



A GUIDE TO SKILLS REQUIRED OF BOARD MEMBERS

Trust Port Boards must contain a sufficient appropriate balance of skills, competency 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 skills. Entrepreneurial skills need to be balanced with a public service commitment. Experience and independence are of equal importance. The effective balance for Fowey may vary depending on the anticipated challenges and circumstances forecast in the medium term. However, some common requirements are likely to include;

Personal skills/competency
Professional skills – drive, vision, independence, confidence
Challenging, proactive approach to Board business
Relevant and current commercial expertise
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 and be supportive of colleagues
Shipping
Ability to make a constructive contribution to group discussions – 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.

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.