

Reference Number	
Role Title	Interim Lead and Programme Director – LEP transition and Cumbria Economic Growth Service (Fixed Term 8 months)
Directorate	Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport
Function	Cumbria Economic Growth Service
Reports to	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport

Role Purpose

- To provide independent support, leadership, and vision for the transition of Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEP) functions to Local Authorities, consulting and engaging with key business representative organisations to incorporate the voice of business in future arrangements.
- To ensure a smooth transition of the Cumbria-wide core economic functions formerly delivered by CLEP namely business representation, strategic economic planning, and responsibility for the delivery of government programmes where directed, delivering the best outcomes for the residents of Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness.
- Working with partners to support the successful development and implementation of a Cumbria Economic Strategy, in accordance with Government Guidance. Ensuring the strategy takes into account the business and community needs and opportunities, to promote business growth, sustainability, innovation, and enterprise.
- The role will be externally facing, working collaboratively with the private and public sector and with local, regional, and national partners.

Accountabilities

- To lead the LEP integration, working collaboratively with Cumberland Council, Westmorland, and Furness Council, LEP Board, Public, Private and Third Sector, and other relevant organisations, utilising the extensive knowledge, skills and collective capacity in Cumbria.
- Providing advice, guidance, clarity and to report on opportunities, key issues, risks, and decisions required.
- Be responsible and accountable for allocated financial, revenue and capital resources, and the successful transfer of LEP funding, assets, and reserves, reporting to the Section 151 officer in Cumberland and Joint Executive Committee.
- To provide oversight, advice, and guidance on the appropriate new governance structure, ensuring this delivers an independent business voice. For example, a transparent and open appointment process for the Economic Growth Board, how terms of reference are set, how decisions are made and agreed within the board (and disputes managed), and in managing public communications.

- To provide operational management and leadership to the Cumbria Economic Growth Service (former CLEP).
- To lead, co-ordinate and support the development of an Economic Growth Strategy for Cumbria.
- Foster and cultivate long term constructive relationships with a range of stakeholders at both a local and national level, to position Cumbria at the centre of relevant networks and be at the forefront for opportunities from new government initiatives, devolved funding opportunities and investment to deliver economic growth and lever in private and public investment.
- Liaise effectively with Central Government Departments in particular DLUHC, DfT, BEIS, DIT and Treasury.
- To exercise delegated authority provided by the Joint Executive Committee and the Accountable Body on matters of inclusive economic growth and programme delivery for the Functional Economic Area (FEA) of Cumbria.
- To provide independent support and secretariat to the Joint Executive Committee and Cumbria Economic Growth Board.
- To develop options for a governance structure to meet Government guidance, unlock Cumbria wide growth opportunities and make private and public sector investment in Cumbria an attractive prospect.
- To have oversight of programme delivery and ensure informal and formal reporting arrangements to Senior Officers, Joint Officer Board, Portfolio Holders, Joint Executive Committee and Cumbria Economic Growth Board. Represent and promoting Cumbria.
- Represent and promoting Cumbria at local, regional, and national to increase reputation and credibility.
- Undertake any other duties deemed necessary from time to time, as directed by the Senior Leadership Team or Joint Executive Committee.

Knowledge / Skills / Experience required

- Substantial and successful senior leadership experience in the economic policy arena, leading in economic strategies and initiatives with a breadth of understanding of all areas that the role covers, and strong knowledge of the local economy and its opportunities and challenges.
- Performance management, commercial acumen, financial and risk control.
- Proven ability to understand the interdependencies between economic policy and interventions to support inclusive economic growth.

- Experience of developing economic strategies, using data analysis and intelligence, and working with partners and stakeholders.
- Ability to establish effective, positive working relationships with colleagues, partners, and stakeholders at a local, regional, and national level.
- Strong organisational and political acumen, with the ability to work with elected Members, private sectors and interest groups to build consensus.
- Experience of corporate governance and Board responsibility.
- Strong analytical and research skills, particularly relating to economic data and analysis.
- Appropriate experience of writing and presenting reports.
- Experience of managing complex stakeholder relationships.
- Experience of Change Management and or processes.
- Understanding of policy and best practice in economic development, regeneration, skills, assets, infrastructure, securing investment, housing, and planning with a thorough understanding of national and local government developments, policy, and emerging trends.
- Able to foster an innovative mindset that drives an ambitious and inclusive way of working and empower staff to see continuous learning as a positive that drives better solutions and outcomes.
- Degree and post graduate qualifications (or willing to work towards a post graduate qualification if not already gained) in relevant disciplines, and/or leadership and management qualifications with demonstrable continuing professional development.

Context and Scope

Government has announced that it will cease to provide core funding to LEPs from 1 April 2024 and instead it would support local authorities to take on the functions currently delivered by LEPs namely, business representation, strategic economic planning, and the delivery of government programmes where directed. Government expects these functions to be exercised by upper tier local authorities (working in collaboration with other upper tier local authorities as appropriate), where they are not already delivered by a combined authority, or in areas where a devolution deal is not yet agreed.

To support the policy change, Government published technical guidance in August 2023 and on 19th December 2023 published the final piece of guidance on the core functions of business representation and local economic planning. Both guidance documents should be used by local authorities in developing their integration and delivery plans for 2024/25 and beyond.

Cumberland Council will act as the Accountable Body, working with Westmorland and Furness Council to deliver the functions previously delivered by LEPs.

Government expects the creation of an Economic Growth Board for a functional economic area (FEA) geography (minimum 500,000 population) made up of local business leaders and representative bodies to create an economic strategy for the area. Furthermore, areas will need

publish their (existing, new, or updated) Economic Growth strategy within six months of receiving funding.

Local Authorities are expected to work together to ensure seamless transfer of programmes over existing geographies.

The post holder will support both authorities to successful transition the LEP functions and activity and ensuring the new governance structure delivers an independent business voice. The successful post holder needs to work closely with both authorities, CLEP Board and wider partners to consider and assess different delivery and Governance models and by acting as an advisor, facilitator and coordinator for the transition, working closely public, private and third sector partners.

Traits, motives, and competencies

Cultivate Innovation

Creating new and better ways for the organisation to be successful.

Customer Focus

Building strong customer relationships and delivering customer-centric solutions.

Manages Complexity

Making sense of complex, high quality, and sometimes contradictory information to effectively solve

Demonstrates Self-Awareness

Using a combination of feedback and reflection to gain productive insight into personal strengths and weaknesses.

Manages Ambiguity

Operating effectively, even when things are not certain, or the way forward is not clear.

Instils Trust

Gaining the confidence and trust of others through honesty, integrity, and authenticity.

Action Oriented

Taking on new opportunities and tough challenges with a sense of urgency, high energy, and enthusiasm.

Ensures Accountability

Holding self and others accountable to meet commitments.

Optimises Work Processes

Knowing the most effective and efficient processes to get things done, with a focus on continuous improvement.

Drives Vision and Purpose

Painting a compelling picture of the vision and strategy that motivates others to action.

Collaborates

Building partnerships and working collaboratively with others to meet shared objectives.

Builds Effective Teams

Building strong-identity teams that apply their diverse skills and perspectives to achieve common goals.

Contribution to Council Performance

Cultivate Innovation

Creating new and better ways for the organisation to be successful.

Customer Focus

Building strong customer relationships and delivering customer-centric solutions.

Manages Complexity

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