



# UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

**Role:** LIPF Programme Director  
**Level:** SM (Senior Specialist – SM1- SM8)  
**Reports to:** Director of RP&I

**Direct responsibility for:** LIPF Programme Manager

## **Role Summary:**

Reporting internally to the Director of Research, Partnerships and Innovation, co-located within the Faculty of Science and Engineering but responsible to a triple helix LIPF Programme Board, the Local Innovation Partnership Fund (LIPF) Director is a senior role responsible for the strategic leadership, and the successful delivery of the UKRI funded Great South West Global Autonomy Cluster LIPF programme. This is a £20m five-year programme which aims to grow the regional autonomy cluster, working with a range of partners across the geography.

The role will have overall responsibility for the effective delivery of the LIPF programme objectives, ensuring that it meets the requirements of the funder. It will also lead the identification, development and management of strategic partnerships with industry, public sector and community organisations to ensure aligned and effective delivery of a coherent portfolio of high-impact, place-based cluster / R&D interventions.

The postholder will be responsible for strategic engagement with regional, national and international partnerships to promote the LIPF programme and ensure it aligns with wider initiatives and identifies opportunities to develop further projects, working closely with academic leaders, and external stakeholders to co-create programmes and secure investment.

The LIPF Lead will play a key role in influencing and aligning university activity with regional and national funding opportunities, ensuring delivery against LIPF objectives, and maximising impact through effective partnership development, stakeholder engagement and cross-University collaboration.

Operating with a high degree of professional autonomy, the role requires strong political awareness, the ability to navigate complex stakeholder environments, and a track record of successful delivery of regional innovation programmes involving multiple partners.

| Key Accountabilities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Indicators of Success                                                             |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To build and maintain effective relationships with external organisations at senior levels.</li> <li>• Lead the delivery of the Local Innovation Partnership Fund (LIPF) programme, ensuring alignment with University strategy and regional economic priorities</li> <li>• Ensure LIPF programme meets its strategic objectives and the requirements of the funder</li> <li>• Develop a portfolio of high-quality, place-based innovation projects and funding opportunities</li> <li>• Build, develop and manage strategic relationships with industry, public sector and community partners at senior levels to support LIPF delivery</li> <li>• Act as a key external representative of the University within regional and national innovation ecosystems, enhancing visibility, credibility and influence [</li> <li>• Identify and cultivate new partnership opportunities that align with LIPF priorities and deliver measurable impact</li> <li>• Work closely with senior academic leadership to prioritise and support LIPF-related activity and partnership development</li> <li>• Provide advice, guidance and support to academics on engaging with external partners, funding opportunities and co-creation activity</li> <li>• Facilitate cross-University collaboration to maximise impact and ensure alignment across research, innovation and skills agendas</li> <li>• To promote the interests of, and raise the positive profile and good reputation of the University,</li> <li>• To co-ordinate and lead complex meetings with a range of internal and external stakeholders to support the development of projects and bids for funding.</li> <li>• To inform and facilitate cross-functional decisions with impact across the University, providing guidance and training on external activities.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achievement of Programme KPIs</li> </ul> |

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| <b>Additional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All activities undertaken within this role will be compliant with the University's policies, including Health &amp; Safety, Equality and Diversity, Ethics, Data Protection etc.</li> </ul> |  |
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## PERSON SPECIFICATION

| Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Essential                           | Desirable | Point at which information used in recruitment process |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Knowledge, Education and Training:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postgraduate qualification or equivalent experience</li> <li>Educational attainment at higher education level (or demonstrable equivalent experience)</li> <li>Numeracy and literacy at secondary education level (or demonstrable equivalent experience)</li> <li>Excellent knowledge of relevant sectors and issues and the role of Universities in supporting them</li> <li>Competent working knowledge of Microsoft Office packages</li> </ul> | X<br><br><br><br><br><br>X          | X         | <i>Shortlisting</i>                                    |
| <b>Experience:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrable experience of building and maintaining positive and effective relationships with a range of different organisations at senior levels</li> <li>Experience of working in a senior partnership / business development function</li> <li>Providing thought leadership</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                 | X<br><br><br><br><br>X<br><br><br>X |           | <i>Shortlisting and interview</i>                      |

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| <b>Skills</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to build productive and influential relationships with both academic and professional staff, and with external stakeholders</li> <li>• Political astuteness</li> <li>• Strong intellectual ability and confidence</li> <li>• Communicating complex details clearly both verbally and in formal report format</li> </ul> | X<br><br><br><br>X |  |  |
| <b>Special conditions:</b><br><br>Ability to travel and work flexible hours where necessary for delivery of role                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | X                  |  |  |

### University of Plymouth Behaviours

- Demonstrates Self-Leadership
- Develops self and others to deliver
- Leads and operates in times of change and ambiguity
- Drives innovation and action
- Creates and contributes to a shared vision
- Uses sound business judgement