

## Job Description

Job title:	Economic Development Lead for Defence and Growth Initiatives
Grade:	H
Hours of work:	37
Responsible to:	Head of Economy, Regeneration and Housing
Responsible for	
Direct reports:	0
Indirect reports:	0
Budget:	Initial resource budget of £50k for start-up work, with an expectation of further annual requests based on project needs.

### Purpose of Post:

The Economic Development - Defence and Growth - Lead will spearhead initiatives aimed at enhancing Huntingdonshire's economic landscape, particularly focusing on the defence sector (creation of a Defence Cluster) and the North Hunts Growth Cluster (NHGC). This role is pivotal in developing and executing strategies that drive investment, support local businesses, and position Huntingdonshire as a leader in economic growth and innovation.


The postholder will collaborate closely with stakeholders, including local businesses, government entities, and community organisations, to promote economic development and foster an inclusive economy.

### Key Deliverables:

- Act as the subject matter expert for the defence sector and NHGC, providing insights and strategic direction aligned with the Council's growth ambitions.
- Lead the defence cluster and NHGC aspects of work for the Council, and linking in with the established Economic Development function, managing resources effectively to achieve economic success.
- Provide sector specific knowledge and expertise including Defence; Advanced Manufacturing; and Innovation/R&D, to aid sector development in Huntingdonshire. Support and develop these sectors, including finding solutions to sectoral challenges and changes; and consideration of existing and future branched sectors such as life science and space.
- Develop and implement new strategies, plans, and initiatives that support the Council's Economic Growth Strategy and local development objectives.
- Facilitate and promote investment opportunities in Huntingdonshire, enhancing the region's profile as a prime location for business and development.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with key stakeholders in the defence sector, local businesses, and government bodies to drive collaborative efforts.
- Identify and pursue funding opportunities to support infrastructure and business growth initiatives, ensuring alignment with district priorities.
- Monitor and report on the progress of economic development activities, providing updates and insights to senior leadership, members and stakeholders.
- Work collaboratively across the Place Directorate, particularly with Planning, Strategic Housing, and other relevant teams, to address challenges and leverage opportunities for economic growth.
- Represent the Council at external events and meetings, promoting Huntingdonshire's economic potential and fostering partnerships.

<p><b>Knowledge and Qualifications</b></p> <p>The minimum knowledge required to undertake this role and any qualifications or training essential for the role</p> <p>(E) Essential (D) Desirable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A relevant degree or equivalent experience in economic development, business management, or a related field. (E)</li> <li>• Understanding of economic growth issues, public sector operations, and the dynamics of the defence sector. (E)</li> <li>• Proven experience in strategic planning, project management, and delivering successful economic initiatives. (E)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Experience</b></p> <p>Experience the person would need to do the job</p> <p>(E) Essential (D) Desirable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrable experience in economic development, particularly in sectors related to defence and advanced manufacturing. (E)</li> <li>• Successful track record in building partnerships and working collaboratively across sectors and organisations. (E)</li> <li>• Experience of managing projects and securing funding, including grant management and compliance. (E)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Skills and Abilities</b></p> <p>Specific skills the applicant would need to do the job</p> <p>(E) Essential (D) Desirable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exceptional leadership and communication skills, with the ability to engage effectively with stakeholders at all levels. (E)</li> <li>• Strong analytical and problem-solving capabilities, with a focus on outcome-oriented approaches. (E)</li> <li>• Ability to navigate complex organisational structures and political landscapes with ease. (E)</li> <li>• Proven networking skills and the ability to leverage relationships for economic development. (E)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Decision Making and Impact on Others</b></p>	<p>Post-holder will be required to play a key role in influencing the setting of economic development priorities across the Council, particularly focusing on the defence sector</p>

<p>What impact the reasons made by the post holder would have on others across the Council</p>	<p>and the North Hunts Growth Cluster (NHGC) as well as supporting the Council's wider Place agenda.</p> <p>In collaboration with others, influencing internal and external partners to ensure that the District's economic growth opportunities are maximised. (E)</p> <p>Securing new additionality inward investment to, and project funding within, Huntingdonshire. (E)</p> <p>Enables others to perform and models the behaviour expected of others. (E)</p> <p>Embraces and embodies our values ensuring they are evident in the treatment of others. (E)</p> <p>Embraces new situations and responds positively to change. (E)</p> <p>Adjusts their interpersonal style to respond to the needs or preferences of others. (E)</p>
<p><b>Communication with Internal and External Customers</b></p> <p>What customers the applicant would be in contact with in the job</p>	<p>Predominantly external facing, interacting with businesses, stakeholders and partner organisations. Communication with multi-disciplinary teams across the Council and excellent communication within the ED team.</p> <p>Internal customer contact 35%</p> <p>External customer contact 65%</p>
<p><b>Personal Attributes and Other Requirements</b></p> <p>In this section please list any other qualities you are looking for from the applicant</p> <p>(E) Essential</p> <p>(D) Desirable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A proactive, innovative thinker who thrives in a dynamic environment. (E)</li> <li>• Strong commitment to delivering results and enhancing the economic vitality of Huntingdonshire. (E)</li> <li>• Flexibility to travel within the district and occasionally work outside normal hours as required. (E)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flexibility to attend evening meetings as required. (E)</li> </ul>
<b>HDC values</b> 	<p>The values outlined below reflect our collective positive attitude and how all staff are expected to work together as one team.</p> <p><b>Inspiring:</b> We have genuine pride and passion for public service; doing the best we can for customers.</p> <p><b>Collaborative:</b> We achieve much more by working together, and this allows us to provide the best service for customers.</p> <p><b>Accountable:</b> We take personal responsibility for our work and our decisions, and we deliver on our commitments to customers.</p> <p><b>Respectful:</b> We respect people's differences and are considerate to their needs.</p> <p><b>Enterprising:</b> We use drive and energy to challenge the norm and adapt to changing circumstances. We are always ready for challenges and opportunities, and we embrace them.</p>

### Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults

Huntingdonshire District Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.