

Director, North Essex Councils

A new and exciting post is waiting to be filled by an ambitious individual keen to take on the challenge of driving forward a pioneering local authority partnership.

The North Essex Councils (NEC) partnership of eight districts and Essex CC is seeking a director to provide strong executive leadership and turn its programme plans into reality for the benefit of communities across North Essex.

The local authority partners that make up NEC are the districts Braintree, Colchester, Chelmsford, Epping Forest, Harlow, Maldon, Tendring and Uttlesford and Essex. The partnership, born out of the North Essex Economic Board, was created in 2022.

Cllr Chris Whitbread, NEC chairman, cabinet member for finance at Essex CC and leader of Epping Forest DC, said: "This is a really exciting opportunity for someone to be involved in planning the future of North Essex and shaping our delivery programme. Already progress has been made so there is a lot for the new director to build on but there is also so much more than can be done."

NEC vice-chairman David King, Colchester City Council's leader, said: "The director will build a lasting

partnership for the benefit of the million residents in North Essex."

North Essex is a particularly attractive place in which to live and work. It includes both urban and rural areas, major roads and railways, a port and an airport, Stansted, in Uttlesford DC.

The area has had major population, housing and employment growth in recent years which is set to continue with its proximity to London. The Great Eastern Main Line provides rail services between London Liverpool Street and the East of England while Harwich in Tendring DC is one of the major UK ports for ferry and cruise departures and includes Freeport designation. The growing passenger traffic from Stansted will continue to



create additional extra pressures on road and rail infrastructure.

The area has a mixed economy focused on the service sector, including wholesale and retail, business services, tourism, health and education, alongside manufacturing, logistics and construction. Agriculture and its related industries play an important part in the overall economy. There are significant future economic opportunities including in Construction and Retrofit, Clean Energy, Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering, Digital Tech and Life Sciences.

The director will be expected to deliver the work programme as agreed and defined by the NEC partnership, to provide expert policy and strategic advice that translates into real benefits across North Essex and to develop excellent, trustworthy, relationships with all partners. The director will need to work closely with the nine authorities on NEC and develop close relationships with their leaders, chief executives and directors as well as external partners.

The successful candidate will need vision, tenacity, exceptional relationship-building skills, and a good understanding of both current

and emerging strands in service delivery to bring partners together, add value to what they do and identify opportunities to reduce costs.

Cllr Whitbread said: "We need someone with energy, strong communication skills and readiness to engage at director level as well as with chiefs and leaders. Delivery is really important. There is enormous potential for our North Essex partnership and we want to be able to speak as one voice on behalf of our people." ■



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The complex challenges of the future can only be met by a shared approach to reimagining public service provision and driving economic growth. Building on a strong legacy of collaboration stretching back many years, we believe we're at a genuine tipping point for the communities of North Essex.

In this role, you'll co-design the overall operational and governance architecture of our future model, then bring together the people, resources and partnerships that will turn it into a reality.

You'll need vision, tenacity, exceptional relationship-building skills, and a sophisticated grasp of both current and emerging strands in service delivery. With the strong support of elected members and executive peers alike, it's a real chance to shape something extraordinary.

Visit www.nec-potential.co.uk to find out more, or contact Steve Guest at Solace in Business on 0207 976 3311 to arrange an informal conversation.

Closing date: 12 February 2024.

