Job Profile

Service:	Transport
Post title:	Head of Transport Strategy
Grade:	HOS2
Responsible to:	Director of Transport
Staff managed:	Manages a team of specialist professionals
Date of issue:	June 2026

Job context

York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority (the Combined Authority) is a public sector employer with access to powers and funding to unlock transport and housing improvements, boost skills provision and help the economy transition to net zero. Making the most of the combined strengths of the city region and rural powerhouse, the Combined Authority is a long-term commitment to shaping a brighter future for generations to come. By working for us you will play a part in making positive changes, unlocking investment, supporting business and communities to thrive and creating new and better opportunities for people that live and work, here.

Transport is one of the key strategic priorities for the elected Mayor and Combined Authority and both are ambitious to capitalise on the opportunities this presents.

The Head of Transport Strategy sits within the Transport Directorate at the Combined Authority and will lead on the development and implementation of all Transport strategies, plans and policies for all aspects of the Transport Directorate for the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority (the Combined Authority).

The responsibilities cover all aspects of transport including highways, bus, rail, active travel and carbon reduction, recognising the importance of transport in enabling growth and development across the York and North Yorkshire area.

This role requires strong leadership capability and a good understanding of transport policy, strategy development and economic, environmental and social factors that influence regional connectivity and sustainable growth.

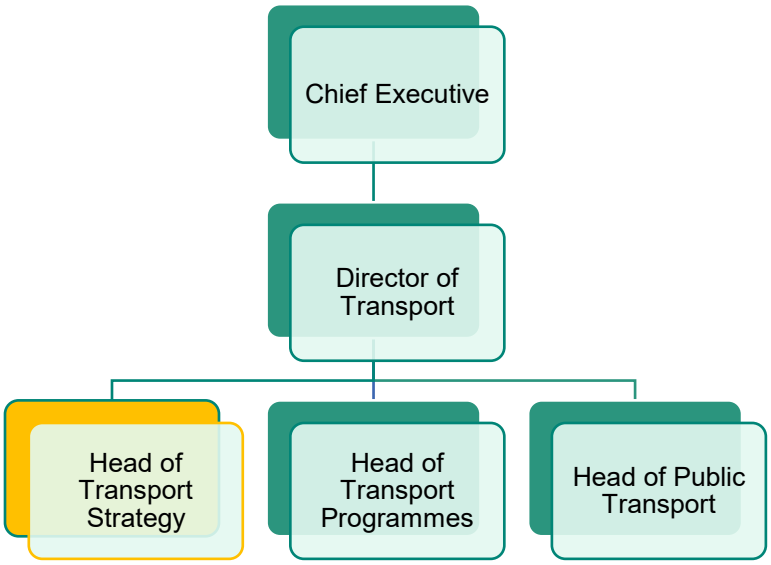
A key responsibility of the postholder will be to keep up to date and informed of new and amended national, regional and local transport policy and guidance.

The Head of Transport Strategy will also be required to work closely with the City of York and North Yorkshire Councils as the Local Highways Authorities, whilst leading on developing and building strategic relationships with key government departments and agencies to maximise the investment into the region to ensure the region delivers on the ambitions of the Combined Authority.

This role is essential in developing and delivering a clear transport vision for the region, ensuring policies and strategies align with economic growth, sustainability and community needs.

As the postholder you will have experience within a Combined Authority, Local Transport Authority or similar setting, giving you a deep understanding of local transport governance, regulations, and operations. You will be required to align local transport plans and other transport programmes with broader economic and land use plans and strategies.

Structure



Job Description

Job purpose	**The Head of Transport Strategy will provide strategic leadership for the development, integration and delivery of the Authority's transport vision, leading the formulation of long-term strategies, policies and plans that support regional economic growth, sustainable connectivity and wider corporate objectives.**
Operational management	• To lead on the development and implementation of strategies in relation to transport, linking to the overall ambitions of the Combined Authority and aligned to the wider agenda for growth, carbon reduction, social mobility and connectivity

	• Lead on the development of the Combined Authority's Statutory Local Transport Plan (LTP) including extensive stakeholder and public consultation, and engagement with elected members, MP's and other political groups to ensure the plan represents the needs of residents, visitors and businesses across York and North Yorkshire • Lead on the development and implementation of specific transport strategies including those for bus, rail, walking, wheeling and cycling, highway management, development plans and low carbon transport • Use insight and evaluation to challenge established practices and introduce ongoing service improvements. • To work across the Combined Authority to provide strategic advice on all aspect of transport policy and strategy work from policy development through to operational delivery, gaining a close understanding of the Directorates and their operational requirements. • Lead the development of high quality, strategies and policies that can be used to respond to future opportunities to attract capital and revenue transport investment to York and North Yorkshire.
Communications	• Provide an open and collaborative approach to the develop of all transport plans, policies and strategies. • Responsible for all aspects of stakeholder engagement relating to the development of transport plans, policies and strategies. • Plan and lead high level meetings with DfT officials, senior officers from local authorities and other regional transport stakeholders. • Write clear and concise transport plans and strategies that provide a clear articulation of the Mayor's and Combined Authority's transport priorities and programmes. • Prepare and present Combined Authority reports that seek approval for plans, strategies and programmes. • Work collaboratively with senior colleagues across the Combined Authority to shape policy, influence investment decisions and ensure transport priorities are integrated into corporate and regional strategies. • Act as a trusted strategic adviser to the Mayor, Leadership Team and senior stakeholders, influencing the development of corporate policy, investment priorities and regional growth plans. • Lead engagement and negotiation across the Authority and with government departments, local authorities, transport operators and delivery partners, building consensus and securing support for long-term transport strategies that deliver transformational outcomes for the region. • Shape decision-making, influence investment priorities, negotiate outcomes, and secure buy-in from senior stakeholders both within and outside the Combined Authority.
Partnership / corporate working	• Develop positive relationships with a broad range of internal stakeholders, building and maintain strong collaborative partnerships. • Externally you will be expected to build relationships across our local authority community as well as other combined authorities, government departments. • Represent the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority at local, regional and national meetings and events. • Act as key adviser and work in partnership with the mayor, members, local authorities and other decision-making groups in relation to strategic issues and priorities and the production of consistent regional transport strategies and policies. • To work with the Economic Development Directorate to support the development of wider economic growth strategies where transport is critical and underpins the future growth agenda

	• Develop, maintain and manage partnerships with colleagues at other Local Authorities, Combined Authorities, the Department for Transport (DfT) and other key stakeholders. • Contribute to the Mayor's and Combined Authority's groups and forums delivering projects across York and North Yorkshire, where there is a transport dimension.
Resource management	• A leadership role for the Transport Planning and Strategy Manager ensuring measurable delivery against a set of clear objectives. • Oversight and management of part of the integrated transport settlement for York and North Yorkshire equating to around c£1m+ per annum which includes managing feasibility studies, support in strategy development, and consultants. • Lead a team by creating a high-performance culture that is aligned to organisational values, behaviours, policy vision and priorities, reflecting best practice and continuous professional development. • Deploy resource appropriately to produce high quality strategies and policies that are delivered on time, to budget and are appropriately consulted on where required. • Manage the process of assembling, recruiting and commissioning the necessary resources to develop high quality strategies and policies. • Oversee procurement exercises and mange contracts with external suppliers, as and when necessary.
Systems and information	• Ensure that systems and processes to support the service are consistent with the Combined Authorities standards and procedures. • Produce written reports as required including evaluation and impact statements for distribution service wide and to partners. • Use relevant IT systems and tools to support the management, delivery and development of services, ensuring records are accurate and current. • Ensure government guidance and legislation are interpreted appropriately and are adhered to in a manner consistent with good practice. • Ensure that appropriate reporting is put in place and adhered to, to ensure that key stakeholders remain updated on strategy and policy progress.
Strategic management	• Production of the Statutory Local Transport Plan (LTP) for the region and reporting on its progress and delivery. • Working collaboratively with other local authorities and combined authorities on strategic connectivity for the benefit of regions. • Leading work with the Mayor and Executive Members for Transport for both Local Authorities to scope and commission transformational plans across York and North Yorkshire. • Lead the development of integrated growth strategies that demonstrate how transport investment supports wider economic, housing, education, health and regeneration objectives. Working collaboratively with senior leaders across the Combined Authority and partner organisations, influence strategic priorities, investment decisions and policy development to ensure transport connectivity is embedded within plans for housing growth, skills provision, employment opportunities and access to healthcare. • Lead on data management and modelling to produce evidence-based strategies, and utilisation of forecasting software to assess transport patterns and connectivity • Be at the forefront of developments within transport policy, legislation and national strategy, by being a key contact with the Department for Transport and national consultations.

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY

Person Specification	
Essential upon appointment	**Desirable on appointment**
Knowledge • Strong awareness of national and local government transport policy, statutory requirements, and political context. • Significant knowledge of current transport planning practices in respect of developing plans, strategies and programmes. • Knowledge of key strategic stakeholders such as Network Rail, Great British Railways, National Highways, local councils, and other relevant authorities. • Significant knowledge of the strategic transport implications of development proposals, ensuring alignment with transport objectives and sustainability goals. • Knowledge of statutory requirements, including equality standards. • The legal framework that is required for transport e.g. bus contracts • Knowledge of current good practice standards both at local and national level in relation to the business of the service.	• Knowledge of the transport networks and priorities in York and North Yorkshire. • Knowledge of the devolved powers available to the Mayor.
Experience • Proven track record in developing transport strategies and policies, presenting to diverse audiences, overseeing consultation responses, advising senior stakeholders, and delivering strategic objectives through effective project, partnership, and people management. • Significant experience operating within complex political and stakeholder environments, including Combined Authorities, local authorities or equivalent organisations, with a proven track record of influencing strategic decision-making, developing policy positions and securing support for major transport initiatives and investment priorities. • Extensive leadership experience in the development and implementation of transport strategies, policies and long-term plans within complex transport, infrastructure or public sector environments, including the ability to align transport priorities with wider economic, environmental and social objectives. • Extensive experience of strategic planning, policy development, implementation and performance management, with a demonstrable ability to translate evidence, data and emerging trends into effective transport policy and measurable outcomes. • Proven experience of successfully engaging, influencing and negotiating with government departments, funding bodies, local authorities and strategic partners to shape policy, secure investment and advance strategic transport objectives. • Demonstrable experience of influencing senior stakeholders, shaping policy and investment decisions, managing competing priorities and fostering effective partnerships across organisational boundaries. • Strong experience in budget management, financial efficiency, creative problem-solving, and managing multiple complex projects within a local government context. • Experience of developing and implementing organisational culture change within a large diverse organisation	• Experience of working in a Combined Authority environment. • Experience of developing, sifting and prioritising complex multi-modal transport programmes.

• Experience of producing a Local Transport Plan and/or other Local Transport Plans and strategies	
Occupational Skills • High level analytical skills with the desire to ask difficult questions; be tenacious and find service improvements • The ability to think strategically and to appreciate the wider corporate and public interest needs • Ability to work in a highly open and collaborative manner in order to achieve outcomes that deliver the Mayor's priorities, plans and strategies. • Ability to lead statutory and discretionary consultation activities based on best practice techniques and methods, eliciting stakeholder and public views on transport plans, strategies and policies • Ability to co-ordinate, monitor and review the use of financial information. • Ability to confidently use persuasion, influencing or negotiating techniques to influence others in a range of situations. • Strong understanding of partnership working and stakeholder engagement. • Demonstrable leadership, delegation, and people management skills, with the ability to develop and motivate teams. • Strong commercial, financial and strategic awareness, with the ability to lead the development and evaluation of complex business cases, influence investment priorities, assess funding opportunities and ensure the effective stewardship of public funds in support of long-term transport and regional growth objectives • Strong understanding of procurement, budget planning and financial governance, with the ability to support strategic investment decisions and ensure value for money across transport initiatives and programmes. • Proven ability to develop, review and present complex strategic, technical and policy information to a range of audiences, including elected members, senior leaders, government departments, partners and the public, translating complex issues into clear and compelling recommendations. • Excellent communication, presentation, organisational, and IT skills. • Ability to work independently and at pace • Ability to work to rapidly changing priorities and outcomes.	• Experience of working with transport stakeholders in York and North Yorkshire.
Professional Qualifications/Training/Registrations required by law, and/or essential for the performance of the role • Literacy, Numeracy and ICT qualifications or equivalent. • Relevant degree or other specialist qualification or the equivalent level reached through experience. • A relevant transport qualification/accreditation, or a demonstrable equivalent level of previous experience in a similar transport role	• Membership of relevant professional body • Evidence of continued professional development
Other Requirements • Ability to travel for work purposes. • Ability to attend meetings outside of normal business hours. • Self-motivated. • An understanding and commitment to the principles of public service, with a focus on delivering outcomes that benefit communities whilst demonstrating the YNYCA values.	

• Personal and professional demeanour and credibility which commands the confidence of members, senior managers, staff, members, external partners and other stakeholders.	
Behaviours Demonstrate our YNYCA Values and Behaviours	

NB – Assessment criteria for recruitment will be notified separately.

You should use this information to make the best of your application by identifying some specific pieces of work you may have undertaken in any of these areas. You will be tested in some or all of the skill specific areas over the course of the selection process.