



Guernsey Nature Commission LBG

Chair of the Nature Commission Board Role Description

About the Nature Commission

The Nature Commission is an independent charitable organisation, working with business, government, the third sector and the public to enhance the Island's natural environment and promote greater native biodiversity. The Nature Commission is working to reverse the decline in biodiversity by protecting and enhancing Guernsey's natural environment for the health of our economy and the wellbeing of our Island community. By working with and building on the substantial contributions made by other charities, the Nature Commission harnesses and amplifies a collective 'voice for nature'. It acts as an enabler and a champion. Our aims include:

- Encouraging our island community to connect with nature;
- Caring for nature and working to reduce pressures on our natural environment;
- Increasing awareness, knowledge and support for nature, including through education and effective information sharing;
- Helping build the evidence-base for effective management of the environment by all;
- Aiding in the identification of our Natural Capital; and
- Supporting the sustainability agenda gathering momentum both globally and locally

Additionally, the Nature Commission is a key contributor to the implementation of the States of Guernsey Strategy for Nature and operates the Guernsey Biological Records Centre. In this context, it plays a critical role in ensuring that Guernsey's biodiversity is both protected and enhanced, and that it is valued in government policymaking and economic planning. Achieving this involves capturing and sharing data.

The role of the Chair of the Nature Commission Board

The Chair of the Board plays a pivotal role in ensuring the Nature Commission is governed effectively and operates in line with its missions, values, and legal responsibilities. The Chair leads the Board of Directors, enabling effective collaboration, sound decision-making, and strategic oversight, while supporting and holding the CEO to account. The Chair also acts as an ambassador for the Nature Commission, promoting its purpose and engaging with key stakeholders.

The Chair reports to the rest of the Nature Commission Board, and to the CEO as necessary. The role is fixed term for a period of 3 years, although the Chair is welcome to apply to continue in the role following this period.

Key Responsibilities

(1) Governance and Leadership

The Chair will:

- Provide leadership to the Board of Directors, ensuring it fulfils its duties and responsibilities for the effective governance of the Nature Commission
- Ensure the Nature Commission complies with its governing documentation, charity law, and any other relevant legislation/ regulations
- Support and uphold the Nature Commission's values, missions, and strategy.

(2) Board Effectiveness

The Chair will:

- Chair Board meetings effectively, encouraging full participation, constructive debate, and consensus-based decision-making
- Work closely with the CEO and Company Secretary to ensure timely, well-prepared Board papers and minutes
- Oversee Board performance and lead reviews of Board effectiveness, skills, and diversity.

(3) Relationship with the Executive Team

The Chair will:

- Act as a critical friend and advisor to the CEO, offering guidance and support while ensuring accountability
- Maintain regular communication with the CEO and foster a strong, collaborative relationship
- Maintain oversight of funding status and funding processes of the Nature Commission through regular check-ins with the funding sub-committee.

(4) Strategic Oversight

The Chair will:

- Ensure the Nature Commission has a clear vision and long-term strategy in place, and that the Board monitors progress effectively
- Work with the Board to ensure the financial sustainability of the Nature Commission
- Work with the Directors to set strategic priorities and ensure their alignment with the Nature Commission's objectives

(5) External Representation

The Chair will:

- Represent the Nature Commission at key functions, stakeholder meetings, and public events as appropriate
 - Act as an ambassador and spokesperson for the Nature Commission, promoting its work and cultivating relationships with funders and community leaders.
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Personal Specification

Overview

The Chair is a strong leader with a passion for the conservation and enhancement of Guernsey's natural environment.

More specifically, the Chair has the following characteristics:

Essential

- Senior leadership experience, preferably as a Chair or in a senior board/ trustee role
- Understanding of fundraising, financial oversight, and risk management, ideally in the charity sector
- Excellent communication, facilitation, and interpersonal skills
- Ability to think strategically and exercise sound, independent judgement.

Desired

- Strong understanding of charity governance and nonprofit organisations
- Experience within the local natural environment
- Established networks within relevant sectors or communities

Time Commitment

Approximately 1-2 days per month, including quarterly Board meetings, other Board sessions, preparation time, and occasional representation at events. The ideal candidate will be willing to be flexible depending on the needs of the Nature Commission.

Closing date: 5pm Friday 23rd May 2025