

Transport Innovation Programme

Head of Transport Innovation Role

JE1277-Grade M

Overview

Milton Keynes Council, working with a range of collaborators, has developed a portfolio of innovative transport projects of national and international significance. This includes projects that are now being implemented in addition to a pipeline of developmental projects.

The Council's commitments to the delivery of these projects are substantial. A co-ordinated programme approach is required to ensure delivery and the realisation of synergies across the current portfolio and the development of new collaborations and initiatives, ensuring links to the council's overall transport strategy and development plans.

A senior leadership role for the programme is therefore being established for a three year period.

Reporting Line

The role will be located in the Corporate Core and be line-managed by the Director of Strategy. The individual will be a member of the Corporate Core's Departmental Management Team.

Context

The success of the portfolio of transport innovation projects is critical to ensuring the future success of Milton Keynes and its economy. Transport modelling shows that without innovative solutions the city's growth in travel demand is not sustainable within the existing transport systems and infrastructure.

The project portfolio includes:

- UK Autodrive. A £19m million project involving a consortium of partners from the auto industry, academia, business and government to pilot autonomous mobility in the city between Spring 2015 and 2018.
- MK:Smart. A £16 million smart city project that includes big data and other technology solutions to address transport and other infrastructure challenges. The main partners are MK Council, BT and the Open University.

- Electric mobility. Trialling induction charging for electric buses and developing further the use of the city's charging infrastructure for electric cars, including a fully electric taxi service in the city.
- Government schemes:
 - GoUltra low carbon transport exemplar. MK is already shortlisted and will potentially secure £10-15 million.
 - Low Emission Buses (up to £30 million available)
 - Ultra Low Taxi Scheme (up to £30 million available)
- Bus and car on demand and sharing services, including a project with a major vehicle fleet provider.
- A potential rapid "bullet" autonomous systems with Oxford and Cambridge

Purpose of the role

To provide extensive strategic leadership, vision and direction across a high profile programme of innovative and complex transport projects, ensuring delivery against formal commitments and links to the council's overall transport strategy, development plans and other relevant policies. To develop and secure additional innovation projects that will enhance the city's ability to meet its future mobility needs.

The total value of the transport innovation programme is likely to be at least £30-40 million.

Key Objectives

1. To ensure delivery against formal commitments and links to the council's overall transport strategy, development plans and other relevant policies of the following projects:
 - UK Autodrive project
 - Programme management across MKC contribution
 - M1 demonstration
 - LSATS demonstration
 - Cities Research and Development
 - Dissemination
 - Transport work stream of the MK:Smart project, including the City Motion Map.
 - Go Ultra low carbon city exemplar
 - Collaborations to deliver bids to Government for related innovation projects, including:
 - Low Emission Buses

- Ultra Low Taxi Scheme
2. Development and management of relationships and partnerships at senior executive level to secure shared objectives and develop new initiatives.
 3. Accountable for the day-to-day operational delivery of the MK Council elements of the specific programmes and day to day budget management. Responsibility for; realisation of associated business gain and benefits, assessment and management of risks, and development of effective delivery plans and activities
 4. Responsible for leading and performance managing diverse team(s) of internal and external professional staff (over which the role has no direct control) and ensuring programme/project aims are successfully delivered in line with agreed programme and project milestones.
 5. Responsible for ensuring programmes/projects and outcomes are aligned with Milton Keynes Council's corporate strategic policies and are delivered in line with wider Council processes. To apply robust and effective project and programme management disciplines, ensuring compliance with corporate requirements and practices, to maintain effective control of the programme ensuring costs and timescales are managed and monitored and that this is effectively demonstrated to senior managers and external auditors. To actively monitor and manage any dependencies and interfaces between the programme of work and other related programmes.
 6. To lead or direct the procurement of the necessary supplies and services for the Programme, working within published policies and practices and with the relevant business units as necessary, as needed to deliver the programme outcomes. This will include contract letting and negotiation with external suppliers as appropriate and necessary.
 7. To represent the programme as requested by senior leaders/officers across the partnership(s), acting as a visible champion to the programme creating buy-in throughout the organisation, including specific attention to members and directors in order to best smooth the way for a successful implementation.

8. Deliver services within the scope and constraints of policy and legislation (including Health and Safety and Equalities), measuring success against high level strategic targets and objectives

Key role requirements

- The role requires a considerable depth of knowledge and experience of the application and the principles of:
 - innovative and sustainable transport programmes and policies, including national and international-level exemplar schemes
 - project and programme management .
- To be educated to degree-level or equivalent and member of recognised professional body (eg. Highways, Institute of Transport; Civil Engineering)
- Ability to manage, supervise and coordinate output from internal and external partner staff and external consultants.
- Ability to successfully formulate programmes and projects and implement strategies, turning plans into actions and successful outcomes.
- Knowledge of Local Authority governance arrangements and procedures and an understanding of the political dimensions and the sensitivities in working with and supporting elected officials.
- Ability to lead on building and maintaining relationships with academic, government and industry sector partners and external stakeholders, including internationally
- Ability to work autonomously, managing delivery and responding to competing requirements of a fast- paced set of projects with complex partnerships.
- Ability to find creative/innovative solutions to complex problems and high profile programmes and projects. Includes pre-empting problems.
- Ability to manage the communication of complex ideas and strategies to a range of audiences in an accessible manner.

- Ability to apply a range of negotiation and persuasion skills to suit differing circumstances.
- Experience of managing both revenue and capital budgets to a significant level (eg. £10 million plus).
- Understanding of contractual procurement procedures, including tendering, evaluation and contract award.