

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Head of Transport Pipeline and Investment
MANAGED BY:	Executive Director of Transport
GRADE:	Head of Service 3

THE ROLE

The post holder will lead the attraction of strategic transport investment into the MCA, strengthening the region’s overall economic performance and delivering improved outcomes for people across the West of England.

Reporting into the Executive Director of Transport, this role will lead the development of a £multi-million transport investment pipeline, which will strategically shape delivery priorities, support lobby efforts and attract funding from government and investors. This is a senior leadership role who will be required to work with regionally and form relationships with key national partners including the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, HM Treasury, Department for Transport, Network Rail and National Highways. They will also be required to navigate complex relationships across the unitary authorities within the West of England, each with distinct political leadership and priorities.

The post holder will be highly analytical and always seeking innovative solutions allowing the department to lead the way within the Transport Industry. This role will ensure WECA’s transport plans are realistic, innovative and well-resourced so the benefits and outcomes plan for are realised.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop and Drive the Transport Pipeline**
- Leads the identification, shaping, and progression of a £750m+ transport investment pipeline, setting a clear strategic direction for the wider department.
 - Drive an investment-ready narrative that attracts sustained funding, accelerates delivery of high-impact infrastructure programmes, and positions the region as a leader in future mobility.

- Prioritises and deploys investment into high-impact programmes that maximise economic return, demonstrate rigorous value for money, and deliver measurable, long-term benefits for residents and the regional economy.
- Ensures a coherent, prioritised portfolio of programmes that secures funding, unlocks delivery, and strengthens the organisation's long-term investment case, credibility, and influence.
- Operates with a high degree of autonomy within delegated authority, particularly in relation to devolution progression and Integrated Settlement readiness of the Transport Directorate.

Stakeholder Influence

- Provides strategic advice and recommendations that directly inform decisions taken by the Mayor, Chief Executive, Corporate Leadership Team and Committees
- Build and sustain complex relationships with Government Departments and key national partners including the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, HM Treasury, Department for Transport, Network Rail and National Highways ensuring
- Manage complex relationships across the unitary authorities within the West of England, each with distinct political leadership and priorities.
- Negotiate future priorities to ensure the Transport pipeline is SMART and can be delivered effectively and efficiently with maximum buy-in from key stakeholders.
- Work with private sector stakeholders, including public transport operators and passenger groups, to support the development of WECA's transport priorities.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with senior stakeholders, sponsors partners, and delivery teams, ensuring various WECA boards have full oversight of the transport delivery pipeline.

Develop Business Cases and Strategic Decision Making

- Lead and manage effective stakeholder engagement while ensuring all business cases and delivery plans are completed to a high standard, comply with current legislation, safety and environmental regulations, and enable WECA to effectively manage delivery and monitor outcomes and benefits post-delivery.
- Working with key stakeholder and partners to identify, prioritise and sequence schemes from early concept through to feasibility, outline business case and full.
- Develop robust, investment-ready business cases that align schemes and funding proposals with the outcomes set out in the MCA Growth Strategy and Transport Strategy, ensuring a clear line of sight from strategic intent through to delivery impact.

Champion Innovation and Continuous Improvement

- Utilise transport modelling tools to assess the impact of policies, infrastructure investments, and behavioural change initiatives, ensuring evidence-led planning and continuous improvement across the region.
- Ensure WECA remains innovative and leads the way in the transport space.

Inspire and Cultivate a High-Performing Team

- Operates with a high degree of autonomy within delegated authority.
- Build and develop a skilled and motivated team. Foster a delivery-focused, inclusive and curious culture with clear objectives, shared learning, and professional growth opportunities.
- Carry out specific corporate roles and assignments and such other duties commensurate with the role.
- Will be required to deputise across the Directorate as required.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL (MUST HAVE)

Qualifications and Knowledge

- Educated to degree level or able to demonstrate equivalent professional experience in Transport planning and/or delivery.
- Knowledge of transport modelling understanding, passenger behaviours, the impact of place shaping developments or similar.
- Knowledge of transport policy areas such as logistics and freight, rail transportation, environmental and sustainable transport, land use and transport planning, mobility as a service, community transport, buses, economic development or similar
- Understanding of the Nolan Principles of Public life.

Experience

- Experience developing a £multi-million portfolio of investment programmes
- Proven experience in transport planning, delivery, or transport consultancy, with a strong understanding of how transport systems operate.
- Able to lead negotiations on complex investment agreements, including the exercise of initiative and discretion to resolve problems efficiently and effectively.
- Experience developing complex business cases with key stakeholders, allowing the organisation to meet its strategic objectives.
- Experience managing and forecasting outcomes to ensure transport solutions remains innovative and provides a value for money service.
- Experience of operating within a transport delivery environment, proactively managing risk, financial pressures, and governance/reporting requirements across all organisational levels.
- Experience of working in a complex stakeholder environment at a senior level within the public sector and can demonstrate ability to develop and maintain effective relationships, ensuring that internal and external stakeholders understand visions and delivery plans.
- Influencing Local Authorities to coordinate, co-develop and deliver collaborative solutions on a regional scale.

Skills and Competencies

- Skilled at negotiating, lobbying and coaching stakeholders to reach an agreement for the benefit of those who live, work or visit the region.
- Creative thinker who is able to see beyond 'tried and tested' models or solutions.
- Adopts an entrepreneurial approach, with a proven track record of dynamic thought leadership to attract investment into the region.
- Leadership coach who has worked with stakeholders to develop robust business cases and feasibility studies for the good of a region.
- Proven ability to lead and develop high-performing teams, develop strategy and drive strategic vision within the team.
- Managing complex relationships in a political environment for the good of the public.
- Ability to shape and manage large complex budgets, limiting overspends and underspends.
- Skilled at working with large complex data sets, to identify trends and risks, allowing an organisation to lead the way.
- A strategic leader and strong organisational skills with the ability to liaise with people at all levels of the organisation.

DESIRABLE

Qualifications and Knowledge

- Professional qualifications, such as IEng, CEng, TPP, APM, CILT, CIHT, TPS or equivalent level by experience.

Experience

- Experience creating simulations and modelling traffic flows using mathematical techniques and specialist computer applications.
- Experience working with central government and within a local authority environment, demonstrating the ability to operate effectively across complex public sector governance and delivery contexts.
- Senior-level experience working in or alongside combined authorities or local authorities, with a strong understanding of devolution and mayoral governance, and experience of operating within political organisations to support transport investment decision-making.