

FOWEY HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

A GUIDE TO SKILLS REQUIRED OF BOARD MEMBERS

Trust port boards must contain a sufficient appropriate balance of skills, competencies and experience to effectively control the port and provide it with leadership, motivation and strategic direction. They will be a mix of professional and personal. Entrepreneurial skills need to be balanced with a public service commitment. Experience and independence are of equal importance. The effective balance for each port will be different depending on its circumstances and the environment within which it operates. However common requirements are likely to include

Personal skills/competencies

Professional skills - drive, vision, independence, confidence,

Relevant and current commercial expertise,

Challenging, proactive approach to board business,

Relevant current maritime expertise (including pilotage).

Ability to motivate and engender respect

Health and safety

Negotiating and communication

Management (at board level?)

Impartiality and integrity

Public relations/ community issues

Interpersonal - the ability to develop good relations inside and out with the trust

Industrial relations

Ability to work as a team member/ supportive of colleagues

Shipping

Ability to make a constructive contribution to group discussion - clear expression of ideas

Finance/management accounting

Analytical approach to problem solving

Leisure

Ability to formulate strategy

Environmental

Have a grasp of priorities

In assessing potential board members against the above criteria relevant life experience and track record should be considered as germane as skills obtained through a conventional career path and professional qualifications.

A Guide to Skills Required of Board Members (cont.)

These are the basic criteria against which all trust port board members should already be able to measure themselves if they are effectively fulfilling the responsibilities of a port trustee. Above all board members need a genuine commitment to the welfare of the port, its stakeholders and beneficiaries. An understanding of a commitment to the needs of the local and regional communities and economies which depend upon the effective operation of the port, run this a close second.