

Independent Panel Member for HS2's Community & Environment Fund, Business & Local Economy Fund and Biodiversity Investment Fund

There is now the opportunity to become an Independent Panel member for the HS2 Community & Environment Fund (CEF), Business & Local Economy Fund (BLEF) and Biodiversity Investment Fund (BIF).

As we enter the next period of our work as an Independent Panel with the funding programmes for Phase One and Phase 2a live and the planning for Phase 2b now beginning, we are seeking an individual to join our established Independent Panel due to a recent retirement. We welcome applications from people with the humility, skills and professionalism required to contribute to this next phase, bringing a breadth of thinking and a commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.

The funding programme for Phase One of HS2 was launched in March 2017 and in April 2021 for Phase 2a to give back to communities disrupted by its construction. To date nearly £15m has been awarded to line of route communities from London to Crewe from a £47m allocation covering the duration of the construction period. This is therefore a medium to long-term programme which requires considered and effective management. Independent Panel members work with the HS2 Funds Manager, independent grant administrators Groundwork UK, the Panel's Independent Chair and fellow Independent Panel members to have oversight of the work of the Funds, review and recommend high level strategic awards, and act as a critical friend to the programme on its current and future plans.

We welcome applications from people who bring board or equivalent level experience in a variety of sectors, not necessarily directly in transport, demonstrating governance and grant-making experience that is relevant and transferable.

We are very committed to increasing the diversity of our Independent Panel so that it is representative of the population we support along HS2's line of route, and welcome applications from people with a knowledge of those line of route communities, such as the West Midlands. We particularly welcome applications from people from an ethnic minority background.

Further information on the programme, including guidance documents, news items and awards made to date can be found online at www.hs2funds.org.uk.

Essential Skills, Experience and Knowledge

- Senior level experience in grant-making or investment schemes via a lay, trustee/voluntary or non-executive role
- Senior level experience of the governance requirements of a grant-making or investment body
- Senior level experience of Strategic Risk Oversight and Management
- Active contributor to a Panel, Forum or Board and its development (in a lay or non-executive role)
- Senior level experience in a public sector body, or a public facing major local, regional or national organisation

Desirable Skills, Experience and Knowledge

One of more of the following are sought:

- Senior level economic policy and economic development experience
- Senior level town planning or regeneration policy and development experience
- Senior level experience of working with multiple stakeholders in communities, such as MPs, Local Authorities, Parish Councils and local community leaders
- Senior level experience in environmental conservation, biodiversity and related investment and/or climate change
- Senior level experience of social investment models and tools

Person Specification

- Commitment to the Nolan Principles of Public Life and HS2's Values and Principles
- Commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Independent minded, though accepting collective responsibility
- Ability to work collaboratively and collegiately
- Proactive in managing conflicts of interest and working openly and transparently
- A commitment to continuous learning and quality improvement

Time commitment: Quarterly virtual or in-person meetings either a full or half day, plus reading time. Typically the equivalent to approx. 6 to 8 days a year contracted commitment.

Remuneration: Day rate is £400 (£200 for half day).

Deadline for applications: 9am on 18th October 2023.

To apply please email your CV to town.planning@hs2.org.uk