



## **Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership**

### **Independent Chair Background and Job Role/ Specification**

#### **Background:**

Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership was set up in 2007 as an informal partnership of the main public-sector bodies with an economic and socio-economic remit in the Caithness and North Sutherland area.

Its aim is to coordinate and lead the response to the socio-economic impacts associated with the decommissioning of the Dounreay nuclear site. The partners are Highlands and Islands Enterprise, The Highland Council, Skills Development Scotland, Caithness Chamber of Commerce, The Scottish Government, Cavendish Dounreay Partnership and The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

Delivery Plans for the periods 2008-2011; 2011-14; and 2014-17 each provided a framework for the delivery of actions designed to broaden the economy away from its reliance on decommissioning work at Dounreay. Between 2008 and 2017 an estimated 1,300 full-time equivalent jobs have been created or retained within the area economy. Independent economic impact studies in 2011 and 2016 have assessed progress against a Baseline study carried out in 2006.

A Programme for 2017-20 focuses on opportunities in key areas such as Offshore Wind, Tidal, Oil & Gas, UK Vertical Launch, Business & Nuclear Services, North Coast 500. More information is available at the Partnership's website <http://www.cnsrp.org.uk/>

Since 2007 the Partnership has consisted of three groupings:

- An Executive Board, under the independent chairmanship of Sir Anthony Cleaver, brings together the Chief Executives or senior staff from local/ regional partners and an official from the Scottish Government's Rural Economy and Connectivity team.
- A Delivery Group, which works on the delivery of actions, and also includes a representative from Caithness Chamber of Commerce, to reflect the role played by the private sector in delivery
- An Advisory Board, which brings together politicians, business groups, community representatives and trades union officials, as well as other bodies such as The Crown Estate, SNH, North Highland College UHI and Job Centre Plus.

Sir Anthony Cleaver is stepping down as Independent Chair after 10 years, and partners now seek to offer a fixed term contract to fill the role of Independent Chair, based on the role description below.

#### **Contract:**

- The contract will have a duration of two years from contract award, with an expected time commitment of up to 3 days per month.

- The contract will attract a rate of £300 per day, with reasonable travel expenses incurred in carrying out the role reimbursed.

**Role:**

- To chair quarterly meetings of the CNSRP Executive Board, ensuring that members of the Board are able to provide strategic direction to the CNSRP Programme via the CNSRP Programme Manager.
- To work with the Programme Manager to ensure that an effective risk management plan is maintained, enabling clear oversight of mitigating actions reported to the Executive Board.
- To provide effective public leadership of the Partnership, working on an agreed programme of communications activities/ events to ensure that progress in delivering Partnership aims is communicated to stakeholders.
- To build and maintain links with politicians, ensuring that the Partnership's aims are understood by relevant Government departments and by Ministers. This may include travel to key locations such as Scottish Parliament, Westminster.

**Essential skills:**

- Prior experience developing effective public/private partnerships and working collaboratively with partners to deliver successful outcomes
- Proven effectiveness operating in a complex business/ organisational environment, and in influencing senior leadership figures across the private and public sectors including at ministerial level
- Well-developed political sensitivity, to secure confidence of key stakeholders, and the ability to operate under high levels of scrutiny
- In-depth knowledge of the Caithness & North Sutherland and wider Highlands and Islands areas/ economies
- Prior experience of interfacing with strategies for economic development, either as a business or public sector leader
- Excellent negotiating, influencing and consensus-building skills
- Ability to work and engage with a diverse range of stakeholders developing shared and clear objectives
- Full current driving license

**Desirable skills:**

- Established relationships at very senior levels in CNSRP partner organisations; within central government; and with business owners in the private sector
- A track record of innovation and effective risk assessment/ management
- Prior experience in managing effective media relations
- Access to transport
- Flexibility to travel outside of the Caithness/ North Sutherland area when required.

Expressions of interest in the role should be submitted to Eann Sinclair, CNSRP Programme Manager, Tollemache House, Thurso KW14 8AZ, Telephone 01847 805211 or email [eann.sinclair@hient.co.uk](mailto:eann.sinclair@hient.co.uk) to arrive no later than **2pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018**. Informal enquiries should also be directed to Eann Sinclair at the above contacts.