

# Private sector board director Applicant information

July 2022



**SEMLEP**  
South East Midlands  
Local Enterprise Partnership



# Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the opportunity to join the SEMLEP Board as a non-executive director.

This is a crucial time to be joining us as we work with central and local government, educators and businesses to secure the future of our national and local economies. You will also be joining us at a time of change for our partnership. As such you will have a pivotal role in setting long-term economic priorities for the South East Midlands and will steer the actions of our organisation so we are best placed to support our area's businesses and help our area to full its sustainable economic growth potential.

In this information pack, you'll find the role description and person specification as well as key economic data for the area.

We would be delighted to have a conversation with you about the local enterprise partnership, what we seek to achieve for our local area and, the opportunities available to you should you choose to apply for this role.

To arrange a confidential discussion with us, please contact Leanne Nadal via email at [leanne.nadal@semlep.com](mailto:leanne.nadal@semlep.com).



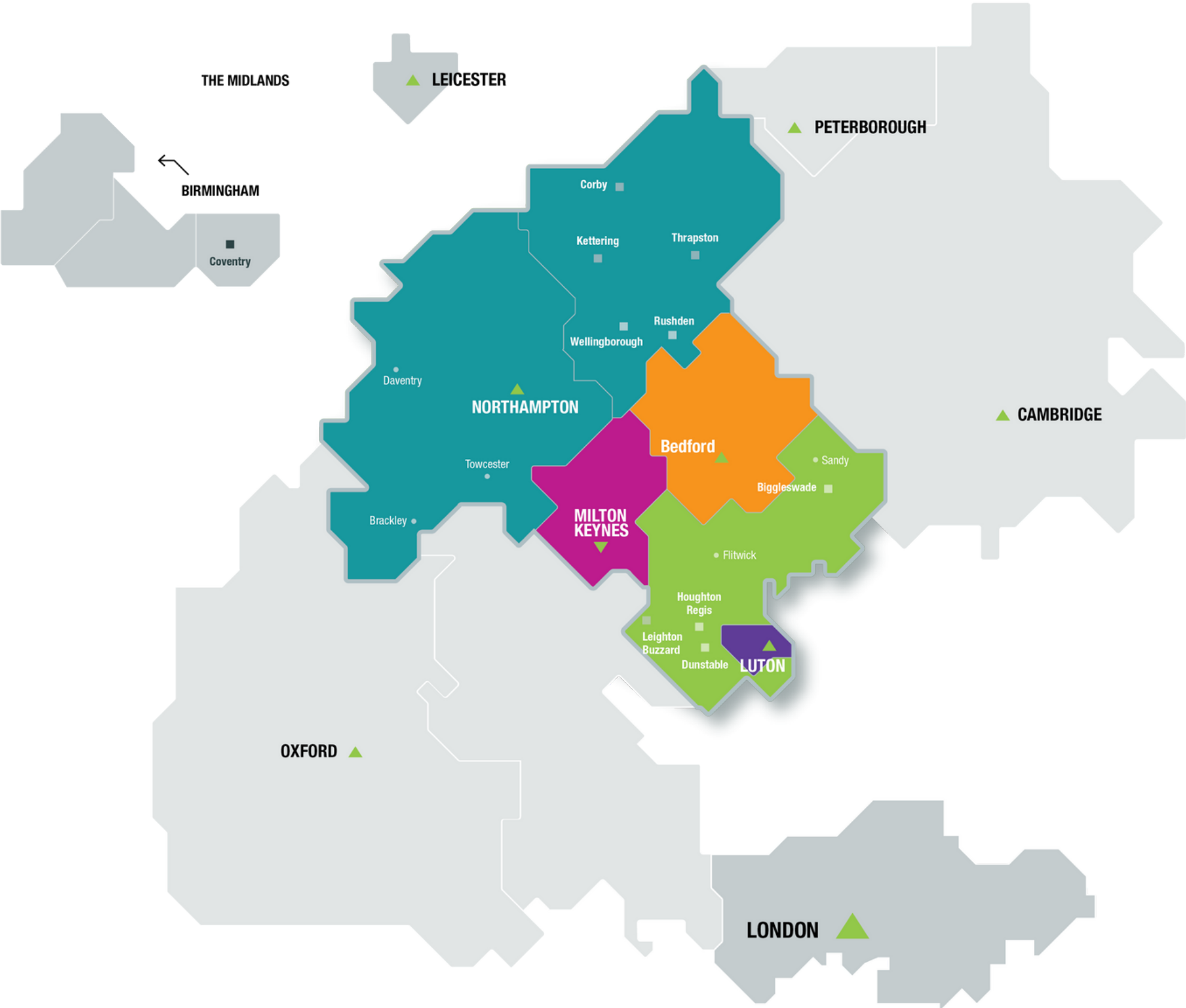
Peter Horrocks CBE  
Chair



Neus Garriock  
Private sector deputy chair




Hilary Chipping  
Chief Executive



# Economic data

The SEMLEP economic area covers six local authority areas: Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes, North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire.




Early estimates of the SEM area GVA suggests a significant impact (in output terms) as a result of lockdown but also indicates a rapid recovery in 2021.



We have a high employment rate, a skilled and adaptable workforce but a tight labour market, a situation seen nationally. Job postings in the area is at its highest since 2017.



We have over 77,000 VAT registered businesses in the area. We're seeing a slowing of productivity growth measured in GVA per hour worked though so need to take action. And, price rises are impacting our businesses. Over 50% of trading businesses report a increase in the prices of goods or services from April to May 2022




We have the fastest population growth outside of London: up 22.2% between 2000 and 2020.




Goods and services are exported annually from the South East Midlands.

And, in the year 2021/22, Foreign Direct Inward investments were made in 44 different projects, creating 2112 jobs in the area.



businesses are engaged in product or service innovation, with 1 in 6 businesses having links to universities or colleges for R&D purposes.

Information sources:

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- [SEMLEP internal economic analysis](#)
  - [Annual Delivery Plan \(2022/23\)](#)
  - [South East Midlands Economic Recovery Strategy](#)
  - [SEMLEP's Make the Connection](#)

# Board director role description

**Role Purpose:** To contribute to the development and delivery of the South East Midlands vision and Local Enterprise Partnership mission, Strategic Economic Plan and Local Industrial Strategy, ensuring that our organisation responds to the economic needs of the region.

**Accountable to:** SEMLEP Chair

## Duties and responsibilities:

- Advocate and articulate the diverse, independent strategic voice of business to partners and at Board meetings.
- Support the Board by leading on activities according to the experience and knowledge including attending meetings with partners and Government on these agendas.
- Contribute to the development of the LEP's mission, strategy, priorities, plan and budget as well as the monitoring of performance and risk management
- Articulate and contribute knowledge and expertise to identify the economic, commercial and demographic issues facing the area, particularly opportunities and constraints that should be considered to drive forward inclusive economic growth
- Support the development of the effective business- public sector partnership to achieve outcomes
- Attend meetings of the SEMLEP Board up to six times per year including the Annual General Meeting and to prepare for those meetings
- Contribute to and reflect the agreed view of the SEMLEP Board and its members in discussions with partners and Government
- Formally represent SEMLEP in meetings with business and public sector partners
- Be available to serve on and lead sub-groups or committees in liaison with the Chair
- Attend and request any training that assists in the delivery of their role as a SEMLEP Board member
- Declare any interests that may be relevant to any SEMLEP decisions and comply with the [relevant policy](#).

All Board members have a responsibility to uphold the high standards of integrity and probity as set out in our [Code of Conduct](#).

All Board members should support one another, the Chair and Chief Executive to create and maintain the appropriate culture and values and behaviours in the Board room and in representing SEMLEP. You will need to be understanding of and committed to SEMLEP's latest [equality and diversity policy](#).

Board members should be mindful of representing SEMLEP and recognise that other stakeholders may provide different perspectives on SEMLEP, its role and performance and encourage that communication.

## Time commitment:

- You should expect to spend one day a month on SEMLEP activities, but it is also expected that each board member will do their best to support the LEP, when assistance is required.
- Typically, the term of appointment is for three years, and this can be extended to a second term and the maximum length of two terms will be six years unless exceptional circumstances permit an additional year to be granted. This is set out in the [Articles of Association](#).
- The Levelling Up White Paper 2022 set out an ambition for all areas to have a devolution deal in which combined authorities are formed. Where these are coming forward, LEP roles may be embedded into these structures. It is therefore possible that by 2030, a new structure is adopted to deliver economic objectives in this area.

# Experience and attributes sought



A Private Sector Board member will need to have an office or a base in the SEMLEP area.

The level of experience we seek:

- Being a Chair, president, chief executive, founder, managing director, director or senior partner
- Broad strategic leader and thinker, with operational level management of a large, complex organisation or SME
- Knowledge and experience of managing organisational change
- Solid commercial awareness, with knowledge of best practice in their specific field/ sector
- Political awareness, with the ability to proactively engage in influencing the shape of policy and direction
- Leads with an inclusive, open-minded approach, able to communicate clearly and credibly to inspire people about the opportunities in the South East Midlands.

The expertise and knowledge we seek include one or more of the following areas:

- Logistics and distribution
- High technology and innovation
- Energy and net zero specialisms
- Developers (commercial space)
- Environmental specialists
- Rural and Land management issues
- Business representative organisations (BROs) or any other knowledge or expertise that the Board identifies as being helpful to the SEMLEP mission
- It is desirable that the Private sector board member has experience of effective working in public and private sector partnerships at local and/or regional and national level.

We are particularly seeking to become a more diverse board representative of our South East Midlands area and are therefore seeking successful applications from younger people, women, people with disabilities and people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

# Appointment process and timeline



Benefits to you from becoming a private sector board director include:

- a. joining a group of experienced and passionate individuals who are keen to improve the opportunities for local businesses and local communities.
- b. working with a committed and high performing executive team, who provide excellent advice, analysis and support.
- c. hearing directly from Government and having the ability to channel concerns of business into Government (BEIS and DLUHC, in particular).
- d. amplifying the voice of business so that it can be heard and understood by local authorities - to influence their decisions and allocation of resources.
- e. supporting the organisation and help to build on its strengths.

Board director roles are not remunerated. Reasonable expenses will be reimbursed in line with the [SEMLEP expenses policy](#).

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To apply for this role, please submit a CV and covering letter which fully addresses the criteria in respect of the role and person specification, to Leanne Nadal via email at [leanne.nadal@semlep.com](mailto:leanne.nadal@semlep.com)

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Appointments to Board director roles are made through an open and transparent requirement process.

## Appointment timeline

Closing date: 7 October 2022

Shortlisting with Board recruitment panel: 10 October

Interview date: 17 October, with possibility of 19 October should this be required

Appointment offer: by end October

Appointment confirmation: SEMLEP Annual General Meeting (date TBC, likely end November or early December 2022)