

[LGA family logo to be provided]



Vacancy for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Advisory Panel for the Beacon Scheme

The Beacon Scheme provides a national focal point for identifying and promoting excellence and innovation amongst the widest possible range of authorities and partnerships. It is much more than an award scheme – it is about helping others to improve by sharing best practice.

The Advisory Panel advises Ministers and the Local Government Association (LGA), on the delivery of the Beacon Scheme aims.

Ministers and the LGA are looking for a new Chair and Vice Chair for the Panel.

After 10 successful years, during which the scheme has brought real benefits in spreading good practice to all Best Value authorities, it is undergoing a radical refresh. This is an extremely exciting time for the scheme with the opportunity to broaden its appeal and impact. We are keen to establish new arrangements that reflect the new partnership between central and local government and the changing demands placed upon public service providers and their partners by the introduction of the new performance framework for local government. CLG Ministers and the LGA are therefore looking for a new Chair and Vice Chair to help them shape the future direction of the scheme and ensure it continues to meet the changing needs of both central and local government as well as communities and their citizens.

We are looking for applicants with experience of a strategic, high profile role in the public, private, or voluntary or community sector and a strong track record in delivering services important to local citizens. You will be a gifted leader and communicator, able to represent the scheme nationally and internationally. As an individual you will possess integrity, command respect and lend credibility to the work of the Panel. You will have well developed analytical skills which you will use to inform sound judgements and impartial decision making. You will also have a proven ability to develop strategy in agreement with others.

Applicants should have a keen interest in local government and innovation in the improving the delivery of public services as well as a strong commitment to the seven Nolan Principles of Public Life and devolution as set out in the Government's White Paper "Strong Prosperous Communities".

Together the Chair and Vice-Chair will be responsible for the overall performance of the Panel and for the advice it submits to Ministers and the LGA.

These appointments will be made jointly by CLG and the LGA and will be for a term of three years. The total time commitment is a maximum of 30 days per annum for the Chair and up to 20 days for the Vice Chair. This time will spent on formal meetings, preparing for the application and assessment process and producing recommendations to Ministers and the LGA. A daily fee is payable along with expenses. The daily rate is currently £221 for the Chair and £169 for the Vice Chair – although this is subject to review.

For further details of the job description and full criteria, please request an information pack and application form from **Richard Daniels on 020 7944 8052** or by email to **beaconsinfo@communities.gsi.gov.uk**

For further information about the Beacon Scheme, please go to **www.beacons.idea.gov.uk**

The Department is willing to download information in hard copy format on request for those without access to the web. The application pack is available in alternative formats on request.

For an informal discussion, please contact **Catherine Turner on 0207 944 4093** *[update as necessary]*.

Completed applications for both posts should be returned no later than **10 October 2008**.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is committed to appointing on merit, seeking candidates from a diverse range of backgrounds and taking full account of equal opportunities. Applications are particularly welcome from women, minority ethnic and disabled candidates who are under-represented at this level in public life.

