

North East Local Enterprise Partnership Person Specification



Job Title:	Innovation Director
Service:	North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP)
Responsible To:	Executive Director, North East Local Enterprise Partnership
Host Employer:	North East Combined Authority
Salary:	Circa £65K (plus possible market supplement)

Summary

The Innovation Director will be a key appointment within the North East LEP with a leadership role for the development and delivery of the Innovation Programme within the North East Strategic Economic plan, and a corporate responsibility within the wider executive team.

To lead, animate and develop the North East Local Enterprise Partnership's Innovation Programme, with the aim of driving new thinking around innovation and its ecosystem in the North East of England. The post holder will strive to deliver the North East Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and deliver the vision for the North East to take its place as an innovation hot spot in Europe – an exemplar in 'smart specialisation' and open innovation systems and practice.

Experience & Knowledge

Essential

1. Knowledge of national and international best-practice in developing innovation eco-systems with the aim of driving new thinking around innovation to improve our productivity performance and catalyse growth in 'better' jobs.
2. A proven track record of defining and directing innovation programmes and projects from conception to delivery derived from senior experience within either the private or public sectors.
3. A background of engagement with senior (Board-level) leaders and other professionals across a range of organisations and sectors.
4. A clear understanding of the rationale and processes for deployment and utilization of public investment to deliver economic and social outcomes.

5. Demonstrable political awareness and sensitivity.
6. Experience of leading multi-disciplinary teams in a complex multi-agency or multi-disciplinary environment.
7. Understanding of, or involvement in, the innovation arena.
8. Direct experience of successfully developing business cases for access to national and European funding opportunities.
9. Understanding and experience of economic strategy development and delivery in regional setting with similar industrial characteristics to North East England
10. A grasp of the challenges and opportunities for the North East innovation landscape and build on the North East innovation reputation.
11. Operational experience from either a Business Support or Start Up environment.
12. Entrepreneurial and / or investment experience.

Ability and skills

1. Excellent communication skills including the ability to network and build working relationships with a range of partners across all sectors both nationally and internationally.
2. Proven track record of delivery of outcomes in a multi-agency sector setting.
3. Ability to think, plan and manage strategically, developing effective strategies to meet outcomes.
4. High-level analytical skills, with the ability to exercise sound judgment in seeking creative solutions to complex situations.
5. Ability to build effective teams and relationships and achieve results through others by leading, inspiring and motivating others.
6. Ability to operate effectively with a high volume workload and the ability to prioritise effectively.
7. An entrepreneurial flair with the ability to spot and exploit linkages and opportunities.
8. Ability to achieve major cultural and organisational change and achieve results through influence, negotiation and joint working.
9. Identify and maximize the benefits of opportunities and links.

Personal Attributes

1. Strong and open leadership style that enthuses and inspires others.
2. Committed to working collaboratively – within the organisation and externally.
3. Commitment to equality of opportunity in all aspects of the role with partners.
4. High level of drive and motivation to deliver results.
5. Strong commercial skills and business acumen.
6. Strong interpersonal skills.
7. Outcome and achievement focused.
8. Entrepreneurial outlook with the ability to identify and maximise opportunities and manage risks.

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