



the national organisation
for local economies

Head of Local Economics

Flexible, with a requirement for regular working in the Manchester office

£44k - £56k full time, permanent

About CLES

CLES is the national organisation for local economies and the UK centre for excellence in community wealth building.

From our base in Manchester, we work across the UK and internationally to create better economies for people, place and planet. In particular, we support local areas to develop new solutions to the economic and social justice challenges we face at the current time.

We do research, analysis and convene conversations with partners working in local economies including devolved and local governments, civil society and business. We use their innovation and commitment to delivery to make the case for radical change.

Despite the challenges of the last two years, this is an exciting time for CLES. Our reputation and influence, scale, and depth of work across councils, regions, and the devolved nations of the UK is stronger than ever. We have an international reputation as the UK lead organisation for community wealth building.

About this role

Our Head of Local Economics will help to create a new and impactful programme of work, mapping and analysing local spend and wealth in places across the UK. By developing our in house methodologies around economic and spend analysis, you will build on our track record of work with devolved and local government on the potential power of public spend.

This is an exciting new role at CLES to build a programme of work on local economic analysis and understanding which will provide new insights into the challenges

facing local economies and the policy solutions require to deliver real change longer term.

This is a great opportunity to have a direct and immediate impact on the challenges facing communities across the UK and to influence the wider policy debate on the urgent need for a new economic model. At CLES, we believe that this national change will come from local innovation and delivery.

We are looking for a heterodox economist with excellent data and economic analysis skills who understands the challenges and opportunities for local economic change.

Part of your role will involve managing and coaching Senior Researchers and Researchers on local economic analysis. You will join our senior management team and will report to our Director of Policy and Practice.

CLES is committed to equality of opportunity and welcomes applications from all sections of the community, and from applicants with a range of professional and lived experiences. As an organisation engaging in critical debate about a wide range of progressive policy issues, we value the creativity and range of perspectives that a diverse team can provide. This commitment is also reflected in the attached document, [Working at CLES](#).

In line with our values and our commitment to progressive employment practice, CLES is currently trialling a four day/full pay working week, becoming one of the first think tanks in the UK to do so.

Skills and knowledge

- The ability to work collaboratively with people in organisations including senior stakeholders in local and devolved government as well as the NHS, business, trade unions, academics and civil society.
- Able to identify and develop opportunities for fundraising through developing relationships and networks.
- Able to advise CLES colleagues on the economic aspects of their research projects, provide feedback on outputs and provide general economic advice to the team.
- High level communication skills, both written and verbal including report writing, crafting of policy recommendations and presenting findings externally at events, with partners and via print and broadcast media as required. This may also include crafting and publicising CLES's reactions to economic news and statistical data releases, through blogging opinion pieces and media appearances.
- Planning/project management including the empathy and understanding to manage research staff effectively and to work collaboratively with colleagues at all levels and with different expertise.

- An understanding and interest in local economics including the role of local government and civil society and their interplay with national and devolved systems of governance.
- The ability to analyse and synthesise quantitative data and to model and visualise data in an engaging and impactful way.
- A working knowledge of advanced Excel is essential. A knowledge of other statistical software – for example, Advanced Excel, R, Microsoft Power BI QGIS – would be desirable.
- Knowledge and understanding of economic and social datasets for example, Nomis, ONS, Fame.
- A commitment to the values, ethos and charitable mission of CLES.

How to apply

You can apply for the role by submitting a letter of application (maximum two pages) with an accompanying CV and our [equal opportunities monitoring form](#). For an informal and confidential discussion about the post, please contact Tom Lloyd Goodwin, Director of Policy and Practice on tomlloydgoodwin@cles.org.uk

You should use the letter to outline your suitability for the role based on the job description, skills and knowledge requirements outlined above.

Please send your application to info@cles.org.uk. The deadline for applications is 5pm on Tuesday 22 November 2022.

Interviews will be held on Thursday 1 December.