



Role description

DART HARBOUR VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBER (INED equivalent) Local Operations & Stakeholder Understanding

Dart Harbour is seeking an experienced individual with a good understanding of local operational and stakeholder concerns to join our Board.

This is an exciting opportunity to join our dynamic organisation at a pivotal time in its development and to play your part at a strategic level in helping to shape its future direction and strategy.

Dart Harbour (Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority) www.dartharbour.org is a Statutory Harbour Authority and Trust Port, set up by an Act of Parliament to manage the port and river infrastructure and the safe navigation of the River Dart from the river estuary to Totnes; some eight miles of river and sea in a "National Landscape" (formerly an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). In addition to its statutory duties, Dart Harbour operates moorings and pontoons on a long-term lease from the Duchy of Cornwall.

The majority of our income comes from moorings and harbour dues. Any surplus we generate is reinvested in improvements to the harbour, the river and its associated facilities or retained to ensure our long-term financial sustainability.

We have no shareholders, neither are we part of any form of local government or government agency. Instead, we are answerable to our many and varied stakeholders, and ultimately to future generations who live, work and enjoy this beautiful river. For more information see www.gov.uk/government/organisations/trust-ports

Our Mission

Our Mission is to manage, protect, and enhance Dart Harbour whilst supporting the local economy and community. We operate Dart Harbour safely as a Trust Port in accordance with the UK Ports & Marine Facilities Safety Code 2025, conserving and enhancing Dart Harbour as part of a "National Landscape" that benefits the local community while managing Dart Harbour in a way that balances the needs of its many stakeholders. We will do this by adhering to the

guidance given in the Department for Transport Ports Good Governance Guidance (PGGG).

The Board sets the strategic aims of Dart Harbour and ensures the necessary financial and human resources are in place to meet those objectives and to fulfil its legal duties and responsibilities.

The Role

Working collaboratively with the other Board Members, your expertise will complement existing Board Member skills such as Safety, Environment, Finance, HR, Governance, and Communications.

It is an important requirement for Trust Ports to recruit Board members who bring necessary expertise rather than represent specific stakeholders or interest groups.

We are particularly keen to recruit a candidate this year with a close understanding of the day-to-day workings of the river to maintain the Board's direct connection with every day activities on the water. We are therefore particularly keen to hear from candidates that appreciate the perspectives of commercial users, local people and visitors alike.

Ideally, we are seeking a candidate with the following skills and experience:-

1. Knowledge of the history of Dart Harbour, including awareness of the evolution of the Harbour and the way the river is used by different communities
2. Connection to the interests, concerns, aspirations and motivations of wide range of river users, including local residents, commercial users, and visitors
3. Experience of working within organisations with a day-to-day connection with the river
4. Understanding of the workings and operations of a range of current commercial organisations operating on the river
5. Appreciation of the motivations, feelings and interests of the current commercial community operating on the river
6. Previous Board level experience would be an advantage
7. Easy and regular access to Dartmouth will be a consideration, as will evidence of an ability to add value to any projects or external engagements

Any candidate must be confident enough to challenge assumptions and proposals on all aspects of Dart Harbour's operations at Board meetings, providing well thought through arguments, whilst at the same time developing a good working relationship with other Board members and the Senior Management Team.

Additional Information:

The position is a **voluntary unpaid public appointment** (Nolan principles will apply) and although not onerous, may take between 2-3 days per month. Reasonable travel expenses will be paid. Board meetings are usually held in the evenings or afternoons in Dartmouth, but on occasion, at different locations along the river. Attendance online is also possible but in person is always preferable.

The Board is particularly keen to ensure the diversity of its members. We are an equal opportunities organisation and we welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, age, religious or philosophical belief, disability, political opinion, or marital/partnership status.

Term:

3 years (extendable for a further 3 years by agreement).

Application Method:

To apply, please submit a CV and covering letter to the Clerk to the Board William Lewis board.clerk@dartharbour.org. Please feel free to request an informal conversation prior to applying if you prefer.

Closing date for applications – 9am Monday, 27th October 2025