

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Senior Policy Manager - Place Strategy
MANAGED BY:	Head of Place Strategy
GRADE:	11

BACKGROUND

The West of England Combined Authority is seeking to appoint a Senior Policy Manager for Place Strategy to join the Housing and Place Team.

This is an exciting time to join the West of England Combined Authority. In the last year nearly three quarters of a billion pounds of new investment has been secured for the region. New plans are in place to deliver on Mayoral priorities to improve transport, skills and housing for our residents, take decisive action to tackle the climate emergency, and to support communities facing the cost-of-living crisis. There is a relentless focus on delivery to put the West of England on the map for regional, national and global success.

Led by the regional Metro Mayor, the West of England Combined Authority brings together three local councils, the Local Enterprise Partnership and works with communities, other public services, and industry to deliver for the region.

Come and help shape the future of the West of England, a place so many people are proud to call home.

THE ROLE

Reporting into the Head of Place Strategy, this role will support the development of the spatial approach to delivering the region's ambition to deliver improvements for people and communities across the West of England, strengthening our economic resilience and ensuring we meet our environmental ambitions.

They will:

- Lead work to ensure the different challenges and opportunities of the places that make up the West of England are reflected in our ambitions for the region.
- Support the development of a framework for prioritising interventions across the region.
- Build a place-based narrative, identifying opportunities to ensure spatial planning is appropriately reflected in delivery of mayoral priorities around environment, transport, business, and skills.
- Work flexibly across projects liaising with colleagues across the Combined Authority and in central and local government.

- Work with the Unitary Authority housing and spatial planning leads at Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire to support and develop a strategic approach the housing and planning across the region.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful candidate will be expected to work flexibly on relevant policy issues as they arise. However, core responsibilities are expected to include:

- Working with the Head of Place Strategy to develop the Combined Authority's strategic approach to place, building an evidence-led narrative to support a framework for prioritising funding across the region.
- Developing the Combined Authority's evidence base around regional geography, working with relevant teams across the Combined Authority and constituent authorities, and commissioning new data where necessary.
- Identifying synergies and developing opportunities to drive forward wider priorities through the housing and planning agenda including environment, transport, business and skills.
- Leading programmes and projects as directed by Head of Place Strategy, shaping options for delivery in consultation with relevant stakeholders.
- Work with the Business & Skills directorate to develop thinking around high street regeneration and set the direction for future investment decisions.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL (MUST HAVE)

Qualifications and Knowledge

- Educated to degree level or able to demonstrate equivalent experience
- Knowledge and understanding of the role of economic evidence in informing strategy and policy
- Knowledge of the work of national, regional and local bodies in the context of economic growth
- Knowledge of the local and regional policy context and how this will impact the work of this role

Experience

- Proven track record of policy development in a complex, multifaceted environment
- Experience of translating strategy into policy opportunities.
- Influencing and negotiating locally, regionally and/or nationally
- Drafting high-quality documents, suitable for publication.

Skills and Competencies

- Ability to develop productive working relationships with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders.
- Persuasive individual who can challenge effectively so that others see another point of view.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills including translating complex information into clear and engaging reports for a variety of audiences.
- Ability to work collaboratively and as part of a team.

DESIRABLE

Qualifications and Knowledge

- Knowledge and experience of the national, regional and local housing and planning landscape
- Knowledge/experience of developing policies and strategies, with a particular focus on understanding regional variation.

REWARDS AND BENEFITS

Alongside a competitive salary, we offer an excellent benefits package including:

- 26 days annual leave plus bank holidays
- Generous Employer-Contribution Pension Scheme through the Avon Pension Fund
- Cycle to work scheme and secure bike parking
- Free eye tests for all display screen equipment (DSE) users
- Discounted monthly bus tickets
- Hybrid working to split your week between the office and home to help you achieve the best work/life balance and career goals.

We have recently moved into a new bright, airy, modern office space, with all latest technology, under a 10-minute walk from Bristol Temple Meads Train Station. We offer flexible and hybrid working options too if you would rather work from home, or another suitable location.

As an equal opportunities employer, we invite applicants to contact us to identify any additional support they may need during the recruitment process.

WE PAY THE LIVING WAGE

We're proud to have been accredited as a Living Wage Employer

Living Wage accreditation means that everyone working at The West of England and Combined Authority receives a minimum hourly wage of £14.21 - higher than the government minimum for **over 23s, currently £10.42 per hour**



It also means that anyone who provides services to, or has contracts with us, must pay the Living Wage, setting the bar for good employer practices in the region. This includes those who provide services to The West of England and Combined Authority, such cleaning and facilities management contracts, as well as those who have contracts with us - such as IT providers.