

ROLE PROFILE

Job Title:	Director of Economic Growth and Innovation	Job Code:	TBA
Directorate:	Strategy and Inclusive Growth	Version:	0.1
Reports to:	Executive Director, Strategy & Inclusive Growth	Date Created:	March 2025
No. of direct reports:	5	Grade:	TBC
No. of employees:	25	Budget:	Staffing £27m Programme £26m

JOB PURPOSE

At the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) we're unlocking billions of pounds of investment for our region through our devolution deal with government. Our newly elected Mayor will be a powerful voice on the national stage for the people of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, overseeing devolved powers around transport, housing, skills and adult education, economic development, and net zero.

The East Midlands has a rich history and a diverse present on which to build a renaissance. Ambition and culture put us at the heart of the first industrial revolution – and it will put us at the centre of the next. We will make our region more prosperous, sustainable and fairer, helping our people and businesses to create and seize opportunities.

The Director will provide strategic leadership to ensure long-term and systemic impact in the region across the policy areas of economic development, innovation and investment strategy.

The role will spearhead the development and delivery of the Local Growth Plan, aligned to the development of sector plans, and strategies for innovation and investment, with business growth, trade, and international engagement. You will also oversee a diverse portfolio policy and delivery functions ranging from business support to the rural economy – ensuring these sectors are fully leveraged for regional prosperity.

The postholder will work closely with other directors in the EMCCA to achieve the desired outcomes and form part of a system of leaders in their area that will collaborate with partners to align objectives and resources to achieve common goals for our communities.

You will have oversight and SRO responsibility for agreed projects on behalf of the SLT, supporting the Board's vision and strategy for inclusive growth. The postholder will develop and lead a high-performing team with overall responsibilities for policy areas, services and projects in their portfolio that achieve the desired performance and outcomes. You will oversee in your areas the strategic planning, development of strategic advice, and manage the processes, budget, people and other resources within your portfolio.

You will play a pivotal role in shaping a modern, dynamic economy at the heart of the UK, securing long-term benefits for businesses and communities across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

The postholder will report to the Executive Director of Strategy & Inclusive Growth whilst also working closely with the Chief Executive, wider SLT, the EMCCA Board and relevant committees in relation to their key areas of responsibility.

OUR VALUES

We have proactively become a values-based organisation from the outset. In conjunction with our operational ethos emphasizing the importance of people, processes, and outcomes, we embrace continual improvement, and are guided by four core values supported by a behaviour framework:

We Lift Our Region | We Work Together | We Make an Impact | We Are Human

These values shape our culture, influence expected conduct, how we work and interact with each other and our stakeholders, fostering positivity, and supporting the achievement of our goals and progress together.

ORGANISATIONAL LANDSCAPE

Our Mission

We will be driven by our mission to ensure long-term systemic impact. Created by and for the benefit of our people, businesses, and places in the East Midlands area.

Our Vision

We will make our region more prosperous, sustainable, and fairer, helping our people and businesses to create and seize opportunities. We are built on a foundation of systems leadership and partnership working.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Strategic Economic Leadership

- Lead the development and implementation of the Local Growth Plan, ensuring alignment with national, regional, and local economic priorities.
- Provide strategic direction to drive inclusive and sustainable growth, addressing productivity, business support, and sectoral development.
- Ensure EMCCA's economic strategy reflects the needs of businesses, investors, and communities, positioning the East Midlands as a competitive and resilient economy.

Business Support & Economic Development

- Oversee business support programmes, ensuring effective delivery of initiatives that foster enterprise, entrepreneurship, and SME growth.
- Develop and implement strategies to enhance business resilience, competitiveness, and innovation adoption across key sectors.
- Work closely with public and private sector partners to maximise the impact of economic development initiatives at regional and local levels.

Innovation & Productivity

- Champion the role of innovation and R&D in driving economic growth, working with universities, research institutions, and industry.
- Develop strategies to support high-growth sectors, emerging industries, and advanced technologies, positioning the East Midlands as a leader in innovation.
- Facilitate partnerships between businesses, academia, and government to unlock funding and investment for innovation-led growth.

Investment & Trade

- Develop and implement a regional investment strategy, ensuring the East Midlands attracts inward investment and secures long-term economic benefits.
- Promote the region as an attractive location for businesses and investors, leveraging its strengths in key industries and infrastructure.
- Lead on trade and export development, supporting businesses to expand into international markets and strengthen global trade relationships.

Rural Affairs & Economic Growth

- Champion policies that support rural economic development, ensuring rural businesses and communities benefit from investment and innovation.
- Address challenges such as connectivity, skills, and business support in rural areas, ensuring they contribute fully to regional prosperity.
- Work with partners to maximise the impact of rural funding and agricultural innovation, supporting sustainable rural economies.

Investment Strategy & Programmes

- Develop and oversee investment programmes that unlock economic potential, ensuring alignment with regional priorities.
- Identify and secure funding opportunities, including from government, private sector investors, and international sources.
- Ensure investment programmes support long-term economic resilience and sustainability, including infrastructure, skills, and business development.

Senior Organisational Leadership

- Provide trusted strategic advice to the Mayor, EMCCA Board, Chief Executive, and Senior Leadership Team, ensuring informed and joined-up decision-making to drive delivery.
- Establish, shape, and lead the newly formed directorate, fostering a high-performing, accountable, and visible leadership culture.
- Play an active role in EMCCA's corporate leadership team, championing collaboration, a commitment to our organisational values, and a unified organisational culture.

Programme and Operational Delivery

- Drive the successful delivery of objectives set out in EMCCA's corporate strategies and delivery plans, ensuring alignment with strategic priorities and organisational values.
- Ensure rigorous financial and operational management, maintaining oversight of budgets, resources, and governance responsibilities.
- Provide strong leadership and oversight for governance structures, including the Business and Innovation Advisory Boards, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Partnering and Communications

- Act as a visible and influential ambassador for EMCCA, proactively engaging with stakeholders across government, business, and the wider region.
- Lead and strengthen business engagement, driving collaboration through the Business Advisory Committee and its Chair.
- Build and maintain strategic partnerships with business representation groups, sector forums, and other Mayoral Combined Authorities to amplify EMCCA's impact.

This is not a complete statement of all duties and responsibilities of this post. The postholder may be required to carry out other duties as directed, and which are commensurate with the level of the post. This document will also be supplemented by annual key objectives which will be set through the performance review process.

THE PERSON

Experience & Skills:	• A proven track record of delivering functions relating to economic growth, innovation and related at a similar scale.	E
	• Evidence of leading in complex and high-profile systems to deliver improved outcomes.	E
	• Evidence of being able to set up and run programmes of work at speed in challenging or complex stakeholder environments.	E
	• Evidence of building strong, collaborative and enduring cross-sector partnerships.	E
	• Evidence of developing and implementing evidence-based economic strategies and policies.	E
	• Evidence of business and commercial acumen to support strategic delivery of service to clients and partners.	E
	• Ability to manage multiple complex projects within statutory, constitutional and value for money requirements.	E
	• Evidence of sound financial management skills and commercial awareness with the ability to interpret and understand complex financial and budgetary information.	E
	• Experience of working in a combined authority or similar organisation.	D
	• Experience in developing and delivering business cases for programme funding and investment?	E
	Leadership	
	• A proven track record of senior leadership in a combined authority or an organisation of similar scale and/or complexity including outside of the public sector.	E
	• Evidence of the ability to provide clear strong and motivational leadership to create a high-performance culture, developing and nurturing talent.	E
	• Experience of reforming systems across a complicated landscape in the public, private and third sectors.	E
	• Evidence of confident, effective engagement with partners and external stakeholders.	E
	• Ability to manage change effectively within a political and sensitive environment.	E

Qualifications, Training, CPD:	• Relevant degree or equivalent relevant experience. • Member of a relevant professional body or demonstration of up-to-date knowledge and continual professional development. • Evidence of career progression taking on roles of increasing complexity and importance within an organisation of comparable scope, size, and complexity.	E E E
Knowledge	• Political awareness with an ability to achieve results in a political environment where there are competing agendas. • Strategic and modern understanding of managing a corporate brand and its communication within established systems and structures. • Recognition of the need for and importance of personal professional development. • Flexibility with ability to strategically and practically contribute to the wider priorities of the team, as well as deliver personal workload. • Demonstrable understanding of the work of combined authorities.	E E E E D
Political Restriction	This post is politically restricted under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and the post holder may not have any active political role either in or outside of work.	