

Chair of Ipswich Town Deal and Vision Board



Welcome

Dear candidate

Thank you for taking an interest in this exciting role.

Ipswich is the County Town of Suffolk with a population of around 140,000 people and we are situated one hour north east of London. It is home to the University of Suffolk and the Port of Ipswich and has a range of major employers including Willis Towers Watson, Axa and BT (with their major research facility of Adastral Park on the edge of the town) and a dynamic and growing cultural sector.

We are ambitious for our place and local partners are determined to drive sustainable growth and to maximise the opportunities that come with being one of the Government's Town Deal locations (with £25m of funding).

To get ourselves in the best place possible to benefit from opportunities that are available we have brought together the two main partnership boards in the Ipswich area (the Ipswich Vision Board and the Ipswich Town Deal Board) in order to ensure a joined-up and collaborative approach to the growth and regeneration of the Town.

We are now seeking an experienced and enthusiastic Chair to lead and develop the new Board and help us shape and deliver what is a hugely exciting agenda for the Town. Anchor partners involved include Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, Ipswich Central (our Business Improvement District), Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk County Council, University of Suffolk and the town's two MPs (Tom Hunt and Dr Daniel Poulter).

It is vital that our new Chair must have significant private sector experience but also be able to work effectively across sectors and with civil servants, government officials and elected politicians, both local and national.

This would be a great role for someone with a passion for making 'Places' better, who has some NED experience and who enjoys or would like to experience public/private partnerships. Experience of being able to communicate productively with press and other media would also be an asset.

Regards

Professor Helen Langton
Vice Chancellor, University of Suffolk
Vice Chair – Ipswich Vision / Town Deal Board.

About the Ipswich Town Deal and Vision Board

Local partners in Ipswich have brought together the two main 'partnership boards' in the Ipswich area (the Ipswich Vision Board and the Ipswich Town Deal Board) in order to ensure that the strategic vision and the funding sources are aligned for our future.

The new Board will play a leading role in taking forward the Connected Town concept and the 11 Town Deal projects that HM Government is supporting with up to £25m of funding.

The Board is also likely to be the lead partnership vehicle that supports the development, submission and delivery of projects associated with the Levelling Up White Paper (e.g. the Second Round of Levelling Up Fund projects and the devolved UK Shared Prosperity Fund Opportunities).

Finally, it is anticipated that the Board will support partners looking to take forward and / or develop a number of other programmes and initiatives – such as the Strategy that the Ipswich Transportation Task Force is producing. Further details of these strands can be found at:

About the Towns Fund | Ipswich Borough Council

<https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/greateripswichvision>

Connected Waterfront Town Centre

Terms of Reference

Purpose:

- To help drive forward long term, inclusive economic and productivity growth in Ipswich.
- To take forward the implementation of the Connected Town initiative.
- To ensure successful delivery of the Town Investment Plan and the 11 Ipswich Town Deal projects.
- To lead on any partnership work required in the lead up to any other major regeneration and transport bids to Government (e.g. 'Levelling Up Fund Bid(s)').

Responsibilities:

- To co-ordinate the delivery of the Connected Town initiative and to provide an Annual Report on progress.
- Influence stakeholders to ensure there is sufficient resources and co-investment to deliver the Town Investment Plan and the 11 projects.
- Advise on other strategic economic interventions across Ipswich to ensure coordinated and effective delivery, and to identify gaps and opportunities and to drive forward new initiatives.
- To decide whether to support / endorse any relevant funding bids for the Ipswich Borough area (eg. bids to the Government's Levelling Up Fund).
- To adhere to The Seven Principles of Public Life (ie. the 'Nolan Principles').

Task Forces

The Board can set up 'sub-groups' (such as Task Forces) to lead on any aspects of its work where it considers that appropriate.

Task Forces are already in place to co-ordinate work on three Town Deal Projects:

1. Ipswich Oasis (lead organisation: Suffolk County Council)
2. Local Shopping Parades (lead organisation: Ipswich Borough Council)
3. Digital Town Centre (lead organisation: Ipswich Central)

An additional 'Connected Town' Task Force (to be chaired by Terry Baxter) will be set up with the remit of leading the work to take forward the Connected Town Strategy following widespread consultation on the draft Strategy in 2021. It is anticipated that Ipswich Central will be the lead organisation for this Task Force.

An additional 'Monitoring and Evaluation' Task Force will be set up (to be chaired by Dr Daniel Poulter MP) with the remit of overseeing the relationship between the Board, the Borough Council (as accountable body for the Town Deal) and the individual project leads - and providing input – as required – to HM Government on project reporting. It is anticipated that New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership will be the lead organisation for this Task Force.

Further information

The Board will be supported by the Chief Executive of Ipswich Borough Council and the Chief Executive of the Local Enterprise Partnership. Other people can attend where considered helpful to the Board.

Ipswich Borough Council is 'lead council' and 'accountable body' for the Town Deal process / funding and will organise and administer the meetings. In doing so the Borough Council will be supported by an Operations Group made up of representatives of the Core Members (and chaired by the Chief Executive of the Local Enterprise Partnership)

NB: It is possible that, following the appointment of a new Chair and with input from the Board and partners, the Board will be given a new name / brand.



Current membership

It is intended that the Board membership will be finalised when the new Chair is in place – ie from September 2022. This may lead to a recommendation for a change to the membership structure (etc) from that of the current Board (s).

Existing Members of the Ipswich Town Deal Board

Chair: Vacant

Vice Chair:

1. Professor Helen Langton: Vice-Chancellor of the University of Suffolk

Other Board Members:

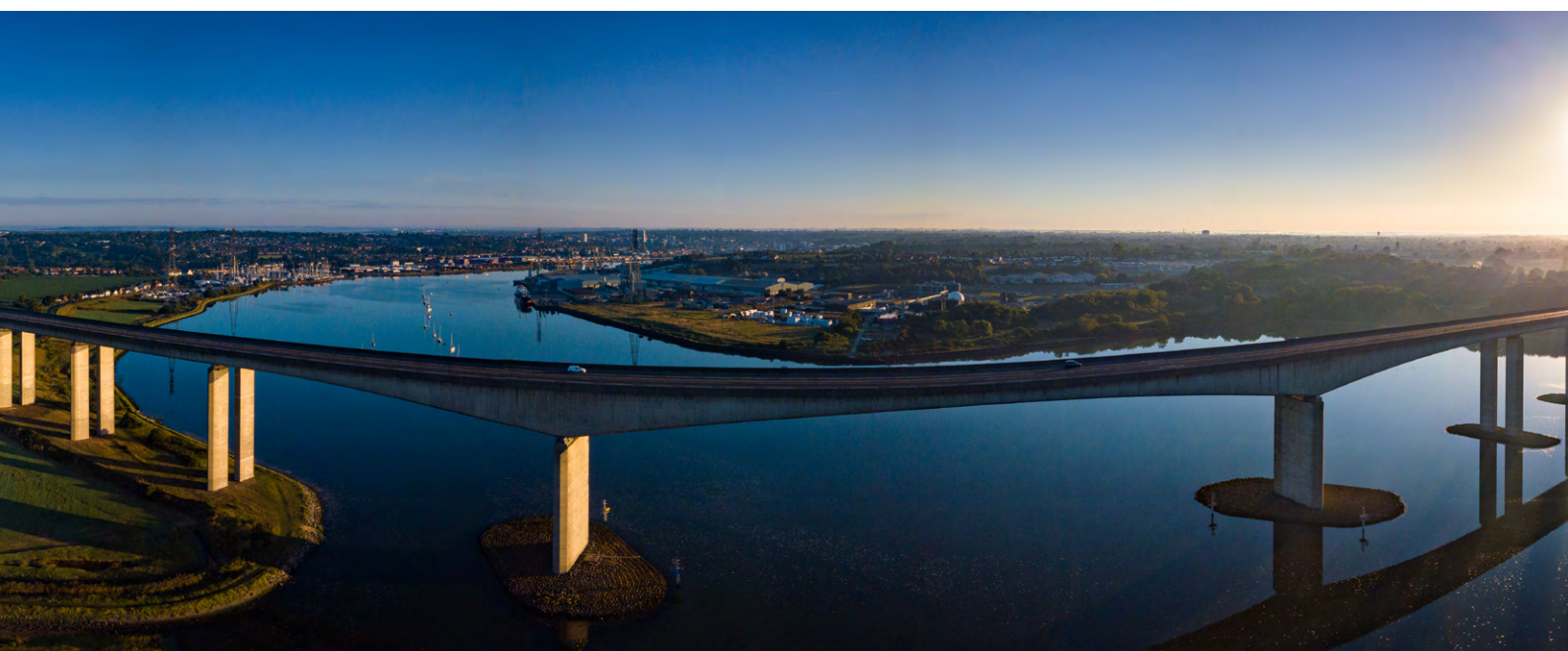
2. Terry Baxter: Exec Chair of Ipswich Central Ltd (Business Improvement District)
3. James Davey: Personal Business Mentor and committee member of the Ipswich & Suffolk Small Business Association
4. Dr Dean Dorsett: Local GP in central Ipswich and Governing Body member of the Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group
5. David Ellesmere: Leader of Ipswich Borough Council
6. C-J Green: Co-Founder and Executive Director of BraveGoose and Chair of New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
7. Sarah Holmes: Chief Executive of The New Wolsey
8. Tom Hunt: Member of Parliament for Ipswich
9. Becca Jackaman: Progression Sessions
10. Catherine Johnson: Partner at Birketts LLP and Vice-President of Suffolk Chamber of Commerce.
11. Sophie Alexander: Chief Executive: Ipswich Central and All About Ipswich
12. Dr Daniel Poulter: Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich
13. Paul West: Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding

Existing Membership of Ipswich Vision Board

Chair: Vacant

Board Members: Numbers 1, 2, 5, 8, 10 and 13 from above plus:

14. Professor Dave Muller Dave: Chair of All About Ipswich (the Destination Marketing Organisation for Ipswich)
15. Chris Starkie, Chief Executive, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership



About Ipswich

Ipswich is the oldest English town that boasts a "new" waterfront, a university and a cultural centre that attracts visitors from all over the world. Its location makes connection nationally and internationally easy; business premises and housing are competitive; and there is so much to do both in the town and around the beautiful countryside of Suffolk. We are one of the fastest growing urban centres in the East of England region. A third of a million people live within 15 miles of the town centre and enjoy thriving commercial and educational sectors, cultural festivals, theatres, museums and excellent sports facilities.

Ipswich has strong sectors in financial and professional services, ICT and digital creative, manufacturing, ports and logistics as well as being a base for various public sector organisations. We have numerous high quality public and private schools, a further education college and a University Campus. We offer excellent transport links with London, the rest of the country and Europe and have the added advantage of being surrounded by unspoilt countryside and close proximity to the Suffolk coast. House prices are low in comparison with most other towns and cities within an hour of London.

The many advantages of Ipswich have been recognised with its selection by Government as a City Deal partner and a centre for the Recreate creative industries programme supported by the EU. The "Greater Ipswich" City Deal will drive forward local growth, boost investment in skills and apprenticeships and cut unemployment among the young. The Greater Ipswich area is central to the prosperity of the region, providing 260,000 jobs and hosting nearly 20,000 trading businesses.

For further information:

<https://allaboutipswich.com>

<https://www.visitsuffolk.com/>

<https://newanglia.co.uk/>

<https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/>

Role of Chair – role profile

Local partners in Ipswich have brought together the two main 'partnership boards' in the Ipswich area (the Ipswich Vision Board and the Ipswich Town Deal Board) in order to ensure that the strategic vision and the funding sources are aligned for our future.

The Board chair is responsible and accountable for:

- Leading and developing a new Board made up of the previous Ipswich Vision Board and the Ipswich Town Deal Board.
- Playing a leading role in taking forward the Connected Town concept (Connected Waterfront Town Centre) and the 11 Town Deal projects that HM Government is supporting with up to £25m of funding (About the Ipswich Town Deal).
- Promoting the highest standards of integrity, probity and corporate governance throughout the related bodies and programmes and particularly within the new Board.
- Ensuring that constructive relationships based on candour, trust and mutual respect exist between the Board and related partners.
- Taking responsibility for the Board's composition and development including the involvement in the selection and induction of Board members.
- Ensuring effective Board logistics including the planning and conducting of effective board meetings supported by relevant information.
- Developing effective working relationships with all colleagues, providing support, guidance and advice.

Key responsibilities:

Governance

- Ensure that the governance arrangements are working in the most effective way.
- Ensure that meetings are well planned and meaningful.
- Advocating and providing leadership role modelling for good corporate governance.

Strategic leadership

- Provide leadership to the various programmes and initiatives and to the Board.
- Ensure that the Board is able to regularly review associated opportunities and major risks and, satisfy itself that systems are in place to take advantage of opportunities and, manage and mitigate the risks.
- Ensure that the Board fulfils its duties to ensure sound financial health of its relevant programmes and components, with systems in place to ensure appropriate monitoring and evaluation of project / programme delivery.

External relations and collaborative relationships

- Act as an ambassador for the Board and its related projects / programmes and initiatives.
- Act as a spokesperson for the Board when appropriate (including with the media).
- Represent the Board at external functions, meetings and events.
- Ensure effective communication with the various partners, stakeholders and other interested parties.
- Ensure that the Board is able to identify, develop and manage effective collaborative business relationships within or between organisations.

Efficiency and effectiveness

- Chair meetings of the Board effectively and efficiently, bringing impartiality and objectivity to the decision-making process.
- Ensure that Board Members are fully engaged and that decisions are taken in the best, long-term interests of the Board and that the Board takes collective ownership.
- Ensuring that the Board receives accurate, timely and clear information.
- Sum up discussions so that everyone understands what has been agreed.
- Monitor that decisions taken at meetings are implemented.

Further information:

- The Chair has the casting vote on any matters voted upon (in addition to their normal vote as a Board Member). The Chair will agree the Agenda of each meeting – and the draft minutes of each meeting – with the Borough Council – prior to publication.
- The Chair's term of office will expire on 1 October 2024.
- In the event that the Chair is absent – for whatever reason – the Vice Chancellor of the University will Chair the meeting / item (as Vice-Chair of the Board) and if they are also absent then those in attendance will elect a temporary chair from within the private sector attendees present.
- It is estimated that the time commitment to the role will be approximately 1 day a week (on average).
- The contractual 'employer' of the Chair will be the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership.
- The Chair will need to be independent of the organisations on the Board.



Personal qualities

- Ability to demonstrate tact and diplomacy, with the ability to listen and engage effectively.
- Strong networking capabilities that can be utilised for the benefit of the Board and related programmes.
- Commercial skills and understanding.
- Ability to foster and promote a collaborative team environment.
- Ability to constructively challenge.
- Ability to represent the board in dealings with the media and enhance the reputation of the local area with the media.
- Ability to seek, challenge, assimilate and analyse information quickly in order to explore complex issues at a high level and to inform decision making.
- A portfolio of Board level governance and organisational skills including strategic planning, financial management and risk management, performance management and business and service development.
- Ability to quickly gain the trust and confidence of all Board members.
- Ability to act as 'convenor' of the board.

Experience

- Leadership experience in a significant private sector organisation.
- Experience of building alliances and working relationships with a range of stakeholders across the public and private sectors, providing support and advice.
- NED/board experience, and ideally Chair experience, in a public/private partnership setting.
- Experience of working in regeneration/place shaping or a related area.
- Experience of working with (and an understanding of) government and related bodies, both local and national.

Terms of Appointment

Remuneration

This role attracts remuneration of £22,000 per year plus reasonable expenses relating to execution of the role.

The contractual 'employer' of the Chair will be the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership.

Time commitment

The role requires approximately 1 day per week.

Meetings

The meetings will be quarterly unless the Board decides to meet more frequently.

Term of appointment

The initial term is for two years.



How to Apply

For more information about this opportunity please contact Luke Judd at Starfish Search on 07435 270659 or luke.judd@starfishsearch.com for a confidential discussion.

When you are ready to apply please go to the job listing at <https://starfishsearch.com/jobs/ips-dvb/>, and there you will be able to upload your CV and a supporting statement of not more than four sides of A4.

We would be grateful if you would also complete the Equality and Diversity monitoring form on the online application process. This form is for monitoring purposes only and will not be seen by the selection panel and is not treated as part of your application.

The closing date is 24 August 2022 and the subsequent timetable is as follows (tbc):

Starfish longlist interviews: 1, 2 and/or 5 September

Final interviews: 16 and 20 September (half days), subject to confirmation

