

## **Recruitment of Non-Executive Panel Members of the GBSLEP Innovation Challenge Forum**

### **Summary of Opportunity**

Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) is a partnership of businesses, local authorities and universities which supports private sector growth and job creation. Our role is to create and support a globally competitive knowledge economy, ensuring this area is recognised as the natural home for Europe's entrepreneurs and wealth creators. Our mission remains clear – to create jobs and grow the economy of Greater Birmingham and Solihull, and in doing so raising the quality of the life for all of the LEP's population.

Greater Birmingham already hosts organisations operating at the cutting edge of research and innovation. Our expertise extends to advanced manufacturing and transport technologies, digital and creative industries, the cultural sector, medical and life sciences, and environmental technologies. Commercialising our research and innovation capability is key to developing an industrial strategy to capture the high value, high growth sectors of the future, and driving the benefits of that strategy across the UK.

Here at GBSLEP we believe in innovation and we welcome fresh ideas and seek innovative solutions which maintain our continuous evolution and aspiration to meet new challenges. Our priority is to continue nurturing and combining our strengths in science, technology, engineering and the arts, with a focus on stimulating higher levels of demand-led innovation and increasing the rate at which new ideas and solutions are generated and translated into economic growth.

We recognise the potential offered by disruptive and emerging technologies, including intelligent systems technologies, to enable increased productivity and more inclusive and sustainable growth. We also believe that innovation can come from all areas so we will stimulate demand-led innovation by developing a conducive and supportive environment in which innovators, entrepreneurs, universities and science parks, large companies and public organisations work together to develop new solutions with commercial potential.

To help us meet our goals GBSLEP is seeking to set up an Innovation Challenge Forum (ICF) (comprised of a pool of practitioners we can draw upon to review incoming proposals) who are the first line of engagement and potential customers for innovative products or services (e.g. NHS, local authority, corporates, entrepreneurs, SMEs and interest groups) and academic experts to bring a stronger 'market voice' to stimulate and prioritise demand-led innovation activities in line with the GBSLEP Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). To establish the ICF GBSLEP is inviting expressions of interest from innovation experts to act in a non-executive advisory capacity tasked with reviewing and ranking innovation proposals.

We are looking for panel members who are passionate about innovation.

### **1. Role Description**

- To advise on innovation proposals to the LEP and other proposals with the potential to stimulate demand for innovation by:
  - Peer reviewing innovation proposals.
  - Participating as a panel reviewer to rank innovation proposals.
  - Providing innovation challenges to other proposals.
- To provide a structured input to activities relating to the LEP's innovation agenda.
- To help focus and inform the implementation of strategy and quality of delivery from the perspective of innovation. The ICF will have no role in developing or setting strategy itself.

## 2. Person Specification

Successful individuals will need to have:

- Significant experience of innovation in a commercial setting (e.g. as an entrepreneur/commissioner of new products or services/as an academic researcher working with industry/interest group interested in innovation to meet a specific need);
- Experience and knowledge of the key drivers, enablers, opportunities and challenges involved in innovation, ideally from a private sector perspective;
- Familiarity with one or more of the industrial sectors of significance in the Greater Birmingham and Solihull economy;
- Review experience (e.g. committees/working groups);
- Skills in analysis and judgment;
- Appropriate interpersonal, organisational and management skills; and
- An appropriate set of values and ethics (e.g. selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, leadership).

## 3. Time commitment

Participation is voluntary but we anticipate review members will review on average two to three applications per year and sit on a panel every couple of years. This equates to approximately two days per year of commitment (dependent on the number of applications).

Membership of the ICF will be reviewed every three years.

## 4. Incentives

- A payment of £100 will be paid per peer review.
- A payment of £255 will be paid per panel participation.
- Please note: due to the nature of our funding we are only able to offer incentive payments to private sector SME/Entrepreneurs.

## 5. How to apply

Expressions of interest are invited from suitable individuals in line with the Role Description and Person Specification. In addition applicants are invited to submit a short CV (no more than 3 pages).

The expression of interest template can be downloaded [here](#)

Applications should be submitted electronically to [gbslep@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:gbslep@birmingham.gov.uk) and marked 'ICF Member Expression of Interest' in the subject line. Alternatively, please post your application to: GBSLEP, Ground Floor, Baskerville House, Centenary Square, Birmingham, B1 2ND.

Expressions of interest are welcome from individuals based outside of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull region.