

Highbury Heritage Trust

A new independent trust

An invitation to become the Chair or a trustee

and shape the future of an iconic historic house and garden –
Highbury, the Birmingham home of Joseph Chamberlain

In 1932 Highbury Estate – Highbury hall and its gardens – was given in trust to the City of Birmingham. Since then it has been operated by Birmingham City Council as sole trustee. It has been used for many purposes, most recently as a banqueting and wedding venue run by the City Council's catering arm. Following a detailed options appraisal by Birmingham Conservation Trust, Birmingham City Council wishes to facilitate a fresh start for Highbury.

A new independent trust, the Highbury Heritage Trust, will be established and granted the estate's assets on at least a 25-year lease. The new trust will develop and implement a vision for Highbury. For anyone passionate about Birmingham's heritage this is an extraordinary opportunity to come in at the beginning of a transformational venture and shape the future of Highbury for a generation.

The Highbury Heritage Trust will start with a "windfall" development budget of c.£750,000.

The challenge:

- To develop a new overall vision for Highbury which will maximise the opportunities for public and community benefit while achieving long-term sustainability
- To imaginatively unlock the heritage of Highbury, engaging the widest possible audiences
- Building on the recommendations of the options appraisal, to develop an ambitious programme of repair and restoration of the house and gardens, which will transform Highbury over the next 10-15 years (estimated cost c.£7 million)
- To use the development budget to initiate and support the incremental programme of fundraising and grant applications that will be necessary to achieve the vision

The Chair will be the crucial first appointment, leading on the appointment of the other trustees (up to 7), overseeing the creation of the new charity, and shaping the vision of the Highbury Heritage Trust.

The reward:

- To use your skills and experience to help shape and deliver an exemplar heritage project, reinterpreting the legacy of Joseph Chamberlain for the 21st century
- To develop new skills, knowledge, contacts and friends
- To make a real difference to Birmingham and the local community

Your qualities as a trustee:

- An ability to think strategically, focussing on major issues
- Experience of business management in either private, public or voluntary sectors
- Effective networking skills
- Well-established and current professional networks
- Good communication and advocacy skills
- A readiness and ability to play a role in fundraising
- A passion for Birmingham's heritage and an appreciation for the legacy of Joseph Chamberlain
- An ability to command respect amongst regional stakeholders and national decision makers in the public and private sectors
- Professional background in one or more of the following areas:
 - Management or entrepreneurial experience
 - Finance, Law or Human Resources
 - Fundraising
 - Communications, ICT, Marketing and Public Relations
 - Heritage, Museums, Tourism or the Arts
 - Education or Academia
 - Involvement in community service (paid or voluntary)

Closing dates for applications: 16th October 2015 (for role of Chair); 30th October (for role of trustee). Open evening at Highbury for candidates: 8th October. Interview dates: 26th October for Chair; tbc in November for trustees.

For more information and to receive a full briefing pack, please contact:
Simon Buteux simon@birminghamconservationtrust.org Tel: 07973 498013

