

Job Description

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| Post title | Assistant Director of Place |
| Grade | SM4 |
| Directorate | Economic Growth and Innovation |
| Team | Place |
| Reporting to | Director of Economic Growth and Innovation |

Job Purpose

To develop and implement an impactful strategic approach for all aspects of the housing, regeneration and culture agenda for the North East Combined Authority fully reflecting its policy vision and priorities.

Working across the whole of the Authority, this high profile strategic role will be to enhance the Authority's reputation, engage with a broad range of key stakeholders and influence public policy at local, regional and national levels. The postholder will work closely with and advise the senior leadership team, Mayor and Cabinet as well as a very broad range of external stakeholders at local, regional and national level.

This role requires someone with a robust portfolio of well tested strategic agility, leadership abilities and who can provide strategic leadership for the development and delivery of the Place agenda, including experience of delivery (at a national, regional or local level) of regeneration, spatial planning, culture and the creative industries, housing growth, infrastructure and the built environment.

Duties and responsibilities

Listed below are the responsibilities this role will be primarily responsible for:

Strategic Leadership and Innovation:

- You will be responsible and accountable for the development of the Place agenda for the Combined Authority which is fully aligned to its Corporate Plan, Local Growth Plan, strategic policy priorities and organisational values. This strategic approach will reflect robust and creative insight to deliver through all external and internal communication channels.
- You will be responsible for the development and delivery of a regional spatial plan, the Housing Strategy and the Culture and Sport Strategy, working with Local Authorities and other partners.

- You will be part of the Authority's senior management team and directly work with and advise both the Senior Leadership Team (Chief Executive and Directors) as well as the Mayor and Cabinet when required.
- You will provide strategic leadership for the Culture and Sport team and the Housing and Regeneration team, ensuring measurable delivery against a set of clear objectives.
- You will be able to use insight and evaluation to challenge established practices and introduce ongoing service improvements.
- You will drive innovation in place-making, ensuring policies and programmes contribute to inclusive economic growth, improving access to culture and sport and climate resilience.

Impact on People – (Internal and External Influencing)

- By its nature, this role is externally facing. In developing a strategic approach to the housing, regeneration and cultural agenda, you will develop positive relationships with a broad range of external stakeholders from planners to the cultural sector partners, building and maintain strong collaborative partnerships. This will include with local authorities, other combined authorities, government departments, local community and voluntary sector groups, culture sector leaders, businesses, education sector, (local and national) as well as internal stakeholders.
- You will be responsible for all aspects of stakeholder engagement for the Authority for a number of key stakeholders on culture, creative industries, sport, housing providers, developers, businesses, Local Authorities and national government.
- You will champion the integration of community voice into policy development and project delivery to ensure that place-based investment reflects the aspirations of North East residents and communities.

Financial Resource Management:

- This role is responsible for overseeing the resources (financial and non financial) allocated to this function of the Authority, ensuring that this is managed to achieve effective value for money and clear allocation of resources to deliver against strategic objectives.
- You will lead your team creating a high performance culture that is aligned to organisational values, behaviours, policy vision and priorities, reflecting best practice and continuous professional development.
- You will ensure that the team is supported and developed throughout.

Values and Behaviours

- **Values and Behaviours**

Our organisational values and behaviours are the things that are important to us, individually and as a team. They articulate the way we want to conduct ourselves. Combined, they work together to make us who we are and we use them to anchor all that we do. The North East CA values are:

- Strive for brilliance
- One team
- Drive sustainability
- Make it happen
- Be inclusive

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality and Belonging

- **Inclusion, Diversity, Equality and Belonging**
We are committed to creating a fairer North East where everyone can thrive with aspirational jobs, new skills, and better homes. All employees are responsible for taking proactive steps to eliminate discrimination, advance equal opportunities and foster good relationships in every aspect of their work.

Special requirements of post

- **DBS**

This post is not subject to a disclosure.

- **Politically restricted**

The North East CA has designated that this post is politically restricted in accordance with the requirement of section 1(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and by regulations made from time to time by the Secretary of State.

Person specification: Assistant Director of Place

| | Essential | Desirable |
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| Qualifications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educated to degree level or equivalent in a relevant discipline or equivalent experience. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant postgraduate or professional qualification. |
| Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive experience in a complex organisation, with a proven track record of delivering place based initiatives (e.g. regeneration, spatial planning, housing, or infrastructure). Proven track record of developing and implementing successful strategies. Demonstrable experience in engaging with senior stakeholders and influencing. Experience in securing and managing significant funding programmes. Significant and broad experience in leading, managing and developing high performing teams. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience of working within or alongside a Combined Authority, or similar strategic public sector body. Experience of developing or influencing national policy on place-making or regional development. |
| Skills and Knowledge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Thinking: Ability to think strategically and develop long-term plans. Communication: Excellent written and verbal communication skills with the ability to present complex information clearly and persuasively. Interpersonal Skills: Strong interpersonal skills, with the ability to influence as well as to build and maintain relationships with a diverse range of stakeholders. Analytic Skills: Strong analytic skills, with the ability to interpret data and provide strategic insights, leading to continuous improvement Leadership: Proven leadership skills, with the ability to inspire and motivate a team. Adaptability: Ability to adapt to changing circumstances and priorities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiation and commercial skills relevant to securing investment or forming delivery partnerships. Awareness of the economic, demographic, and political context of the North East of England. Knowledge of how to integrate environmental sustainability and Net Zero goals into place-based planning and investment strategies. |

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| Personal Qualities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High level of integrity and professionalism.• Proactive and results orientated.• Resilient and able to work under pressure.• Commitment to continuous professional development• Commitment to inclusion, diversity, equality and belonging. | |
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