Cumbria Combined Authority Role Profile

Post Title: Assistant Director for Transport Policy
Date: April 2026
Term: Secondment (for up to 18 months)
Tier Level: Three
Grade: 19 (to be confirmed)
Reports to: Director of Policy and Strategy

Purpose of the Role

This secondment requires an experienced Transport professional to provide strategic leadership and expert advice on transport and transport planning across Cumbria, supporting the Combined Authority Board and Chief Executive in shaping and delivering a coherent, evidence-based approach to regional connectivity and infrastructure. The postholder will lead the development and implementation of key transport strategies, particularly the Local Transport Delivery Plan (LTDP) and the longer-term Local Transport Plan (LTP), ensuring they align with wider economic, spatial, and environmental priorities.

A central aspect of the role is to act as a key liaison between the Combined Authority and a broad range of stakeholders, including constituent authorities, national government departments, transport operators, and regional and national bodies. By fostering strong partnerships and collaboration, the role ensures that transport planning reflects the needs of communities, businesses, and users.

The role also involves building and leading a high-performing transport policy team, strengthening the use of data and evidence in decision-making, and establishing robust governance, assurance, and monitoring frameworks. Ultimately, the position is responsible for driving forward an integrated, sustainable, and future-focused transport system that supports growth, accessibility, and quality of life across Cumbria.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide expert advice to the Combined Authority Board and Chief Executive on transport and transport planning issues, opportunities and strategic priorities as they relate to Cumbria, working through the Transport and Planning Policy Subgroup of the Combined Authority.
- Build relationships and act as a key point of contact on transport and planning matters between the Combined Authority and:
    - the constituent authorities;
    - national government departments (DfT, MHCLG, Treasury);
    - transport operators (bus, rail);
    - National Parks; and
    - national bodies (Great British Rail, National Highways).
- Develop and lead the team responsible for Transport policy within the Combined Authority, including forward planning for the potential expansion of CA functions over time.
- Ensure the Combined Authority takes a robust approach to data and evidence, working closely with constituent authorities and national parks, while building on engagement with communities, businesses, and passenger groups to ensure plans reflect user and resident needs.

Key deliverables:

- Work with constituent authority officers to develop and deliver a four-year Local Transport Delivery Plan (LTDP) for Cumbria, to set the delivery priorities for transport and highways funding across Cumbria.
- Develop and implement appropriate arrangements for the assurance and monitoring of the LTDP, with regular reporting back to DfT.
- Provide strategic leadership in relation to the development of options for a refreshed Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Cumbria, focused on the longer-term strategic priorities for the region, and ensure effective working with constituent authorities to develop a robust evidence base.
- Provide strategic input to the development of a Spatial Development Strategy for Cumbria and ensure integrated working arrangements with constituent authorities around evidence gathering.

Knowledge, Skills & Experience (Essential Summary)

Knowledge

- Degree-level education or equivalent experience.
- Knowledge of regional and national transport policies and legislation
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Skills

- Ability to build strong working relationships and collaboration, both within Cumbria and at the regional level.
- Strong analytical skills, including understanding of transport modelling and use of GIS tools.
- Ability to communicate complex technical information clearly to decision-makers and the public, including writing reports, presenting strategies, engaging with stakeholders.

Experience

- Experience in formulating transport strategies and policies in a local or regional government context.
- Experience of developing and managing a high performing team to deliver at pace

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Other Requirements

- Ability to work the hours that are reasonable and necessary to fulfil the requirements of the post.
- Ability to travel across Cumbria and attend meetings outside of the region.
- This is a politically restricted post as defined by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.