

Vacancy:	Director of Partnerships and Engagement
Organisation:	New Local
Contract:	Full-time, permanent
Salary:	£80,000
Location:	New Local operates a 'work anywhere' policy but provides office space in London for those who require it. Applicants must have the right to work in the UK and be resident in the UK.

Our organisation and purpose

New Local is a think tank and network working to transform public services and unlock community power. We publish research, lead peer learning within our network of 50-plus local authorities, influence government and work directly with public sector organisations. We support local practice and make connections with national policy, catalysing innovation and new ways of working in the context of rising demand, constrained funding and declining trust.

At the heart of our work is 'community power' - the principle that communities themselves have strong insights into their own circumstances and should be able to participate in shaping the places they live in and the services they use. We believe that active, empowered communities should be at the heart of a wider shift towards place-based public services and a system focused on prevention, which can lead to better outcomes and a more sustainable system for all.

The role

We are seeking a Director of Partnerships and Engagement at an exciting point in New Local's organisational journey. With our Chief Executive recently appointed in post and a refreshed strategy, this new role has been created to play a core part of our leadership team of four, helping take our impact to the next level.

The purpose of the role is:

- To build and oversee strong partnerships which further the reach and impact of New Local's network of local authorities, annual partners and events programme.
- To oversee a vibrant and growing membership network of local authorities, developing new network partnerships, offers and opportunities that support public service innovation and community power practice.
- To lead New Local's external engagement and external affairs, including overseeing our communications and playing a key ambassadorial role leading our stakeholder relationships.
- To be an active part of our leadership team of four, collaborating closely with the Chief Executive and leadership team colleagues to deliver our strategic objectives and line-managing three posts: Head of Network; Head of Events and Head of Communications.

As Director of Partnerships and Engagement, you will oversee and ensure the impact of our membership network, events programme and communications activity. This will involve developing our partnerships with a range of stakeholders across our network of innovative councils and annual partners, including with the public, private and charitable sectors.

Overseeing our partnerships, you will play a key role in ensuring the activity and reach of our membership network is responsive to the challenges facing local government, creating new opportunities for insight and practical routes to innovation and impact. Taking an entrepreneurial approach, you will be proactive in seeking to generate revenue and support our network model to evolve and expand across public sector partners with an appetite to drive change.

Leading our external engagement, you will take a strategic approach to building our profile and reach as an organisation dedicated to community power and public service innovation. Our unique range of activity across our events, communications, network, practice and policy research informs our role bridging practical routes to change and advocacy of a paradigm shift towards community-led, place-based reform. Leading the strategic direction of our events and communications functions in addition to our network, you will spot opportunities for new ways to profile ideas and inspiration for those leading reform in practice.

As part of our leadership team, you will also play a core leadership role across the organisation and alongside the Chief Executive, including contributing to the development and delivery of our strategy; sharing accountability for our financial and cultural good health; and ensuring our team thrives.

Our team is inclusive and collaborative - we make every effort to live up to our four core values of being purposeful, adventurous, supportive towards colleagues and partners, and delivering excellence. Your leadership will support us to ensure these values are embedded in everything we do, from working with each other, to working with our diverse and inspiring range of partners and stakeholders.

Your job will include:

- **Partnership building:** overseeing and developing our vibrant membership network of local authorities, annual partners and establishing impactful partnerships with external stakeholders.
- **Business development:** leading on the vision-aligned business development strategy for our network and events programmes, developing activity that supports public service innovation and community power practice, ensuring high quality delivery and securing income.
- **Engagement and external affairs:** leading on our engagement and external affairs strategy, building our profile across public service practitioner and policy audiences to ensure our activity is relevant and inspiring.
- **Effective line management:** supporting and coaching our Head of Networks, Head of Events, and Head of Communications to ensure creative, effective delivery and high impact in these areas.
- **Cultural leadership:** actively working with the senior leadership team to model and promote a positive management culture throughout New Local that empowers staff whilst being focused on our core values: being purposeful, adventurous, supportive and delivering excellence.
- **And more...** As part of a small, friendly and informal organisation you'll have the opportunity to participate in other activities and support the wider development and delivery of New Local's vision and strategy.
- **Please refer to the [Job Description](#) for full details about the role and person specification.**

The organisation

New Local currently has a team of 15 staff. New Local operates a 'work anywhere' policy but provides fixed office space in London for those who require it.

We offer a variety of benefits listed in the job description and a minimum of 27 days' holiday a year and ten days holiday over Christmas/New Year.

Diversity: New Local is committed to being an equal opportunities employer. We don't just 'value diversity', we think it is central to what makes for a high impact, successful organisation. We positively encourage everyone to apply. In order to monitor equal opportunities, we ask that the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form below is completed (this is entirely at the applicant's discretion). The collecting of this data is part of our diversity strategy, to understand how we can improve equal opportunities for external applicants to New Local. All information gathered will be anonymised and then destroyed after 6 months, after which only aggregate data will be held. Information collected for monitoring purposes will be treated as confidential and will not be used for any other purpose.

- Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form

How to apply

Please email to recruitment@newlocal.org.uk your:

- Cover letter (demonstrating, with examples, how you meet the criteria in the job description and where you heard about this role)
- CV
- Completed Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form (if you wish) N.B. all equal opportunities forms will be separated from the application.

If you require any help applying for this role or taking part in the recruitment process, then please do not hesitate to contact recruitment@newlocal.org.uk.

NB: Please only send recruitment materials to recruitment@newlocal.org.uk

Fixed recruitment timeline

Post advertised	Wednesday 5 March 2025
Deadline for applications	Monday 14 April 2025 at 9am
Interviews 1 st round	Friday 2 May 2025
Written exercise	Monday 12 May 2025
Interviews 2 nd round	Friday 16 May 2025
Start date	To be agreed, at earliest convenience

Probation and Notice: This role is subject to a six-month probationary period and a three-month notice period.

Data Protection: New Local will process and store your personal information (this means any information that identifies or could identify you) for the purposes of recruitment, for a period of up to six months after the closing date, after which it will be securely disposed. For more information, please refer to our **Job Applicant Privacy Notice**.