

Non-executive Chair of SE24 Board of Directors – Role Description

Sustainable Energy 24 Ltd (SE24) is a Community Benefit Society engaged in Community Energy. SE24 is seeking to appoint a new non-executive Chair of its Board.

For further information about SE24 and our Board see attached SE24 Board Terms of Reference and associated organogram and visit our website www.se24.co.uk

The context

SE24 was established in 2015 and has grown significantly since then. But with the massive growth in community energy activity, combined with new central and local government funding support, we know that there are potentially many more opportunities available if we can manage them.

We have decided to re-invigorate our Executive team and structure to meet the three challenges of:

- Growth: more projects and bigger projects
- Managing and delivering those projects better
- Improving our Community Engagement.

Many of the current Board and Executive team have been in role since the founding of SE24 in 2015. Three existing Directors are retiring from the Board this year while continuing in supportive roles. Several new board members have been recruited and more are being sought. A new Finance Director is on the cusp of appointment. We are used to being a tight-knit team and expect that to continue.

As part of this reorganisation we are seeking a non-executive Chair to help lead this team through this process of exciting growth and change. This appointment is due to start from end June 2025. But introductory briefings and meetings before then are expected to ensure the new Chair can hit the ground running from the end of June.

The role

Together with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), (Mark Hughes, newly appointed to the role from end June 2025. Mark was previously Treasurer and a founding Director), the non-exec Chair will have overall responsibility for delivery of SE24's objectives.

The Chair will also be responsible for ensuring that the CEO and Executive Team perform their executive functions adequately. The Chair will be supported by a non-executive Vice Chair and a non-executive External Policy Director.

The opportunity

In the next few months, SE24 will complete the projects funded in the main by its 2024 Share Offer (when we raised £400k). At the same time we are seeking to achieve the following:

- To implement our new governance structure before June 2025
- To appoint and train a new Finance Director by June 2025
- To develop a new focus on Community Engagement with new leaders in place to ensure our impact is aligned with community needs
- To prepare for growth which might see us raising £1m to fund another round of solar and LED projects which are currently in business development phase

Much of this is in train. We have a plan and momentum.

Person profile

In our non-exec Chair we are looking for someone who can help us through this next stage of development. Someone who can

- steer us through the Community Engagement and Business Development landscape in Community Energy in London.
- Someone that can bring us contacts and openings.

But equally someone who

- can challenge us to check our facts and plans and keep us loyal to our Community focus.
- has a feel for the big picture, the political environment and
- knows how we can access funds for our organisation and for our Community Engagement.

Experience will be important. This is a very important role for us.

Terms and Conditions

We expect the Chair to lead bi-monthly Board meetings, to read and question papers prepared for Board meetings and query directly with fellow Board Directors. Papers will come from the two committees (Community Engagement and Asset Management) and from other Board Directors as appropriate.

Our current expectation is that the role will require 2 days per month, but there will be times when more time may be required for example during finance raising.

At the moment the Chair gets no remuneration, other than reasonable expenses. Longer term, we may provide some remuneration if we can secure a grant for core funding from the GLA.

Next Steps

To apply for this position please send your CV and covering letter or e mail to Jim Belben, SE24 Company Secretary at jha.belben@gmail.com

This vacancy will be advertised to 1st May 2025, or longer if required. But we are seeking to appoint a candidate to be effective from 1 June 2025.

In the event that we have several candidates that meet requirements our plan is to follow an objective competitive selection process.