word count 1000) to michelle.scrogham.mp@parliament.uk. Deadline is 5pm, Wednesday 11th February.

For more information about the role or to arrange an informal chat prior to your application, please contact michelle.scrogham.mp@Parliament.uk or Tracey.Ingham@WestmorlandandFurness.gov.uk