



Recruitment Pack

Independent Chair
of the Western Forest
Programme Board

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Purpose of the role:

Western Forest is the national forest for the West - launched by government in March 2025 with £7.5m and long-term political backing. It spans Gloucestershire, the West of England and Wiltshire: a mixed landscape of trees, pasture, crops and towns, from the Cotswolds to the Mendips. 20 million trees will be planted by 2050 and existing woodlands restored – connecting cities, countryside and towns, improving the quality of life where people live, work and visit. We are driving economic growth, supporting farm businesses and creating accessible, nature-rich landscapes across the West.

We are now seeking an Independent Chair for the high-profile Programme Board to steer the programme and support its transition to a sustainable entity for the long-term.

This promises to be a varied, stimulating and rewarding role suited to a respected leader who can galvanise support from a range of partners – councils, nature charities, landowning bodies, membership organisations, business and commerce.

Qualities required:

- An effective and credible Chair
- A strategic thinker, skilled communicator and leader who can energise others
- An unbiased partnership champion who is non-partisan, politically aware and diplomatic
- Positive and flexible with good interpersonal skills
- Has networks, influence or specialist knowledge that can support the Programme and development of the new national forest
- The time commitment to prioritise this role
- Passionate about the ambitions of the Western Forest



Role Description:

- a) Providing leadership for the programme and ensuring fit for purpose Programme Board governance and procedures which deploy the skills of Programme Board members and others to best effect.
- b) Chairing Programme Board meetings and managing discussions to ensure constructive challenge and effective decision making.
- c) Maintaining oversight of the project's delivery to include timescales, KPIs and outputs to ensure effective delivery by the partnership on time and in budget.
- d) Acting as an ambassador for the Partnership, representing the Programme Board with external bodies, partners and funders, in discussion with the Director.
- e) Supporting strategic development of the Western Forest and future opportunities.
- f) Developing and maintaining an excellent working relationship with staff and representatives, championing and challenging.
- g) Maintaining an independent view and acting as an arbitrator if required.
- h) Attending regular review meetings with the National Forest Company and the programme's host, Forest of Avon Trust as required.

Terms of Appointment

- An initial 3-year appointment for the duration of the programme phase of the partnership
- The role requires the equivalent of one day per month
- This is a voluntary post with no salary payable but travel and other reasonable expenses will be paid
- The Chair will be in contact with the Director, Trustee Lead for the host organisation, the Forest of Avon Trust, and National Forest Company as the funder
- The Chair will be supported by the Director and a dedicated programme office
- Willingness to attend meetings and events across the Western Forest region

How to Apply

Submit a CV and 1–2 page covering letter to Jamie Audsley, Western Forest Director, at jamiea@westernforest.org.uk & info@westernforest.org.uk. Please use the subject header 'Western Forest Independent Chair'.

The closing date for applications is 5pm on Tuesday 8th September.

Interviews are scheduled for Wednesday 16th September, however the panel can be flexible in their approach if this date is not possible for you.

For further information on the programme, please refer to [our website](#) or contact Jamie on 07950 658 865 for an informal discussion.

Equal Opportunities

The Forest of Avon Trust (Programme Host), is an equal opportunities employer and positively encourages applications from suitably qualified and eligible candidates regardless of sex, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief, marital status, or pregnancy and maternity.



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westernforest.org.uk