Landscape Institute

People, place and nature

Board Chair Recruitment Pack

The Landscape Institute is seeking a new Chair of the Board. The right candidate will have experience and expertise in charity governance, leadership, an understanding of the role of a membership body and the important part the Board plays in leading such an organisation.

Norfolk Gardens by Bradford Council © Bradford Council

About the LI

Founded in 1929 and constituted under Royal Charter since 1997, the Landscape Institute is the chartered membership body for all landscape professionals. It is the home and voice for everyone working in the landscape profession and serves society by upholding them to the highest professional and technical standards.

Landscape is everywhere – from gardens, parklands and countryside to urban and developed areas, rural lands and high streets. Our landscapes have been shaped by people and nature working together, and the deep connection we feel to them is a big part of who we are. Landscape is the setting in which our social, environmental and economic pressures may be managed and tensions reconciled.

At no point in history has the role of the landscape profession been more important. Our members hold the answers to many of the urgent problems our society faces today. They design, create, transform, conserve and enhance the landscape and places. Working every day to balance the social, economic and environmental needs of urban and rural areas to create long-term environmentally sustainable spaces that focus on tackling climate change and improving quality of life, air quality and noise pollution. They deliver outstanding landscapes and places for the public benefit.

As their professional body, the LI seeks to:

- Set and uphold the highest standards in landscape practice. Chartered Membership of the Landscape Institute is a global mark of excellence that tells prospective clients and employers that a landscape professional is the best in their field.
- Promote the profession and raise its profile and the important role it plays with the wider public.
- Represent the profession and ensure its voice is heard by governments and other opinion formers, decision makers and funders.

Our Corporate Strategy 2025 - 2030 sets out our strategic vision and outcomes which will be delivered through our Business Plan.

Our Vision is of a world with enriching, resilient landscapes where people and nature flourish.

Our members are at the heart of the Landscape Institute and shape everything we do. They play a pivotal role in driving us forward by sharing their breadth of experience, expertise and knowledge to deliver and inform our workstreams and direction. They are key to our future success and to making a difference across the landscape profession and beyond.

Over the last few years the LI has been making a change in the way it works to ensure it is fit for purpose and relevant for the future. This has included a focus on strengthening our foundations and building a positive culture of collaboration with members and everyone who shapes our organisation. This work is really starting to see a tangible change in the way the LI works and engages with our members. But there is still much to do to become the professional membership body they want and need.

One key development has been the decision to separate the role of Chair of the Board from that of President. Previously both roles had been combined in the one role.

The role of President continues to be the elected representative for and by members and to be Chair of Council and a Trustee. Thereby ensuring that the voice of members is represented on the Board and within the LI as well as across the profession and wider afield.

This change means that for the first time the LI has the opportunity to recruit, independently of the elections, a chair with the skills and expertise needed to lead a charity Board, embed a strategic approach and lead a change in culture with a different style of working. This is not a decision making Chair role.

The opportunity to apply is open to both members and non-members.

The aim is for the new Chair of the Board to be in place by 1 January 2027 to take up their new role alongside the President.

Belfast City Quays Gardens © Gillespies

Background to LI Governance

The LI is a self-regulating professional membership organisation and registered charity. It is governed under a Royal Charter, granted by the Privy Council with working detail set out in the By-Laws and Regulations. The Board of Trustees has ultimate responsibility for the activities of the LI, in line with the requirements of those governing documents.

Our charitable objectives:

- To protect, conserve and enhance the natural and built environment for the benefit of the public.
- Promote the arts and sciences of Landscape Architecture.
- To foster and encourage the dissemination of knowledge relating to Landscape Architecture and the promotion of research and education.
- Establish, uphold and advance the standards of education, qualification, competence and conduct of those who practice Landscape Architecture as a profession, and to determine standards and criteria for education, training and experience.

As is common with many professional membership organisations, the Board is supported and informed by an elected members representative Council. Chaired by an elected President, the role of Council is to represent the members of the LI and advise the Board on key issues, priorities and challenges relating to the practice and professional development of landscape planning, design and management. Particular responsibilities include:

- Holding the Board to account and appointing Trustees to the Board
- Informing the LI's Corporate Strategy and business priorities
- Guiding the Institutes' plans for policy, influencing and professional standards
- Acting as advocate of the Institute and as a pool of volunteers for key work streams and committees.

More details can be found in the Council Terms of Reference

The elected role of Vice President will support both the Board Chair and President and deputises for either role if required.

Chair of the Board

The role of the Chair of the Board of Trustees is to provide leadership and direction to the Board of Trustees, enabling it to fulfil its responsibilities for the overall governance and strategic direction of the LI; support the Chief Executive and the Institute to deliver our work programmes and meet its liabilities and obligations.

The Chair is a Trustee and the responsibilities of being a Trustee are outlined in the Trustee Role Description. A more detailed role description is in place but in summary responsibilities of Chair include:

- Leading the Board to ensure that the LI meets its legal and statutory responsibilities and pursues its stated objects as defined in the Royal Charter.
- Ensuring Trustees fulfil their legal and statutory duties and responsibilities and the LIs legal compliance obligations.
- Ensuring the Board acts in the LI's best interests.
- Ensuring the Board sets the strategic direction of the LI and monitors progress and performance against strategic outcomes.
- Ensuring the right level of oversight and monitoring is provided by the Board, and it works in partnership with the CEO to ensure LI resources are managed responsibly with appropriate financial controls implemented and risks identified and managed.
- Ensuring there is the right level of support and, where appropriate, challenge for the CEO.
- Ensuring the highest possible standards of governance and appropriate governance structures and processes are in place and reviewed regularly.
- Identifying and managing appropriately any potential conflicts of interest.
- Ensuring the Board is accountable to members via the Council.
- Building a close working relationship with the President to ensure:
  - Appropriate regular communication with and from Council.
  - Members views are sought via Council where appropriate as part of the Board decision-making process.
  - Appropriate input into Board decision making and meeting agendas.
- Ensuring proper and efficient conduct of Board and Board meetings with effective decision making.

Eligibility

The Chair of the Board is a Trustee and any candidate appointed to the role is subject to meeting Charity Commission eligibility criteria for trustees – available here.

No individual can be appointed if they do not meet the criteria or have been disqualified from being a trustee. Charity Commission auto-disqualification information is available here.

The Charity Commission provides useful 5 minute guides on what it entails to be a trustee and video resources provided by them are also available here.

The role of Chair of the Board is voluntary. Expenses incurred in relation to undertaking the role will be paid according to the LI Expenses Policy.

LI Awards winners 2025

To Apply

If you would like to apply for the role contact human.resource@landscapeinstitute.org.

The deadline for applications is 20th November 2026.

Candidates will be assessed on the basis of competency. Applications by CV and a short summary of how your current skills, knowledge and behaviours match the role description.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a panel interview. Interviews take place w/c 30th November 2026.

If you would like to discuss the role before applying or have any questions, please contact human.resource@landscapeinstitute.org in the first instance.

Application opens:	26th October 2026
Closes:	20th November 2026
Telephone chats:	W/C 23rd November 2026
Meet the team:	W/C 30th November 2026
Interview with LI:	W/C 30th November 2026

A Landscape Vision for Bedgebury by The Environment Partnership Ltd © David Jenner

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