

North East Local Enterprise Partnership

Job Description

Job Title:	Programme Lead: Digital
Service:	North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP)
Responsible To:	Head of Strategy and Policy, North East Local Enterprise Partnership
Host Employer:	North East Combined Authority
Salary:	£50,049 – £51,822
	Offered initially for 27 months with the possibility of extension subject to funding

Background

The North East LEP leads on the development and delivery of the North East Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), aiming to foster economic growth and the delivery of more and better jobs in the area.

The area hosts a diverse and fast growing digital and tech community which includes:

- an established and growing cluster of software and digital businesses with a number of specialisms
- leading science and research in our Universities of national and international standing
- a number of innovation hubs and facilities, key business networks and the presence of key national agencies including Catapult Expert Centres

This post has two key aims; to strengthen co-ordination in the region working with a range of partners to foster growth in the North East digital sector and to support North East based businesses to better understand and adopt technology.

This role will therefore have a direct delivery element through the Digital Innovation Partnership that will be part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and a strategic role element that will be funded via the North East LEP.

Strategic role

The postholder will:

- Strengthen co-ordination and project development in the region to improve working with and between partners within the digital and tech community and across regional sectors;
- Link the region to key national policy and investment processes securing engagement and support for key projects;
- Project the regions assets and digital eco-system to a range of audiences
- Ensure that mainstream LEP services are aligned to the needs of digital partners;
- Work closely with national government departments to tell the aspirations of the North East digital and tech sector and to ensure national projects are linked to regional delivery;
- Develop regional and national awareness of the North East Digital and Tech strengths and opportunities, building a clear and visible narrative about the North East's future role in the UK Industrial strategy in this sector and into other parts of the economy
- Work with the regional digital and tech community to agree priorities for regional development and develop plans to match these priorities to national strategies, activity and funding

Engagement with the Digital Innovation Partnership

The postholder will deliver direct support to businesses by:

- Taking part in workshops to help businesses across all sectors understand the benefit of 'being digital by default';
- Ensuring support to eligible SMEs to apply for UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) funding;
- Designing and supporting delivery of business challenge projects, supporting the engagement of national project partners such as UKRI, DCMS and BEIS;
- Supporting businesses to access pan-national and pan-international projects through the coordination of partners
- Leading showcase missions to international and national events providing the opportunity for eligible North East based SMEs to engage with wider audiences;

July 2018