



Job Description

Post Title:	HS2 Strategic Advisor
Directorate:	Strategic Partnerships and Integration
Reports to:	Head of HS2 and Strategic Partnerships
Direct Reports:	0

Key Relationships:

WMCA Corporate Leadership Team, WMCA Directors & Senior Officers, TfWM Leadership Team, TfWM & WMCA communications teams, Local Authority Partners inc. Councillors, Directors & Senior Officers, private sector partners including transport providers and developers on all matters relating to the HS2 Growth Delivery Programme

Role Purpose

We are seeking a highly skilled and dynamic individual to join our team as a Lead Strategic Advisor for our HS2 Growth Programme. In this role, you will be responsible for driving strategic partnerships, fostering client relationships, and providing expert advice and guidance to optimize project delivery outcomes across the region related to the HS2 Growth Programme. Your role involves overseeing the entire lifecycle of strategic projects within the programme, from initiation to completion and you will be responsible for communicating project scopes, objectives, deliverables and collaborating with stakeholders to support the development of detailed project plans, timelines, and resource requirements.

This role requires strong political acumen, excellent communication and negotiation skills, and the ability to think strategically and foster long-term strategic relationships whilst being able to provide strategic project/programme management support.

Responsibilities

- Lead on strategic collaboration and advise key stakeholders to assess HS2 related project and programme opportunities and develop comprehensive strategies and plans to maximise benefits.
- The provision of timely, accurate and cohesive input to the required internal and external project/programme delivery processes as appropriate.
- Lead in the facilitation of strategic programme decision-making, work closely with senior leadership to align projects with the overall business strategy.

- Represent the WMCA at monthly stakeholder briefings, providing advice and direction to peers at local authorities.
- Provide strategic project/programme management advice and leadership on the development of multi-disciplinary projects across the HS2 Growth Programme and as directed by the Head of HS2 & Strategic Partnerships.
- Lead in presenting proposals to senior management, elected members and the public through a variety of media including public meetings, presentations to boards and organising publicity activities and materials.
- Identify and cultivate strategic partnerships that align with organizational goals.
- Serve as the primary point of contact for key clients, ensuring their needs and expectations are met.
- Build and nurture strong relationships, understanding client objectives and aligning them with forecasted benefits as outlined in the HS2 Growth Strategy.
- Develop and implement strategies to enhance stakeholder satisfaction and overall engagement effectiveness.
- Act as a trusted advisor, guiding clients in making informed decisions to achieve their strategic objectives.
- Collaborate with internal and external teams to ensure a cohesive approach to client engagement.
- Facilitate internal and external communication between departments to enhance overall client experience.
- To identify, analyse and solve problems and barriers to delivery.
- Identify areas for improvement and implement strategies to optimise partnership outcomes.
- Liaise regularly with the Finance department to ensure example projects are within budget.

Ultimately, your role is pivotal in driving organizational growth through the successful execution of strategic initiatives. Proven experience in strategic partnership development and client relationship management. Strong understanding of industry trends, market dynamics, and client needs with exceptional communication and negotiation skills.

Person Specification

<i>Please specify (X) whether the experience required is Essential (E) or Desirable (D)</i>			Assessment Method		
Experience	E	D	App*	Int**	Other***
Proven experience in strategic project/programme management across multiple stakeholder organisations	X		X	X	
Proven experience of having worked in a senior political position with direct engagement with the public & private sectors	X				
Proven project management experience with the ability to handle multiple priorities simultaneously.		X	X	X	
Experience of developing and nurturing strategic project & programme relationships and providing strategic advice to delivery partners		X	X	X	
Proven experience in undertaking strategic project and programme negotiations	X		X	X	
Skills/Knowledge/Abilities	E	D	App	Int	Other
A proven track record of managing successful strategic relationships with internal and external stakeholders	X		X	X	
Strong negotiation, influencing, and relationship-building skills.	X		X	X	
In-depth knowledge of tools used to develop strategic projects and programmes at both regional and national levels	X			X	
Proven ability and experience of innovation and exploring new ways of working	X			X	
Ability to positively influence partners, colleagues, and clients through a balance of supportive and challenging behaviours		X	X		
Excellent verbal and written communication skills, with the ability to articulate complex ideas clearly and concisely.	X		X	X	
Analytical mindset with the ability to interpret data and make data-driven decisions to help solve complex problems	X		X	X	
Qualifications/ Professional Memberships	E	D	App	Int	Other
Degree of equivalent in business or operations management	X		X		
APM or similar in project management		X	X		

* Application

** Interview

*** Details will be shared at interview stage

Core Expectations

Our culture is underpinned by what we do and how we do it. Our behaviours outline the ways we need to work to deliver success, become truly inclusive, and make the organisation somewhere where everyone can give their best contribution.

Value	Competency	Behaviour
Collaborative	Team Focused	Works as part of team, managing and leading.
	Service Driven	Customer, resident and partner focussed.
Driven	Empowered & Accountable	Takes ownership and leads when needed.
	Performance Focused	Ambitious and going the extra mile.
Inclusive	'One Organisation' Mindset	Believe in each other's expertise.
	Open & Honest	We do what we say we are going to do.
Innovative	Forward Thinking	Embrace change and open to new possibilities.
	Problem Solving	Go for clear and simple whenever possible.

Health and Safety

All employees have a duty to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and of other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work; and co-operate with their employer so far as is necessary to enable it to successfully discharge its own responsibilities in relation to health and safety.

Equality and Diversity

To promote and champion equality and diversity in all aspects of the role

Learning and Development

To participate in and take responsibility of any learning and development required to carry out this role effectively.

Performance Management

To actively engage in the performance management process and take responsibility for managing performance outcomes.

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

To ensure the reasonable and proportionate protection, processing, sharing and storing of WMCA information in accordance with the relevant legislation, corporate policies, and in the best interests of the data subjects (Data Protection/GDPR), the WMCA, our partners, and the West Midlands, in all aspects of the role.

Other

There may be a requirement to work outside normal office hours on occasion to meet work deadlines, give presentations, attend meetings etc., including a requirement to work within stakeholder and partner offices within the WMCA Constituent area on a regular basis