



The
countryside
charity

March 2022

Regional Chair Recruitment Pack

East of England Region



CPRE, the countryside charity, is a membership organisation made up of a national charity and a network of 42 local charities in England. Local CPREs meet together in eight regional groups.

CPRE campaigns for a beautiful and thriving countryside that is valued, enjoyed and accessible to everyone by:

- Connecting people and the countryside.
- Promoting rural life.
- Empowering communities.

You can find out more about what we do [on our website](#).

About CPRE East of England Region

Our regional groups are formed of representatives from local CPREs. They enable the sharing of ideas and experience, facilitate cross-border collaboration, improve communication and promote a coordinated regional voice and focus.

As regional groups are constitutently part of national CPRE they share the same vision, mission and values. Like other regional groups, the East of England region receives funding from national CPRE of around £10,000 a year and holds reserves.

The East of England region is formed of six local CPREs covering Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

The region encompasses a wide range of landscapes and faces an equally wide range of challenges.

In the south, especially in parts of Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire, there's significant pressure for development around London, raising concerns over protection of the Metropolitan Green Belt. Cambridge, with its fast-growing hi-tech industries, forms one end of the government's proposed Oxford-Cambridge Arc, with aspirations for the development of over a million new homes. The region is also home to three London airports with their associated development pressures.

In the north of the region, the Great Fenland Basin, which has much of the UK's best arable farmland, is at risk from sea inundation. The coastal areas of Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk are also at risk from rising sea levels and erosion, and there are concerns about the impact of infrastructure associated with off-shore renewable energy.

Added to these pressures is the fact that this is the driest part of England, and so there's widespread concern that accelerating development growth will have a hugely detrimental impact on the water environment.

Background to the role

This volunteering role is an opportunity to add real value and scale to what CPRE does in the East of England. As regional chair you'll convene and chair regular meetings with representatives from local CPREs in the region. You'll support local CPREs by leading activities and by sharing information, ideas, experience and best practice.

Regional chairs are appointed following a selection process involving regional representatives and national CPRE. They report to CPRE's CEO, Crispin Truman. Day-to-day contact is with a number of teams at national CPRE, most notably the Volunteering and Partnerships team.

A review is currently being carried out of national CPRE's formal governance arrangements and how income and costs are shared. It'll build on work carried out in recent years, looking at how we collaborate and communicate with an aim of strengthening how the whole organisation works together. Regional chairs will contribute towards this review, and it's possible that the scope and responsibilities of the role may change. With this in mind, we're looking for applicants with a flexible attitude and a positive approach to change.

About becoming regional chair

In joining our regional team, you'll:

- Use your skills and experience to support local CPREs to make a positive difference to the countryside, environment, and local communities.
- Help shape the CPRE network and improve how we work together.
- Shape the function of the regional chairs group and how it evolves in the future.
- Meet like-minded people and enjoy being part of a team.
- Be invited to free training courses, workshops and our annual conference and AGM.

We provide out-of-pocket travel expenses and incidentals for home offices.

What you'll be doing:

As regional chair you'll be:

1. Coordinating, chairing and promoting regional meetings for local CPRE colleagues on a regular basis.
2. Facilitating the sharing of information, ideas, best practice and examples to assist local CPREs with their work.
3. Supporting a small team of volunteers, an honorary treasurer and a part-time paid Regional Administrator
4. Providing leadership and/or support for the advocacy and campaigning work of the regional group, which may involve coordinating regional projects across different local CPRE areas.
5. Promoting a shared regional voice to external decision makers on proposals or plans which will significantly affect the countryside or environment
6. Fostering good communications and collaboration across CPRE.
7. Working with the honorary treasurer to oversee the allocation of the regional budget for the benefit of local CPRE priorities.
8. Safeguarding the reputation and values of CPRE and commit to implementing CPRE policies and initiatives within own remit.
9. Making use of systems and tools provided by CPRE to assist you in your volunteering tasks.
10. Assisting in sourcing advice and guidance to local CPREs in relation to policy, campaigning or strategy.
11. Contributing to consultations and reviews with national CPRE.

12. Participate in CPRE's AGM as a voting member.

Time commitment

Regional groups meet three times a year to share advice and information about issues affecting the countryside and CPRE's role and future development, and to make decisions about collaborative projects. Additionally, there's another three meetings each year between regional chairs from across the country and national CPRE.

In addition to these meeting commitments, this volunteering role typically involves a time commitment of around 2-3 hours each week to support local and regional activities.

The skills and experience you need:

- Minimum of three years' experience in a networking, collaboration, partnership, leadership or organisational development role.
- Experience of volunteering and supporting other volunteers.
- Ability to communicate information and a rationale to diverse individuals and groups with empathy, simplicity and clarity.
- Flexibility and a positive approach to change.
- Ability to work collaboratively with volunteers and staff.
- Ability to manage a budget, currently of up to £10k per annum.
- Some awareness of current environmental issues and a commitment to campaign for the protection of the countryside and the work of CPRE.
- Commitment to work within the values of CPRE: Open, Connected, Trusted and Inspirational.

This role is available provisionally for up to a three-year term, with a maximum of two three-year terms.

How to apply:

1. If you would like a pre-application chat then please contact networksupport@cpre.org.uk. You can also have an informal chat with the outgoing regional chair or local volunteers if you wish.
2. [Apply online via the volunteer hub](#). Please upload an outline CV and brief supporting statement.
3. Once we receive your application we'll arrange an informal interview with Crispin Truman, CEO, and regional representatives. We'll also ask for references.
4. If appointed we'll give you a thorough induction and support you to establish yourself in the role.

If you require any special arrangements or assistance in making your application then please contact us at networksupport@cpre.org.uk and we'll be more than happy to help.

Further information:

Useful links

[Our vision - CPRE](#)

[Our achievements and history - CPRE](#)

[Our strategic plan 2020-2026: a summary - CPRE](#)



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[Our year: a review of 2019-20 - CPRE](#)

[Resources - CPRE, the countryside charity](#)

[Volunteer privacy policy - CPRE](#)

[CPRE-Volunteering-Commitments.pdf](#)