

Role Description: Fit for the Future Network Chair

About Fit for the Future Network

[Fit for the Future](#) (FFTF) is an environmental sustainability network with charities, heritage organisations, the public sector and cultural venues in its [membership](#).

Fit for the Future is a partnership between [National Trust](#) and [Ashden](#), managed and hosted by the National Trust and was set up in November 2013.

The Network is run by a central team who enable organisations to become climate-friendly, adaptive and resilient by connecting members so they can share knowledge and experience. FFTF connects hundreds of environmental practitioners from within its member organisations so they can share best practice and practical solutions. From reducing environmental impact to adapting to climate-change, Fit for the Future members are ensuring their land, buildings and operations become fit for the future by working together.

The Fit for the Future team continues to develop partnerships with a wide range of organisations in order to grow the network and to develop its services and resources. Partnerships developed in 2018/19 include The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Fit for the Future is now a Heritage Fund partner and are included in their Strategic Funding Framework 2019–2024. Heritage Fund applicants being directed to Fit for the Future membership in order to support and enable the environmental sustainability ambitions of their projects.

Board Purpose

The board's role is to provide advice and make strategic decisions on various aspects of the FFTF Network. The board is made up of representatives from Network member organisations, the two partner organisations (Ashden and National Trust) and non-Network member organisations. The board is advisory, with no legal responsibilities.

Chair Role Purpose

The FFTF Network is at an exciting stage of its development; with a growing membership, and developing services, FFTF is in the process of developing its future strategic and financial strategy and objectives.

Overall, the Chair will act as the figurehead for the FFTF Network, providing leadership, maintaining links with key staff and stakeholders. The Chair will work with the FFTF Manager and ensure the board adds value to FFTF Network through the provision of high-level advice from independent, external and authoritative sources.

They will also, through the board, help FFTF staff make fully informed decisions, and provide a broad overview of professional standards. The chair will also oversee the recruitment of new or additional board members (if required).

The Chair's primary objectives will be to:

- I. Support the development of strategy and objectives, leading FFTF into an ambitious new phase that will ensure it continues to grow and remain relevant to existing and new members.
- II. Support the development of financial planning, through income and funding strategy. To establish FFTF as financially sustainable.

In addition:

Overall

- Champion FFTF Network externally, ensuring it is represented professionally and positively
- When appropriate, leverage contacts that will be strategically beneficial
- Ensure the most effective use possible of the skills and experience of the members of the board
- To ensure an effective relationship between:
 - the board and FFTF staff/volunteers
 - the board and the Network members
- To advise and support the FFTF Manager (meeting on a regular basis)

Specifically

- Champion FFTF Network externally
- Oversee the recruitment of new board members
- Ensure that board membership reflects the range of professional skills required by FFTF Network and that the skill sets and membership are regularly reviewed
- Chair board meetings
- Provide, facilitate and empower board members to contribute and inform board meetings, seminars and visits
- Ensure that a successor is found before the term of office finishes

Qualities

- A willingness to lead the organisation
- Possesses charisma, diplomacy and powers of persuasion
- Well connected with contacts from a range of sectors: government, public, private and finance
- Ability and willingness to be an ambassador for FFTF Network and to represent FFTF positively to external audiences
- Integrity, wisdom, good judgement and independence of mind

- Has previous experience with fundraising or generating income for small organisations
- Able to commit enough time to leading the Network, this will be about 8 days a year
- Experience of leadership and working in a non-executive capacity
- Absence of potential conflicts of interest

This is a voluntary role for a fixed term of 24 months, with possible extension.

How to apply:

Applicants do not have to be part of a member organisation in order to apply. If you are interested in the position please email a CV and cover letter to the Fit for the Future Manager (Fergus.Rolfe@nationaltrust.org.uk) detailing in the letter why you want to be chair and what skills you will bring.

The Chair will be listed on the FFTF Network website.

December 2019