



Job Description

Job Title:	Economist
Directorate/Team:	SENZ/RIIG
Location:	16 Summer Lane or other site/location
Responsible to:	Strategic Lead- Outcomes Framework and Evaluation (reports to Head of Research, Intelligence and Inclusive Growth)
Responsible for:	N/A
Key working relationships: (internal)	Research, Policy, Strategy, Analysts, Delivery and Assurance stakeholders across the WMCA; Research and Monitoring and Evaluation Communities of Practice
Key working relationships: (external)	Local Authorities, regional partners and external bodies such as Universities, MCAs, What Works Centres, Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) and central government.

Purpose of the Post

The Economist plays a vital role in delivering high-quality economic modelling and analysis for economic, social, and environmental impact assessment to support evidence-based decision-making across the West Midlands region, so that we can make the West Midlands the best place to live, work and visit.

You will deliver wide-ranging research and analysis work across our priorities and assessing how far strategic proposals achieve our objectives, aligned to the West Midlands Growth Plan and our strategic framework. You will enable insights, impact assessment and evaluation across our priorities, contributing the evidence-base and action learning.

By conducting high-quality research and analysis and assessing strategic proposals, the post holder will develop robust evidence of how our projects will drive change, and estimate the impact of proposals, informing decisions to help us achieve objectives and provide high value for money.

This position requires technical depth in economic analysis and the ability to translate complex findings into clear, actionable insights for both technical and non-technical audiences.

Accountabilities

Reporting to the Strategic Lead for Outcomes and Evaluation; the Economist will specialise in assessing the impact of regional policies and projects. The postholder will be accountable for gathering input from stakeholders and designing and managing research projects, further developing analysis and maintaining economic datasets, producing high-quality evidence-based reports, clear presentations and briefings for communication.

With an excellent background in economic development, including economic modelling, business case development, or appraisal, you will help ensure that we design projects that achieve results, and take data driven decisions. You will be adept at working at the boundary between policy and analysis thinking.

As an Economist, you will have the ability to work across topic areas and with a wide range of non-analytical stakeholders. You will use your excellent understanding of the policy environment and economic development techniques to influence change. And your demonstrated ability to drive forward work independently and implement new systems and processes will be essential as our organisation evolves.

The post holder will work closely with internal teams and external stakeholders, including authorities, other experts (e.g. specialists/ academia etc), to support collaborative approaches, translating complex data into actionable insights, and advising on policy implications.

Responsibilities

Strategic

- You will lead and deliver high quality modelling and analysis to the standards set out in the green, aqua and magenta books to inform WMCA priorities,
- You will synthesize evidence from a range of data sources and develop or contribute to the evidence base
- You will maintain and develop robust economic datasets and tools.
- You will produce detailed reports, dashboards, and briefings for internal and external audiences.
- You will develop and maintain a framework for business case authors to articulate the economic, social, and environmental impact of proposed projects, working with colleagues to enable guidance.
- You will work flexibly and with integrity to meet the needs of the WMCA and the Research, Intelligence and Inclusive Growth function.

People

- You will translate complex data into clear insights for technical and non-technical stakeholders.
- You will present analysis in an inclusive, accessible way for diverse audiences using written, visual, and oral formats.
- You will build strong relationships with senior colleagues, experts (e.g. data specialists, academia,) internal teams and stakeholders, to understand evidence needs and gather input and feedback on analysis
- You will develop close collaborative relationships with research, analyst and policy colleagues (at all levels of seniority) and contribute to effective partnerships across government, enabling evidence-based policy development.

Operational

- You will use modelling/ other methods to review and provide recommendations to support policy development or review
- You will advise on the most appropriate data source, data sets, theories. causation and analysis. to form estimates about outcomes of likely policies.
- You will design and manage research projects, including commissioning specialists where required.
- You will review outputs and assure benefits to ensure high standards of accuracy and relevance.

Financial

- You will provide insights for efficiencies for spending review or scenario planning work, financial planning, investment appraisals, and impact evaluation.
- You will be familiar with, and can use, techniques to support the application of Cost-Benefit Analysis as outlined in the Green Book
- You will ensure Value for Money and adherence to appropriate governance processes for dealing with all financial activities.

Other

- You will represent the WMCA in a professional manner.
- You will undertake such tasks as may reasonably be expected commensurate with the scope and level of the role.

Person Specification

	Essential / Desirable	How Evidenced?
Candidates/post holders will be expected to demonstrate the following:		

Experience	E	D	A*	I*	T*
• An excellent understanding of how regional economies work and role of the public sector in driving change	x				
• Knowledge of the West Midlands regional economy and the institutions that support economic development		x			
• Understanding of the Government Green Book business case process for planning and appraising projects	x				
• Proven ability to design and deliver economic analysis to assess the impact of policies, using robust methodology and reporting reliable evidence which supports practical improvements or informs strategic decisions	x				
• Extensive experience of designing and delivering high-quality analysis in a policy-facing environment	x				
• An influential communicator, with the ability clearly to understand analysis requirements and convey insights from evidence in a way that drives decision-making and the shape of priorities and projects	x				
Skills / Knowledge	E	D	A*	I*	T*
• —Advanced analytical and quantitative skills.	x				
• Ability to conduct econometric analysis and apply forecasting techniques.		x			
• Good interpersonal skills with a significant track record of working effectively with partners and stakeholders to influence change	x				
• Sound analytical capability with quantitative/ methodical skills	x				
• Proven project management skills, with the ability to work under pressure, prioritise and ensure the delivery of results	x				
• Knowledge of national (e.g. Office of National Statistics) and local datasets of relevance to policy development for the Combined Authority e.g. economic, demographic, housing, transport and travel, skills and other datasets		x			
• Ability to conduct econometric analysis and apply forecasting techniques		x			
• Highly motivated, with experience of working autonomously to achieve personal objectives and contributing in a team to achieve shared objectives	x				
• Qualification / Education / Training	E	D	A*	I*	T*
• Educated to degree level in Economics or a closely related discipline with a strong analytical component or equivalent experience	x				
• Postgraduate qualification in Economics or related field. • Project Management certification.		x			
• Proficient in the use of Information Technology for data collection, analysis and performance reporting for example using MS Lists, MS Excel (or similar) Power BI and statistical packages such as SPSS, DTATA, R, SAS etc (or similar.)	x				
• Ability to innovate in data collection and analysis. • Proficiency in economic modelling tools.		x			

*Key: A = Application, I = Interview, T = Testing/Assessment

Core Expectations

Health, Safety & Wellbeing	All employees have a duty to take reasonable care for the health, safety, and wellbeing 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, safety, and wellbeing.
Equality & Diversity	Promote and champion equality and diversity in all aspects of the role.

Learning & Development	Participate in and take responsibility of any learning and development required to carry out this role effectively.
Performance Management	Actively engage in the performance management process and take responsibility for managing performance outcomes.
GDPR	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.
Business Continuity	All staff should actively participate in business continuity training and exercises when required, ensuring they understand and follow business continuity plans and procedures to maintain organisational resilience during disruptions.
Adherence to Policies	Be aware of and comply with all organisation policies.
Other	There may be a requirement to work outside normal office hours on occasion, including a requirement to work within stakeholder and partner offices within the WMCA constituent area on a regular basis.

Values

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 Focussed	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.

Additional Post Requirements

Politically Restricted Post		Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)				Vetting	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basic <input type="checkbox"/>	Standard <input type="checkbox"/>	Enhanced <input type="checkbox"/>	None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Job Evaluation Details

Date Evaluation Agreed	JEP Reference	Grade	Job Family
15.12.2025	JEP688	SP39-SP43	