

Chief Property Officer – role description

Estates & Facilities Directorate

Overall Purpose

As a pivotal member of our Professional Services Leadership Team, the CPO embarks on a transformative journey to elevate The University of Manchester's world-class status through visionary estate and facilities management. Over the next decade and beyond, this strategic role is dedicated to reshaping our campus, enhancing services, and fostering a culture of excellence befitting a truly global institution.

Key Responsibilities:

Visionary Leadership: Lead the formulation and execution of a bold vision for transforming our estate and facilities services over the next 10-20 years, aligning with our aspirations for global impact and excellence.

Service Excellence: Identify areas for enhancement, optimising hard & soft services and pioneering innovative approaches to elevate efficiency and service quality commensurate with our world-class status.

Cultural Transformation: Spearhead a transformative cultural change within the estate and facilities functions to cultivate an inspiring, vibrant, inclusive and collaborative environment synonymous with our shared values and our vision for Professional Services.

Infrastructure Strategy: Collaborate with key stakeholders, particularly the Chief Information Officer, to devise a comprehensive infrastructure strategy embracing property and digital that aligns with our institutional goals and ways of working, prioritising pedagogy, achieving zero carbon, and affordability, while reinforcing our status as a leading global research institution.

Financial Innovation: Collaborating with the Chief Finance Officer, navigate financial constraints by identifying creative solutions to fund necessary investments, ensuring an enduring legacy of excellence and impact.

Commercial: Lead our commercial services to ensure they meet stakeholder expectations and contribute to financial sustainability.

Transformational Change: As part of our Reshaping Professional Services activity and collaborating with the Strategic Change Office, lead and deliver transformative change initiatives, ensuring that our Estates & Facilities Directorate is fit to meet the evolving needs of our world-class institution.

Partnerships: Build strong working relationships with key public and private stakeholders in our city region, in line with our civic engagement strategy, working with them to enhance the Greater Manchester region, socially and economically.

Person Specification:

We seek a visionary leader who embodies our University's ethos of excellence and innovation, with a proven track record in leading and delivering transformational change in a large-scale and complex organisation.

Experience: Extensive experience in senior-level property and facilities management roles, with a demonstrable ability to identify future trends, drive strategic transformation and navigate complex challenges in alignment with our global ambitions and achieving a zero carbon campus.

Qualifications: Possession of relevant professional qualifications and a deep understanding of global best practice.

Strategic Vision: A visionary thinker with the ability to develop and execute long-term strategic plans, aligning property and facilities initiatives with our institutional objectives, ensuring our continued global status.

Cultural Leadership: A track record of fostering a culture of excellence, inclusivity in all its forms (and particularly in the built estate and services), and innovation within large organisations, addressing issues such as employee relations and organisational culture, while upholding our shared values.

People management. An inclusive and collaborative leader who can harness people talent, by setting up for success through, clear expectations, developing capability, engaging on purpose and direction, motivating them to achieve, and role modelling the values.

Financial Acumen: Strong financial management and commercial skills, with experience in project control, procurement, development and management of complex contracts, and resource allocation to optimise investments and achieve long-term sustainability. You will be comfortable with managing large departments, supporting resources and monitoring spend effectively.

Stakeholder Engagement: You will be familiar with and highly skilful at cultivating relationships with key internal and external partners and stakeholders, including

governance, external relations, strategic partnerships, government and public bodies and academic leadership, to advance the university's mission, values, and strategy. You will be able to demonstrate experience of building effective and influential partnerships with strong personal credibility and an ability to provide constructive challenge at a senior level.

Communication Skills: Excellent communication, presentation, and negotiation skills, with the ability to articulate complex ideas and influence decision-making at all levels of the organisation, embodying our commitment to transparency and collaboration.

Our values. As an autonomous institution, we will strive to bring our shared values to life. They are:

Knowledge: We are ambitious in our pursuit of new ideas, greater understanding, and discovery.

Wisdom: We share and apply our knowledge and experience to guide balanced and evidenced decisions for ourselves and for society.

Humanity: We embrace and celebrate difference, respect, and support each other, and act with integrity to benefit society and the environment by transforming and enriching lives.

Academic freedom: We support with enthusiasm and vigour the principles of freedom of thought and speech.

Courage: We think and speak freely and act boldly to challenge assumptions and shape our future for the greater good.

Pioneering spirit: In the radical Manchester spirit, and inspired by our people, history, and scale, we create the exceptional.