

## JOB DESCRIPTION

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| <b>Job Title</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Senior Economist                          |                 |                     |
| <b>Directorate</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Economic Development, Skills, and Climate |                 |                     |
| <b>Reporting to</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                           |                 |                     |
| <b>Grade</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 9                                         |                 |                     |
| <b>Evaluation ref:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | AU0186                                    | <b>Job ref:</b> | <b>Family</b> RPG09 |
| <b>Role purpose</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                           |                 |                     |
| <p>The Senior Economist at Somerset Council plays a pivotal role in shaping the economic landscape of Somerset. This position is responsible for leading the creation and dissemination of economic knowledge and information, enabling the Council to fulfil statutory requirements such as the Somerset Economic Assessment. The role involves coordinating research, forecasting, and analysis activities to identify and illustrate economic trends within Somerset. The postholder acts as the lead professional advisor on economic matters, providing specialist advice and information to members, senior managers, and partners. This includes managing research projects, developing new sources of economic data, and supporting evidence-based policy decisions. The role also involves liaising with external information providers, translating complex data into actionable insights, and advising on policy implications. By guiding and supporting senior managers and stakeholders, the Senior Economist ensures that economic targets are negotiated and met, contributing to the overall economic prosperity of Somerset.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                           |                 |                     |
| <b>Accountabilities</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                           |                 |                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead the creation of knowledge and information for the Somerset Economic Assessment.</li> <li>• Coordinate research, forecasting, and analysis activities on economic themes and issues.</li> <li>• Identify and illustrate economic trends within Somerset.</li> <li>• Act as the lead professional advisor on economic matters to members, senior managers, and partners.</li> <li>• Manage and supervise research projects from specialist bodies.</li> <li>• Develop new sources of economic data and support evidence-based policy decisions.</li> <li>• Liaise with external information providers to ensure data accuracy and reliability.</li> <li>• Translate complex data into actionable insights for stakeholders.</li> <li>• Advise on the implications of new policy legislation and best practice guidance.</li> <li>• Support regional bodies and groups in understanding the regional economic profile.</li> <li>• Guide and support senior managers and stakeholders in negotiating economic targets.</li> <li>• Provide specialist advice and information on economic intelligence and research.</li> <li>• Manage the development and maintenance of high-quality economic analysis systems.</li> <li>• Evaluate the implications of new policy legislation and advise on requirements.</li> <li>• Contribute to the development and review of Somerset strategies and policies.</li> </ul> |                                           |                 |                     |

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### Impact

#### Contacts and Relationships

Contents below embrace all mediums, written, oral and electronic.

- Formal and informal contacts are likely to be at technical officer level up to senior manager and Member level, both internally and externally, to influence priorities and policy development. Contacts externally will include individuals, businesses, business organisations, interest groups, other Local Authorities, regional partners and Government agencies.
- Develops relationships with a variety of external public and private agencies. These will include local and regional government agencies to forge relationships that will enable the joint development of policy, strategic plans, and commissioning work packages.
- May involve commissioning and managing of consultancy contracts.
- Chairing, attending, and presenting to a wide range of meetings including internal officer meetings, external partnership meetings, meetings with developers and other stakeholders, committee meetings, site meetings, and may involve occasional evening meetings.

#### Resources

Provide line management and support for Economic Policy and Research Officer post. Allocates and manages the outcomes from research contracts of variable values

### Knowledge / Experience / Skills

|                                                                             | Essential | Desirable |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Knowledge</b>                                                            |           |           |
| In-depth understanding of economic theories and principles.                 | x         |           |
| Knowledge of economic forecasting techniques and econometric analysis.      | x         |           |
| Familiarity with data sources such as the Office for National Statistics.   | x         |           |
| Understanding of local and regional economic issues.                        | x         |           |
| Knowledge of policy development and evaluation processes.                   |           | x         |
| Awareness of best practices in economic research and analysis.              |           | x         |
| <b>Experience</b>                                                           |           |           |
| Proven experience in economic research and analysis.                        | x         |           |
| Experience in managing research projects and supervising specialist bodies. | x         |           |

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| Experience in providing specialist advice on economic matters.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | x |   |
| Experience in liaising with external information providers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | x |   |
| Experience in translating complex data into actionable insights.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |   | x |
| Experience in contributing to policy development and review.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |   | x |
| <b>Qualifications / Registrations / Certifications</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |   |   |
| Degree in Economics or a related field.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | x |   |
| Postgraduate qualification in Economics or a related field.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |   | x |
| Professional certification in economic analysis or forecasting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |   | x |
| Training in data analysis and econometric techniques.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |   | x |
| Certification in project management.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |   | x |
| Continuous professional development in economic research.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |   | x |
| <b>Skills</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |   |   |
| Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | x |   |
| Excellent communication and presentation skills.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | x |   |
| Ability to manage and supervise research projects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | x |   |
| Proficiency in data analysis software and tools.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | x |   |
| Ability to translate complex data into clear and actionable insights.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |   | x |
| Strong organisational and time management skills.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |   | x |
| <b>Working Conditions</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |   |   |
| <p>This role involves working within a dynamic and supportive local authority environment. Candidates should be prepared for the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Work Hours:</b> Standard working hours are 37, with occasional requirements for evening or weekend work to meet project deadlines or attend community events.</li> <li>• <b>Location:</b> The primary work location is County Hall, with opportunities for remote work as per organisational policies.</li> <li>• <b>Travel:</b> Some travel within the local area may be required for meetings, site visits, and community engagement activities.</li> <li>• <b>Work Environment:</b> The role involves working both independently and as part of a team, with access to modern office facilities and resources.</li> </ul> |   |   |

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- **Health and Safety:** Adherence to all health and safety regulations is mandatory, ensuring a safe working environment for all employees.

### Dimensions of the role

### Working Arrangements

Somerset Council's dynamic Working Strategy will be applied to this position.

### Corporate Accountabilities

- Ensure compliance with all relevant legislation, organisational policy, and professional codes of conduct to uphold standards of best practise.
- Deliver the aims of the council's equality, diversity and inclusion policies; health, safety and wellbeing of self and others; and Organisational values in everything you do, ensuring team members are also aware of their responsibilities and maintaining their understanding that Equality and Diversity practice covers both interaction with staff, service users and communities and includes challenging discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity for all.

Date: 17/01/2025