

Chair of Trustees Victorian Society

Role Description and Person Specification

The Victorian Society is looking for a new chair to drive forward the Society's key role in protecting the Victorian and Edwardian heritage of England and Wales.

You will need to be tactful, with a good level of political understanding to ensure our objectives are achieved. You will need to be happy talking to passionate local campaigners, planning consultants, property developers, architectural historians, politicians, and the occasional outraged vicar.

This is a pivotal moment for us. Public awareness of sustainability issues has never been higher. Owners of Victorian and Edwardian homes will be facing real pressure to make changes to their homes which, if done badly, could cause harm. Coupled with significant cases such as Liverpool Street Station we have a real opportunity to demonstrate the importance of our voice in the public discourse and to attract new members.

We are about to start a project to deliver a new website and rebrand to provide a strong platform for this. After a decade of grants for our statutory work decreasing in real terms, we need to work hard and think creatively to ensure our long-term financial sustainability.

We are seeking a Chair who will embrace these opportunities and take us forward.

You will be responsible for setting high governance standards and increasing the effectiveness of the Board and individual trustees. You will be responsible for ensuring that there is effective communication with, and act as a sounding board for, the Director.

While we are recruiting for a Chair now, we would expect the chosen candidate to join the board of trustees in advance of taking over as chair in 2024 to ensure a smooth handover.

As Chair you will:

- Be a member of the Society, or willing to become one
- Chair and direct the business of the Board efficiently and facilitate the involvement of all trustees
- Lead the board in its strategic role
- Ensure the Society meets its legal responsibilities
- Meet regularly with the Director
- Represent the Society as appropriate
- Appraise the performance of the Director and the Trustees.
- Have a commitment to ensuring diversity