

Chair of Trustees Recruitment Pack

CPRE Lancashire, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester seeks a dynamic individual to lead its work to enhance and protect the local countryside and green spaces of our region for everyone to enjoy



The countryside charity
Lancashire, Liverpool City Region
and Greater Manchester

Thank you very much for your interest in joining the trustee board at CPRE Lancashire, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester,

Our current Chair, Debbie McConnell, will reach the end of her term in office in September 2023 and we are looking to recruit a successor as soon as possible to enable an extended handover period for the new candidate.

About CPRE Lancashire, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester

At CPRE, the countryside charity, we want a thriving, beautiful countryside for everyone. We believe in countryside and green spaces that are accessible to all, rich in nature and playing a crucial role in responding to the climate emergency.

We are the local CPRE group for Lancashire, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester, and with our colleagues in other counties and at National CPRE, we're advocating for the kind of countryside we all want: one with sustainable, healthy

communities and available to more people than ever, including those who haven't benefited before.

We stand for a countryside that enriches all of our lives, regenerating our wellbeing, and that we in turn regenerate, protect and celebrate.

Our people

The charity currently has five Trustees. Our directly employed staff team includes one full-time, qualified Planner and three part-time members of staff on a two-year National Lottery Heritage Funded project, the GM Ringway Project. Admin and communications support staff work on a contractor basis.

We have a team of volunteers across our area who monitor and respond to planning applications, supported by our planning staff.

Our campaigns

CPRE aims to achieve the best use of land by influencing land-use planning policies and planning decisions taken at national, local and neighbourhood level including:

- reducing our carbon emissions;



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- avoiding the use of green belt, the countryside and other designated landscapes for inappropriate development;
- advocating “brownfield first” in land use;
- campaigns focused on food and farming, affordable rural housing, transport, energy (shale gas fracking and renewables), and waste.

Our projects

In addition to our work responding to planning applications and helping to shape Local Plans across the area, we undertake project work to support broadening access to the countryside and green spaces for disadvantaged and marginalised communities.

Knowsley Project

In 2021, we received funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of a group bid from CPRE to support children from disadvantaged areas of Knowsley to access the countryside and spend time outdoors growing food and learning about the heritage of a local historic park.

Hedgerows Project

Hedgerows are the vital stitching in the patchwork of our countryside. Not only are they beautiful, with shifting seasonal colours, but they also provide homes and corridors for wildlife. And all the while they help tackle the climate crisis by capturing carbon.

As part of CPRE’s wider #40by50 campaign, we are working with The Conservation Volunteers to plant 2km of hedgerows in our area over autumn and winter 2022/3, working with primary schools and local volunteer groups to get people out into the countryside and provide practical training on planting and maintaining hedgerows.

GM Ringway Project

CPRE Lancashire, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester successfully bid for £250,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to implement the GM Ringway, a new 300 km walking trail which passes through some of the most spectacular scenery in each of Greater Manchester’s ten boroughs. Green in every sense, each stage is accessible by public transport.

Events

We organise regular walks across our region, as well as talks and workshops (both online and in person) on topics of relevance such as soil health, biodiversity, affordable housing, and environmental issues.

Partnerships

We work with a range of aligned groups to support groups in responding to planning applications and local plans.

As chair you’ll provide leadership to our board of trustees and oversee the future direction and development of our charity. You’ll ensure that the



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requirements of the constitution are met and that our governance complies with charity law and best practice.

We're ideally looking for someone with leadership and charity board experience and a passion for environmental and countryside issues.

The role of Chair is voluntary, but out-of-pocket expenses can be covered.

Time commitment: a minimum of 1 to 1.5 days per week

What you will be doing

- Providing strategic leadership to our charity and supporting fundraising, membership and engagement initiatives
- Ensuring our charity meets constitutional and governance requirements
- Ensuring the financial integrity and long-term sustainability of our charity
- Building relationships and representing CPRE at community, council and partnership meetings
- Liaising with local CPREs, regional groups and national CPRE
- Supporting trustees and volunteers and identifying candidates for succession
- Safeguarding the good name and values of our charity
- Advocating the work of CPRE through public speaking and media interviews
- Providing or arranging line management of any employees
- Chairs also represent our charity by being the voting member at national CPRE
- Ensuring board and subgroup meetings and our AGM are held on a regular basis

The skills you need

- A commitment to CPRE policies, brand, campaigns and initiatives
- Some previous experience in leadership, management and organisational development
- Good interpersonal skills with the ability to demonstrate diplomacy, impartiality, respect and confidentiality
- Previous experience of committee work- paid or voluntary
- Knowledge of environmental and countryside issues
- Knowledge of the charity sector including funding and governance
- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Experience of working with people from different backgrounds and abilities
- Be able to commit to volunteering regularly to suit your availability, including attendance at meetings

We ask that all trustees are, or are willing to become, members of CPRE

What's in it for you

Use your skills and experience to contribute to the success of our charity and make a positive difference to the countryside

Meet like-minded people and enjoy being part of a team

Enhance your CV by developing new skills and gaining valuable experience

We'll support you to develop in your volunteering role and provide you with relevant training

Please apply via our online volunteering hub:
www.cprelancashire.org.uk/volunteer

Please contact us (tel. 01772 378831 or email info@cprelancashire.org.uk) if you would like to arrange a time for an informal chat with our current Chair, Debbie McConnell



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