

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Bridge Engineer (Principal Inspections)		
Directorate	Infrastructure & Transport		
Reporting to	Senior Bridge Engineer & Team Leader – Assets Team		
Grade	10		
Evaluation ref:	AG0314	Job Family ref:	EST10
Role purpose			
<p>Somerset Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of its Highway Bridge, culvert and retaining wall stock which stands at over 2500 structures.</p> <p>This stock contains a wide variety of asset types in respect of their form, construction, material, span, and location. There are a significant number of masonry arches and simply supported reinforced concrete slabs as well as retaining walls of different construction forms and, of course, large multi-span structures, all located in both rural and urban areas.</p>			
Responsibilities			
<p>Initiate, develop, manage and deliver bridge and structures assessment, maintenance and improvement projects to programme and budget.</p> <p>Co-ordinate, and supervise project teams engaged on routine, structural maintenance or improvement schemes.</p> <p>Supervise, mentor and support junior staff within the Bridges and Structures Team.</p> <p>Undertake detailed Principal Inspections & General Inspections, investigations and surveys to bridges and structures, either as principal or in supporting role. Collate findings and prepare inspection reports in written or electronic formats.</p> <p>Carry out feasibility work, evaluation of options and preparation of factual and interpretative reports using formal design standards or ad hoc application of engineering principles.</p> <p>Co-ordinate and supervise on-site works to highways structures, including liaison with statutory bodies, affected parties, consultants and contractors.</p> <p>Prepare and support senior colleagues with the preparation of schedules, reports, calculations, costings, technical data, programmes of work, presentations and briefings for internal, stakeholder and public use relating to SC structures.</p> <p>Act as point of contact for the public, interest groups, parish and district councils, for individual structures projects and long term programmes.</p>			

JOB DESCRIPTION

Develop and maintain close working relationships with other stakeholders within the highways service and externally, to ensure effective and efficient delivery of the structures team responsibilities.

Provide technical advice, guidance and support to SC colleagues, elected members and other organisations on structures related matters.

Undertake other duties as identified from time to time by the team leader/line manager.

The postholder will be responsible for providing Senior Professional/Line Manager with budgetary information to enable them to review and approve associated budgets. The postholder will be expected to manage approved budgets, accordingly, keeping within pre-determined allocations or advising management of changes and requesting change.

Responsible for requisitioning and approving goods/services up to £5,000 with assistance from Senior Professional.

Acts as mentor, allocating and checking work which relate to the jobholder's areas of responsibility.

The postholder will also have a key role in procuring, managing, instructing and agreeing payments for work through SC Structures Framework Contract and other third-party resources which SC may have to procure from time to time.

Where practical, provides cover for technical and project issues in the absence of the Senior Professional. The postholder is engaged in inter-service, multi-disciplinary collaborative working. When leading projects the postholder will manage other professional engineering officers, support staff and staff within and external to the Council.

Impact

Contact takes place by telephone, written correspondence and in person, when seeking or providing information is an essential element of everyday work.

Internal: Provides advice, guidance and support to Group Managers, other Senior Managers, employees and contact with Elected Members. Liaison and close working with Managers and other professionals take place when formulating and developing policy initiatives. Provides support and guidance to Junior Professionals and Technicians.

External: A wide range of organisations, including organisations with Service Level Agreements providing an income to the Authority; other local authorities, Government Departments at National and Regional level, etc as well as private organisations and developers providing additional income streams. The purpose of these contacts can be for research, provide, obtain and analyse information; to discuss and negotiate on various highway structure issues; to contribute/influence national/local policies and highway legislation.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Knowledge / Experience / Skills			
Knowledge			
	Essential	Desirable	
Educated to degree level, in a relevant subject and hold, or be working towards, a relevant professional qualification, such as Incorporated/Chartered Engineer status through an appropriate Institution/Organisation	✓		
Continual Professional Development (CPD) attendance and records, in-line with their Institutions/Organisations minimum requirements Bridge Inspectors Training Course		✓	
Experience			
Proven experience in carrying out Principal Inspections in the principal/lead inspector role	✓		
Highway structures engineering design and assessment	✓		
Project management	✓		
Experience in supervising, co-ordinating and directing external contractors.	✓		
Experience in initiating, managing and delivering bridge and structures maintenance and strengthening schemes independently or under supervision and in accordance with agreed programmes of work.	✓		
Ability to carry out feasibility work, option evaluation and preparation of reports using design standards or ad-hoc application of engineering principles.	✓		
Highway legislation and agreements		✓	
Best practice		✓	
Health and safety in the highway/construction industry		✓	
Relevant highway/bridges standards including eurocodes		✓	
Skills			

JOB DESCRIPTION

Must be numerate and IT literate.	✓		
Familiarity with a range of structural types, conditions and common faults	✓		
Familiarity with basic structures strengthening and maintenance practices and implementation of solutions.	✓		
Desire for continuing professional development	✓		
Seeks out learning opportunities for self and others	✓		
Ability to pass on technical information to others in a manner that is understood, seeks customer and staff feedback to check out their understanding	✓		
Demonstrates an understanding of equality, diversity and innovation, creating an open climate where people feel able to share ideas and think creatively	✓		
Active commitment to professional standards	✓		
Demonstrates an understanding of the broader context in which the service operates and how interaction with others is necessary to service development	✓		
Practical implementation of design and assessment codes of practice on typical local authority structures		✓	
Working Conditions			
Working Arrangements			
Somerset Council's dynamic Working Strategy will be applied to this position.			
Corporate Responsibilities			
Understand, uphold and promote 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. 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: June 2025