

Innovation Greater Manchester

FEBRUARY 2025



Candidate Pack

Chair of the Board

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About Innovation Greater Manchester

Innovation Greater Manchester (IGM) is a business-led partnership that harnesses the collaborative power of businesses, universities, and local government to drive productivity through collaboration, research and innovation.

Through Innovation Greater Manchester, investments into R&D and innovation will drive real change and deliver across all 12 levelling up missions stimulating Greater Manchester's whole innovation ecosystem for the long-term.

Innovation Greater Manchester's goal is to build an innovation ecosystem and ensure the whole city-region benefits from the excellence created and developed, through high-quality education and training, high-quality jobs, good healthcare, affordable houses, spaces to support new and scaling businesses and good infrastructure with improved connectivity for all.

Innovation Greater Manchester will enable the city-region to be a leader of the fourth industrial revolution, known globally for the strength of its innovation ecosystem. By 2030, clusters of innovation-led businesses, centred on our frontier sectors, will fuel productivity growth and prosperity across the North in ways that can be replicated across the UK.

It is not a plan for just Greater Manchester; it is a plan to create a new national engine of growth at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse.

IGM 2030 Vision and Objectives

Innovation Greater Manchester believes the biggest opportunity to fuel innovation-led inclusive growth is by leveraging collaboration between research and development assets, cross-cutting technology and frontier sectors.

Innovation Greater Manchester's goal is to build Greater Manchester's innovation ecosystem to deliver local and national objectives, including £3.8 billion of economic benefit and the creation of over 100,000 jobs across the city-region.

2030 Vision and Objectives

- By 2030, Greater Manchester will be a leader of the fourth industrial revolution, known globally for the strength of its innovation ecosystem.
- In this time, dynamic and connected R&D-intensive business clusters, centred on Greater Manchester's frontier sectors, will fuel productivity growth and prosperity across the North.
- The city-region's landscape of R&D-intensive businesses will be enhanced by the growth of existing businesses, the formation and scaling up of start-ups, and inward investment by firms at the international technology frontier.
- The city-region's already excellent scientific capabilities will be further strengthened and integrated into an ecosystem that will deliver inclusive growth.
- The ecosystem will have a robust, diverse skills and talent pipeline, easy access to finance for innovators, and deep business networks that fuel enterprise and entrepreneurship.
- Greater Manchester's innovation ecosystem will connect with partner cities and regions across the UK and internationally and will be a driving force of the UK as an Innovation Nation.
- The growth of Greater Manchester's innovation ecosystem will deliver measurable impacts on all Levelling Up Missions, with more productive and R&D-intensive firms, increased skills, high-quality jobs and reductions in health inequalities across the city-region.

How we will achieve our 2030 Vision

Innovation Greater Manchester brings together leaders of businesses, universities, and public institutions, united around a single vision and plan to:

- Mobilise investment into existing and new innovation assets and programmes, bridging gaps in the commercialisation journey centred on our four complementary frontier sectors.
- Build a connected innovation ecosystem, creating clear pathways for businesses to get the skills and talent, finance and investment, and wider support needed to innovate, underpinned by strong networks across clusters, sectors and places.
- Forge productive R&D collaborations with cities and regions across the North of England, the UK and the world, so Greater Manchester's ecosystem plays a leading role in driving UK-wide economic growth.
- Raise the global reputation of Greater Manchester as a significant R&D location, reimagining the region as a Science and Innovation Superpower to attract innovative businesses, large R&D-intensive firms and scale-ups.

You can read much more about IGM on the IGM website [here](#).

Job description

Chair, Innovation Greater Manchester (IGM) Board

Position Details	
Directorate	Business Engagement and Partnerships
Job Title	Chair, Innovation Greater Manchester Board
Grade	Senior Staff
Hours of Work	Typically 2-3 days/ month
Contract Duration	Fixed term: 3 years initially
Office base	Central Manchester base at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), with role covering Greater Manchester
Reports To	Within MMU: Deputy Vice-Chancellor Within GMCA: GMCA Chief Executive and Elected Portfolio Leader for Economy and Innovation

Background
<p>Innovation Greater Manchester is a new triple-helix partnership, overseen by an industry-led Board. Its primary goal is to increase radically levels of investment in R&D&I in Greater Manchester – which underperforms on this despite the scale and complexity of its economy.</p> <p>IGM’s vision is to harness the collaborative power of businesses, universities, and local government in Greater Manchester to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number, density and scale of clusters of innovation-led businesses in GM; • Drive up productivity to encourage the economic grow that will increase high quality jobs and prosperity; • Make the city-region a leader of the fourth industrial revolution, and • Ensure the whole city-region benefits from its research and innovation excellence, including through high-quality education and training, innovative healthcare, affordable net zero homes, high-quality commercial spaces that support innovative start-ups and scaling businesses, and excellent infrastructure with improved connectivity for all.

IGM also has a mission to increase investment into R&D in UK city-regions, and to create new models and ideas that can be replicated across the country, working with Government and national delivery agencies where needed.

The work of IGM is underpinned by the Greater Manchester Innovation Plan, which contains a clear set of agreed ambitions for GM to reach by 2030:

- Increase public and private R&D&I spend in the region by an additional £750m.
- Increase productivity, so that Gross Value-Added increases by £3.8 billion, equal to 5% of additional Gross Value Added.
- Create over 100,000 additional jobs related to R&D intensive sectors and occupations.
- Enable a diverse skills and talent pipeline, easy access to finance, and business networks that fuel innovation and enterprise.
- Be recognised as a top ten European city region for science and innovation.
- Deploy innovative approaches to help deliver on levelling up missions, focusing on the role innovation can play to accelerate the transition to a net zero society and reduce health inequity.
- Ensure the economic, environmental and social benefits of local innovation translate into inclusive equitable economic growth across all parts of the city region.
- Build local capability and capacity to deliver local innovation policy, investment and programmes.

At the time of this Plan, the Innovation Greater Manchester Board defined its three key roles:

1. Owning and updating the [Greater Manchester Innovation Plan](#).
2. Advocating for and promoting the Innovation Plan with government and the private sector to drive up investment in innovation in the city-region
3. Holding the partnership together around the Innovation Plan and being accountable for the delivery of the plan.

The Board also identified three core functions:

- (a) Intelligence, evidence and knowledge
- (b) Vision, promotion and persuasion
- (c) Strategy and planning

IGM is now entering a new phase of operation – moving from being largely a coordinating structure to an entity with its own resources and staff. An appointment has been made to the new Director, IGM role with whom the Chair will work closely to review the Board's roles and functions and bring its ambitious plans to life.

Under the IGM Partnership Agreement, GMCA, University of Manchester, University of Salford and Manchester Metropolitan University fund the IGM staff, including the Chair. MMU employs and hosts these staff, on behalf of the Partners.

Role Purpose

As Chair of the Innovation Greater Manchester Board, you will be responsible for ensuring that the Board is effective in owning, updating and delivering the [Greater Manchester Innovation Plan](#).

Working closely with the Director IGM, you will support them to deliver a programme of activity across the wider GM innovation community to achieve the Plan's aims.

Key Responsibilities

Leadership of the Innovation Greater Manchester Board to ensure that the Board is effective in setting the strategic direction required to deliver the Board's key roles and the IGM's core functions.

Supporting the Director, IGM, providing advice, guidance and challenge, as necessary, and assisting the Director in making connections and building their networks.

Building a high performing and inclusive culture amongst the Board members to support effective decision-making.

Bringing current insights from personal networks at senior levels across the triple helix to support IGM on strategy and delivery.

Acting as an advocate for GM's innovation partnership with leaders of national agencies, senior politicians, and business leaders.

For IGM, its Board and for all innovation partners across the Greater Manchester city-region, acting as an ambassador, locally, nationally and internationally – including with international delegations and trade missions.

This is a description of the job at the time of issue. It is the University's standard practice periodically to review and update job descriptions to ensure that they accurately reflect the current nature of the job, including the requirements of the University and, in this case, IGM Partnership. Reasonable changes, where required, will be incorporated in consultation with the jobholder.

Person Specification

In order to be shortlisted you must demonstrate that you meet all the essential criteria and as many of the desirable criteria as possible. Where we have many applications that meet all of the essential criteria, we will then use the desirable criteria to produce the shortlist.

All disabled candidates who meet the essential criteria will be included on the shortlist.



Selection Criteria

In the table below, typical assessment stages are provided in brackets:
1 = Application letter and CV, 2 = Presentation and Interview.

Attributes	Criteria	Essential/ Desirable
Values	Compliance with the Nolan Principles of standards in public life. [1,2]	E
	Commitment to the University's values , and to the policies and procedures relating to promotion of equity in own area of responsibility and in personal conduct [1,2].	E
Qualifications	Education up to at least first degree level or equivalent experience [1]	E
Experience and Understanding	Recent, relevant Board experience [1,2].	E
	High-level, extensive experience of innovation in a private sector context, ideally, or a public-private research and technology organisation or setting.[2]	E
	Experience of leadership and delivery at senior level in a complex organisation [2].	E
	Understanding of the factors affecting innovation-led growth and productivity at a city-region, national and international level [2].	E
	Knowledge of the Greater Manchester innovation ecosystem and its key assets and stakeholders [1,2].	D

Attributes	Criteria	Essential/ Desirable
	Understanding of the drivers for each part of the triple helix [2].	E
	Experience of partnerships that span more the one element of the triple helix [1].	D
Skills and Abilities	Ability to set out a clear and compelling vision to a wide range of audiences including senior stakeholders within and beyond own organisation [2].	E
	Exceptional verbal communication skills and strong written communication skills [1,2].	E
	Effective interpersonal and leadership skills, as required to inspire the Board and its Director [1,2].	E

Terms of appointment

Contract: The role is being offer for a fixed term for three years initially.

Remuneration: The role is remunerated.

Location: Board meetings take place in Greater Manchester.

Appointment process

The IGM Chair will be appointed by a selection committee. An executive search exercise is being undertaken by Anderson Quigley in parallel with the external and internal advertisement of the post. Anderson Quigley will support the selection committee in the delivery of its duties, both to assist in the assessment of candidates against the requirements for the role and to identify the widest possible field of qualified candidates.

Further information can be found here: www.andersonquigley.com

How to apply

As an equal opportunities employer, we welcome applicants from all sections of the community regardless of age, sex, gender (or gender identity), ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and transgender status.

If you have the qualities and attributes we seek, we would be delighted to hear from you.

To apply, please submit a full CV and a supporting statement. Your CV should include:

- educational and professional qualifications
- full employment history
- the names and addresses of two referees.

Your supporting statement should demonstrate your ability to meet the person specification (maximum two pages.)

Referees will not be approached until the final stages of the selection process and not without prior permission from candidates.

Please submit your documents to www.andersonquigley.com/job/AQ3115 using the reference AQ3115.

The closing date is noon Monday 31 March 2025.

Should you wish to discuss the role in strict confidence, please contact our advising consultants at Anderson Quigley: Aino Betts on +44 (0)7743 934 723 or

aino.betts@andersonquigley.com; or Elliott Rae on +44 (0)7584 078 534 or
elliott.rae@andersonquigley.com

Longlisted candidates will be invited to discuss the role further in April 2025. The selection committee will then convene to decide upon a shortlist.

Final interviews will be held in later April/ early May 2025.

An appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references.

