**Role profile: Chair, Strategic Oversight Board, Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership (ZCCP)**

**Voluntary role**

**Location:** Preferably based in Cumbria

**Term**: From January 2025 for 12 months initially with the possibility of extension.

**Time commitment:** For discussion but may vary from a few hours a week, to up a day on occasion, usually during work hours, usually online and occasionally in the evening.

**About the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership**

**Community groups, local authorities, businesses, educational institutions, farming and forestry enterprises, national parks and other organisations from across Cumbria have joined forces as the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership, supported by funding from the National Lottery Climate Action Fund.**

**This unique collaboration of around 80 organisations has adopted the ambition of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2037, aiming to ensure that the actions taken to reduce the county’s emissions are fair for the people most affected and that all the co-benefits of action are maximised.**

We have published Emission Reduction Action Plans (ERAPs) for Cumbria covering Transport, Buildings, Consumption and Waste, Farming and Land Use. These Plans identify the key parties that need to take decarbonisation action to deliver the necessary emission reductions on the pathway to net zero. Stakeholders are signing up to these actions. Our next priority is to plan the continuation of the Partnership after the National Lottery funding ends in December 2025.

Wider information on Zero Carbon Cumbria can be found on our web site here: <https://zerocarboncumbria.co.uk/>

**About the Strategic Oversight Board**

The SOB provides strategic leadership and supports the delivery of the mission, planning and actions of the ZCCP to achieve the science-based ambition of reaching net zero by 2037.The SOB Terms of Reference are available on request.

Membership of the SOB includes the ZCC Partnership manager, elected members from Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils, senior representatives from the Lake District National Park, Cumbria Tourism, the Local Nature Partnership, the community sustainability network, a youth organisation, and the co-chairs of the ZCCP. The group meets as required but usually every two months.

**Role Purpose**

The Chair will lead the SOB to ensure it is operating strategically and transparently and is influential as a group as well as through its individual members, who are themselves influential and representative of key interests in emissions in Cumbria.

**Key accountabilities**

1. Leading, chairing and overseeing the efficient functioning of and performance of the SOB to best support achievement of ZCCP’s ambition.
2. Ensuring that the SOB assesses, challenges and supports ZCCP’s activities, analysis, plans, actions and monitoring and evaluation.
3. Ensuring review and improvement of the effectiveness of the SOB and its contribution to the ZCCP vision and mission.
4. Ensuring clear and accurate actions are agreed at each meeting and working with the ZCCP team to monitor progress.
5. Supporting or advising, where appropriate, the activities of the Sector Groups and other key initiatives.
6. Acting as a figurehead and promoting the interests and activity of ZCCP, consistent with its ambition and governance.
7. Networking across Cumbria with diverse stakeholders critical to ZCCP’s success to foster collaboration and commitment to ZCCP’s aims.
8. Helping to establish the form, function and resourcing of ZCCP to ensure action on decarbonisation at the scale and pace required continues after the end the National Lottery support.
9. Ensuring the highest standards of integrity in SOB’s operation and being transparent to the full Partnership and other stakeholders on its activities.

**Approach and ways of working**

* The Chair should develop good working relationships with elected members but remain apolitical.
* The Chair should work closely with the Co-chairs of the ZCCP and the Partnership Manager, staying informed of wider partnership matters and ensuring there is an effective two-way flow of information between the SOB and ZCCP.
* The Chair may be invited to join ZCC project staff meetings to help their understanding of plans and progress.
* The focus of the Chair’s role is to ensure the strategic effectiveness of ZCCPs activities through leadership of the SOB.
* The Chair should stay well informed of the work of the Zero Carbon Lottery funded projects but is not directly involved in the operational work of the programmes.
* The Chair should make connections with leaders of key organisations that can support the drive to net zero by 2037.
* The SOB will aim to review ZCCP’s operations and performance annually.

**Personal Attributes**

Essential:

* An experienced chairperson at a senior level.
* A good understanding and strong commitment to addressing climate change and delivering net zero.
* An excellent networker.
* Able to communicate with and engage a wide range of people and organisations.
* Strong interpersonal and presentation skills.
* Well organised with the ability to balance a range of priorities and deadlines.
* Highly motivated.
* Able to operate apolitically.
* Have the time to work flexibly to meet the needs of the role.
* Quick to respond and follow up or take action.
* Appreciation and understanding of working with diverse perspectives.

Desirable:

* A recognised leader in addressing climate change.
* Knowledgeable about Cumbria’s environment, society and economy.
* A broad personal network throughout the communities, organisations and businesses of Cumbria.
* Experience of collaborating with and/or influencing UK government and other national or regional institutions or partnerships.