

Cumbria Combined Authority Role Profile

Post Title: Senior Analyst – Sectoral Growth and Skills Data
Date: April 2026
Term: Secondment (for up to 18 months)
Tier Level: Three
Grade: 14 (to be confirmed)
Reports to: Director of Policy and Strategy

Purpose of the Role

The purpose of this role is to provide high-quality analytical insight and evidence to support the Combined Authority in shaping economic growth, skills, and employment strategies across Cumbria.

The Senior Analyst will play a key role in developing a robust, data-driven understanding of Cumbria's economy, workforce, and priority sectors, ensuring that policy and investment decisions are informed by accurate and relevant intelligence.

The postholder will support senior leaders, including the Combined Authority Board and Chief Executive, by delivering clear, actionable analysis on sectoral performance, labour market trends, and skills needs. This will include contributing to the development of the Skills Strategy, Local Growth Plan, and wider policy frameworks linked to devolved Adult Skills Funding (ASF).

A central aspect of the role is to strengthen the Combined Authority's evidence base by bringing together data from multiple sources, identifying gaps in knowledge, and translating complex information into meaningful insights for decision-makers. The role will also involve building strong relationships with analysts across local authorities, combined authorities, and central government to ensure alignment with best practice.

Ultimately, the role is responsible for embedding a strong analytical and evidence-led approach across the organisation, supporting inclusive economic growth, effective skills planning, and improved outcomes for Cumbria's residents and businesses.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide expert analysis and data to the Combined Authority Board, Chief Executive and senior team in relation to business sectors, skills and employment in Cumbria.
- Ensure the Combined Authority takes a robust approach to data and evidence, working closely with constituent authorities, while building on engagement with communities, businesses, and other key stakeholders.
- Build relationships with analysts in other combined authorities as well as central government, to ensure Cumbria CA's approach is informed by best practice.

Key deliverables:

- Provide analysis and data to support the delivery of a Skills Strategy as part of ASF implementation, alongside developing a broader understanding of local skills needs.
- Provide analysis and data to support the mapping of Cumbria's strengths and opportunities, particularly in relation to key IS8 sectors.
- Work with the SMT to develop the evidence base and options analysis required to underpin a Local Growth Plan for Cumbria, including considering where further work may be required.
- Develop evidence and analysis that contextualises the work of the Combined Authority within Cumbria, including in relation to e.g. indices of deprivation or demographic shifts over time.

Knowledge, Skills & Experience (Essential Summary)

Knowledge

- Degree-level education or equivalent experience.
- Knowledge of Cumbria's sectoral, skills and employment landscape.

Skills

- Strong analytic skills, able to gather and interpret data from a range of sources.

Experience

- Self-starter, able to identify gaps in knowledge and understanding and formulate strategies for closing them.

Other Requirements

- Ability to work the hours that are reasonable and necessary to fulfil the requirements of the post.