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## National Trust

## North Regional Advisory Board

**The National Trust** is a charity founded in 1895 by three people who saw the importance of our nation’s heritage and open spaces and wanted to protect them for everyone to enjoy. More than 120 years later, these values are still at the heart of everything we do. We look after special places throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland for ever, for everyone.

We look after coastline, forests, woods, fens, beaches, farmland, moorland, islands, archaeological remains, nature reserves, villages, historic houses, gardens, mills and pubs. We restore them, protect them and open them up to everyone. For the Trust, conservation has always gone hand-in-hand with public access. We welcome everyone to explore:

* 780 miles of coastline
* Over 248,000 hectares of land
* Over 500 historic houses, castles, ancient monuments, gardens and parks and nature reserves

We have over 5 million members, 8,000 employees, and more than 61,000 volunteers. Nearly 27 million people visit our pay for entry properties, while an estimated 50 million visit our open air properties.

We are completely independent of Government and rely on income from membership fees, donations and legacies, and revenue raised from our commercial operations.

The Trust’s strategic vision is focussed not only on how we can do more to look after the special places in our care and continue to engage our existing and new supporters with our cause, but crucially on how we can make sure that, no matter who they are or where they come from, everyone feels welcome and able to make a difference to the places that matter to them.

In the North Region, we have so many special places covering a wide variety of places from abbey ruins and castles, magnificent houses and glorious gardens to some wonderful stretches of coast, countryside and national parks. Combined with the industrial legacy of our northern cities, it is a region of contrasts and the potential to present our places in new ways and curate and tell stories that resonate with our audience is one of the most exciting things about the region.

**The North Regional Advisory Board** has up to ten members. It advises, supports and challenges the Regional Director and the regional leadership team to help them deliver the Trust’s strategy in the region.

It does this by:

* advising on exemplar ways to implement the Trust’s national strategy in the region and offering constructive support and challenge to the Regional Director and his team in the delivery of regional business plans;
* Contributing to debates on major issues affecting the future success of the region;
* Supporting the Regional Director to establish and develop a presence in the region by acting as an ambassador for the Trust externally, opening doors and making introductions with key contacts and stakeholders;
* Bringing knowledge of the region, its people and their needs to the Trust;
* Where possible, providing support on projects and other challenges as requested by staff, outside of the Board meetings.

**Ways of working**

We currently hold three meetings a year, usually at one of our properties or consultancy hubs. One of these may also involve an overnight stay, and an opportunity over dinner for a more in depth discussion with the Regional Director. In our meetings we aim to explore a particular topic (or topics) of relevance to the delivery of the regional business plans, as agreed with the Regional Director.

Administration is light-touch, in keeping with our purely advisory role. Beyond meeting agendas and brief outcome notes of each meeting, papers are kept to a minimum, and, where possible, circulated electronically.

Board members’ involvement also happens outside meetings through the provision of advice to staff on projects, other initiatives and regional contacts/networks.

Each year the Board Chair provides a written report for the Board of Trustees highlighting key issues or concerns in their region. Regional Advisory Board Chairs meet twice a year with the Trust Chairman and Director-General to discuss issues of common concern.

**The commitment**

Board members are among the Trust’s 61,000 volunteers. The Board meets three times each year during the day on weekdays. On each occasion we meet at a property or hub to give advice on management and development issues. We aim to cover a range of properties, the types of issues covered and their geographic location. Taking into account travel, these are whole day or two day meetings.

Members are encouraged to sit on Project Boards where their skills and experience match our needs. Project Boards are set up to manage major investment (such as at Quarry Bank or Seaton Delaval Hall) or programmes of work (such as our Land, Outdoors and Nature programme). The input is much appreciated by staff and they give members a valuable chance to get closer to practical action, although it is not expected that every member will be able to commit the time needed for this role.

Sub-groups of 2-3 members are occasionally used to give one-off advice on specific projects such as a proposed acquisition.

We hope that this method of working is flexible enough to attract a wide range of members from the ranks of the employed, self-employed, semi-retired and retired. Reasonable expenses incurred on Trust business are reimbursed.

**Who are the members?**

Current members bring a wide range of experience to the Board – environment, and agriculture, running leisure and heritage attractions, marketing and communications, urban regeneration, research, retail, data management – gained in the commercial, public and charitable sectors. Brief details of the current members are attached.

**Why join our Regional Advisory Board?**

There are probably as many reasons as there are Board members. But here’s a suggestion:

* You will be able to make a contribution towards protecting some of the country’s finest buildings and landscapes, and helping people to enjoy them;
* You will gain or develop your experience of playing a non-executive but influential role in a large, complex organisation which has all the characteristics of a commercial company, a campaigning charity and a public body rolled into one;
* You will enjoy debating issues and problem solving with a diverse group of committed enthusiasts: your fellow Board members, Trust staff, other volunteers and external partners.

**This recruitment**

We are looking for a Chair to be appointed from early 2019.

As **Chair** you will work closely with the Regional Director who really values a constructively supportive and challenging working relationship. You will also clearly provide leadership to the Regional Advisory Board.

We are looking for a Chair who:

* has a passion for the North, , and knows and appreciates the region and its progressive, innovative, dynamic and diverse character;
* is networked, and can help to develop new and existing partnerships and collaborations regionally, helping to open doors, working alongside the Regional Director to influence others;
* will push and challenge the Regional Director and his team, encouraging them to find bold, creative and pragmatic solutions , supporting them to make the right decisions;
* can act as a sounding board for the Regional Director personally, enabling him to explore ideas and think through tricky issues facing the region;
* will help get the best out of our Regional Advisory Board as individual members and a collective group.

Appointments are made for three years and members may be reappointed once ie. for a maximum of six years. All members are expected to share and demonstrate the Trust’s Values and Behaviours which can be found in the attached Board’s Terms of Reference.

**Application**

If you are interested, please send a CV and covering letter to the Secretary of the Board: [Catharine.sharman@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Catharine.sharman@nationaltrust.org.uk)

Whilst e-mail is our preferred method of working, our postal address is: Regional Advisory Board, National Trust, Altrincham Hub, 18 High Street, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 1PH.

Please make clear in the covering letter what you expect to bring to the work of the Board, based on the contents of this note.

**Timetable**

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| **Date** | **Item** |
| Thursday 3 January 2019 | Closing Date of Applications |
| Tuesday 15 January 2019 | Initial Interviews (held in Manchester) |
| Thursday 21 March 2019 | First Board Meeting |

**Further information**

There is a wealth of general information about our work on the Trust’s main web site: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/>. You will also find further information about Governance volunteering by typing “Governance” in the search function in the top right of the website screen.