

Job Description

Post title	Transport Economist
Grade	N9
Job Evaluation Code and Points	A5058 586 points
Directorate	Operations
Team	Business Transformation, Performance and Insights
Reporting to	Senior Programme Manager, Evidence and Evaluation
Responsible for	N/A

Job Purpose

The North East Combined Authority (North East CA) is data driven and evidence led with regards to its policy making, strategy development and delivery and aims to provide an expert source of economic insights and intelligence to the region. The Evidence and Evaluation Team provides focus for this work.

This role is an exciting and new, opportunity to be part of a transformative project, Bus Reform. This role will provide expert advice and guidance in relation to the economic case of the Franchising Scheme Assessment (FSA).

Duties and responsibilities

In relation to the Bus Reform project, this role will be primarily responsible for:

- To critically assess and scrutinise economic appraisals, according to best practice and HM Treasury's Green Book principles, to ensure development and sustainability of economic models to assess the costs, benefits and economic impacts of bus franchising schemes.
- Work with external consultants to analyse economic trends and data to forecast the long-term implications of franchising schemes to inform the economic case of the FSA.
- Understand, advise and lead on the delivery of cost benefit analyses to support decision making processes.
- Effectively interpret and translate detailed economic modelling, cost benefit analysis and

impact assessment to ensure the effective delivery of bus reform policy in the North East.

- As part of the Evidence Team, manage and co-ordinate the collection, and analysis of large data sets related to public transport, the economy, and proactively horizon scan for new data sources to plug gaps.
- Contribute to the development of policies and strategies associated with bus franchising and wider transport and/or North East CA objectives, ensuring that they are, where necessary, underpinned by robust economic assumptions or business cases.
- Assist in developing scenarios that inform the financial model and budget setting process, for example different fares and lead the integration of the economic analysis with other aspects of the bus franchising project.
- As a technical expert, provide economic analysis and insights to inform policy decisions and strategic planning, utilising both published and innovative data.
- Work collaboratively with internal and external stakeholders, including the senior sponsor of the Economic Case of the FSA, to align economic analysis with broader policy objectives.
- Engage with internal and external stakeholders, including local authorities, transport operators and the public, to gather insights, and disseminate analytical findings.
- Present complex economic analysis and outputs in a clear, accessible manner to a range of audiences including writing reports, briefings and delivering presentations with the aim of increasing understanding of how buses affect the North East economy, communities and the environment.
- Where necessary, help to represent the economic impact and economic case work being undertaken for the bus reform project in other North East CA and partner organisations' business cases.
- Conduct research on best practice and emerging trends in transport economics and document methodologies, assumptions and results of economic analysis for transparency and reproducibility.
- To provide employee supervision, coaching and mentoring as required.
- To promote and implement the North East CA's Equality and Diversity Policy in all aspects of employment and service delivery.

Organisational responsibilities

- **Communication**
We communicate effectively with our peers, partners and local authorities and work collaboratively to provide the best possible outcomes. Communication between teams, services and partner organisations is imperative in providing the best possible service to the region.
- **Confidentiality**
All members of staff are required to undertake that they will not divulge to anyone personal and/or confidential information to which they may have access during the course of their work.

All members of staff must be aware that they have explicit responsibility for the confidentiality and security of information received and imported in the course of work and in using organisation information assets.

- **Health, Safety and Wellbeing**

We take responsibility for health, safety and wellbeing in accordance with the North East CA Health and Safety policy and procedures.

- **Performance Management**

We promote a culture whereby performance management is ingrained and the highest of standards and performance are achieved by all. You will contribute to the organisation's appraisal processes to ensure continuous learning and improvement and to increase organisational performance.

All members of staff will receive appraisals and it is the responsibility of each member of staff to follow guidance on the appraisal process.

The above is not exhaustive and the post holder will be expected to undertake any duties which may reasonably fall within the level of responsibility and the competence of the post as directed by their manager.

Values and Behaviours

Our 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

Equalities and Diversity

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**

This post is not designated as a politically restricted post in accordance with the requirements 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
Job Title: Transport Economist

The following criteria will be used to shortlist at the application stage and will be further explored at the interview stage.

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level of education attainment, a degree in Economics or equivalent experience • Demonstrable experience at working nationally, regionally, and locally in an economist role or equivalent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualifications or experience related to transport economics and/or transport planning. • Qualifications related to economic modelling and impact assessments.
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proven track record of demonstrating analytical skills and previous experience of working in an analytical role to inform policy development and decision making. • Experience of interpreting and presenting complex data sets, analysis and research to a wide range of audiences. • Demonstrable experience of producing and presenting summary reports in a clear and engaging manner as well as ability to make recommendations to senior managers. • A background of engagement with senior leaders and other professionals across a range of organisations and sectors. • Work experience which shows that you can succeed and develop within the role. • Demonstrable experience of adopting a creative approach to problem solving. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience with public transport projects and an understanding of passenger sensitivity and revenue/demand forecasting. • Understanding of the HM Treasury's Green Book principles, specifically business case development.

<p>Skills and Knowledge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proficiency in economic modelling software, statistical analysis tools and data visualisation techniques including SPSS; R studio or similar. • Strong analytic and problem solving abilities, with attention to detail and accuracy. • An aptitude for teamwork with a demonstrable ability to work collaboratively and autonomously to deliver shared outcomes. • Excellent communication skills, both written and oral including the ability to present complex information in an easily understood, accessible format. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the public transport sector, economic principles of franchising, relevant legislative and regulatory frameworks
<p>Personal Qualities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level of integrity and professionalism. • Committed to working collaboratively – within the organisation and externally. • High level of drive and motivation to deliver results. • Strong interpersonal skills. • Adaptability and willingness to embrace change. • Committed to the principles of equality and diversity 	