

SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE

16 JUNE 2026

APPOINTMENT OF ENTERPRISE OXFORDSHIRE CHAIR

Report by Director of Economy and Place

RECOMMENDATION

The Shareholder Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- a) **Appoint Alexander Reip to the position of Chair of Enterprise Oxfordshire**

Executive Summary

1. Following the transfer of Local Enterprise Partnership functions to the Council on 1 April 2024, the Council became the controlling member of the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP). At its meeting on 19 November the Cabinet established the Shareholder Committee to act as the sole member of Enterprise Oxfordshire (EO), providing strategic oversight and taking those decisions which are reserved to the sole member of the company by the Articles of Association.
2. The appointment of a Board Chair are Reserved Matters and therefore must be approved by the Shareholder Committee.

Background

3. In November 2024, Cabinet agreed to introduce new governance arrangements following the transfer of Local Enterprise Partnership functions to the Council on 1 April 2024. These changes include the establishment of the Shareholder Committee as a Committee of Cabinet to take decisions on any matters that are reserved to the Council as member in the company's Articles of Association.
4. This report sets out the appointment of a new Chair of the EO Board.

Chair Appointment

5. In January 2026, following an open recruitment process, interviews were held with two candidates for the role of Chair of the EO Board.

6. The Panel concluded that neither candidate was right for the role, prompting a rethink in process.
7. Given the need to provide some stability through a transitional period, and in order to recruit a Managing Director for the company, the EO Executive recommend that a small number of candidates from the former OxLEP Board were invited to interview – with a view to an initial one-year fixed term (and an option to extend for a second year). The approach was agreed in consultation with the former Leader of the Council in her role as Chair of the Shareholder Committee.
8. Accordingly, two candidates were identified and were interviewed by the former Leader of the Council, the Director of Economy and Place and EO's Director of Business and Skills on 27 April 2026. The interview explored the candidates' motivation, strategic judgment, approach to governance, external leadership, personal values and finish with practical priorities.
9. It was unanimously agreed that Alexander Reip should be offered the position if confirmed through the Shareholder Committee. Alexander Reip has confirmed, in principle, his acceptance.
10. The following pen portrait gives Alexander Reip's background:

“Alex is a deep tech founder, and portfolio non-executive with over fifteen years of experience spanning advanced materials, clean energy, and regional economic development.

He co-founded Oxford nanoSystems in 2012, developing the nanoFLUX® surface coating technology and growing the business before its acquisition in 2025 and now operates a portfolio of strategic and governance roles under his personal brand Nurvian. He is Chief Strategic Technology Advisor at UCR Group, a Trustee at the Royal Society of Chemistry, and a Non-Executive Director at the Net Zero Technology Centre. He is also Royal Society Entrepreneur in Residence at Brunel University London.

In Oxfordshire, Alex chairs the Oxfordshire Economic Partnership Board and is Chair of Governors at North Kidlington Primary School. He is an active voice on regional growth, devolution, and the conditions needed to scale deep tech businesses in the UK.

He holds a PhD and is a Chartered Chemist and Fellow of both the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining”.
11. The EO Board agreed to recommend the appointment of Alexander Reip to the Shareholder Committee.

Financial Implications

12. There are no costs associated with the appointment of the Chair. There are therefore no financial implications arising from this report.

Comments checked by:

Rob Finlayson, Strategic Finance Business Partner – E&H, E&P
(Rob.Finlayson@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Legal Implications

13. Enterprise Oxfordshire is a company limited by guarantee of which the Council is the guarantor and sole member. The Shareholder Committee was constituted by Cabinet to manage the responsibilities of the Council as guarantor and sole member of Enterprise Oxfordshire.
14. The company has registered its Memorandum and Articles of Association with Companies House. The Articles include several reserved matters which are to be decided/approved by the Shareholder Committee and cannot be the sole responsibility of the company. The reserved matters for consideration of the Shareholder Committee includes the appointment and removal of senior management.

Comments checked by:

Jay Akbar, Head of Legal & Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer
(Jay.Akbar@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Staff Implications

15. This post is independent and Alexander Reip is not an employee of the Council. There are, therefore, no staffing implications.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

16. Enterprise Oxfordshire is committed to considering equalities of Board and senior management appointments.
17. There are no further implications arising from this report.

Robin Rogers
Director of Economy and Place

Contact Officer: Sadie Patamia, Head of Corporate Services – Enterprise Oxfordshire (Sadie.Patamia@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

May 2026