

Role Description

Role title	Principal Traffic Control Officer		
Directorate	Infrastructure & Transport		
Reporting to			
Grade	9		
Evaluation ref	AU0983	Job Family Ref	EST9
Role purpose			
<p>As the Lead Traffic Control Engineer, the job holder has responsibility, under the overall direction of the Service Manager – Traffic Control for the successful management of the Traffic Control Assets and the associated infrastructure, to manage and improve the existing County Highway Network improving safety and facilitating appropriate use/access. This role enables elements of the Council Plan in enabling a greener, more sustainable, flourishing, and resilient Somerset.</p>			
Key results area	Accountability		
Corporate Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 		
Lead Expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the maintenance of all the Council's traffic control systems and ancillary equipment to ensure that, as far as is reasonably practicable; it works in a safe and efficient manner. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To carry out/oversee the development of Traffic Control specifications, design standards and guidelines for use by all developers, consultants and contractors working in the County.
Budget Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage the production of accurate quantities and estimates of costs for schemes and scheme implementation programmes and ensure that schemes are delivered to budget and programme
Lead Expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a programme of Stage 1,2 & 3 safety and technical audits on developer and council signal schemes and allocate to appropriate member of the team. Contribute to carrying out audits within the programme as required
Problem Solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore innovative ideas to achieve traffic control solutions, which could also influence advances in traffic control technology
Strategic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactively deliver corporate and service area vision and priorities, maximising opportunities, and innovative ways of working
Stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for considering and responding to requests from elected members, members of the public and other organisations to ensure responses are in accordance with current policies and service objectives
Problem Solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate complaints and respond in a timely manner with a comprehensive response to avoid the matter being escalated.
Budget Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage the production of accurate quantities and estimates of costs for schemes and scheme implementation programmes and ensure that schemes are delivered to budget and programme
Brand Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work closely with the Communications Team to ensure that necessary information and items of interest are well publicised
People Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage competing deadlines and demands for service, respond to rapidly changing work priorities, and set realistic targets for team members.
People Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manages Traffic Control Engineers and technicians, undertaking supervisory tasks and responsibilities, including motivating staff, identifying training requirements, undertaking appraisals, developing, and mentoring staff

Lead Expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collate, interpret, and communicate technical, regulatory, and best practice matters to relevant staff and stakeholders
Strategic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate implications of new legislation and best practice guidance for Somerset Council. Create proposals to advise members, officers and external partners on the implications and requirements
Lead Expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair technical meetings with other departments/contractors/developers and other authorities with respect to new schemes planned within the county
Strategic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represent the Council while engaging with system manufacturers and other technical professionals at technical meetings and presentations on the use and development of existing or proposed systems. Includes liaison on the implementation of new and innovative technologies
Lead Expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide factual data and evidence to enquiries from solicitors, police, insurance companies and developers. Produce statements for legal proceedings, which may result in attendance at court as an 'expert witness'
Stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult and inform elected members, individually and at briefings and Committees, of resolution to issues and perceived problems within their area. Also notify and consult on future proposals, enhancements, and schemes
Lead Expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify existing traffic control facilities on a day-to-day basis to improve the safety and efficiency of the road network within the County, thus contributing and assisting with the Traffic Control and Information centre facility
Customer champion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the Contract Management Team in the preparation of new Term Maintenance Contracts for Traffic Control Systems, and to provide operational and technical advice as required to draw up the tender documents. Also, a member of the evaluation panel that assesses the tenders
Lead Expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee, the health and safety management of the team, and ensure the current Construction Design and Management regulations are applied to schemes as necessary. Advise project team members of their responsibilities in this area
Customer champion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and oversee statistical analyses (e.g., fault repair status, condition of installations, value of equipment) for input to capital, PFI and Medium-Term Financial Plan bids and reports associated with them. Use analysis to monitor Term Maintenance Contractors performance and for asset management
Customer champion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and regularly monitor performance indicators to measure progress and effectiveness and benchmark against other Highway Authorities

Media relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work closely with the Communications Team to ensure that necessary information and items of interest are well publicised
Knowledge / skills / experience	
<p><i>Essential work experience</i> Extensive experience (at least ten years) of traffic control systems and design</p> <p>Comprehensive understanding of traffic and transportation techniques, highway design and transport planning principles and a proven track record in project design and delivery</p> <p>Line management experience</p> <p>Comprehensive knowledge of regulations, DfT and local standards and good practice relating to the design, installation and management of traffic control assets</p> <p><i>Essential Qualifications</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant degree and/or professional qualification and/ or equivalent experience. <p><i>Essential Personal Attributes</i></p> <p>Highly motivated, versatile, enthusiastic, target-driven and customer focused Able to work well in a team environment and willing to take responsibility and supervise others if required Ability to travel regularly to sites throughout Somerset Good communication skills and the ability to forge good relationships by communicating effectively at all levels within the business, and with Clients and other organisations Good written communications skills with the ability to produce reports and other documents to exacting standards; Proficient in Microsoft package and CAD design software</p>	

Dimensions of role
<p>The jobholder is required to maintain a high profile in dealing with often complex, contentious or controversial situations, relating to traffic issues. The nature of the work involves a substantial amount of contact with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Leadership Team, Officers from the other departments. • Deputise for Service Manager Traffic Control as required. • Elected members of the Council to provide professional advice, or, discuss issues related to the service. • Directors and managers of the service provider concerning operational issues. • Contact with the media on operational issues. • Frequent contact with the public/police over many traffic related issues.

- In the event of claims against the Council, relating to the job holder's area of responsibility, may be required to represent the Authority in Court. This will include attendance, presenting evidence and contributing to preparation of documentation.

The nature of the work involves contact with the following:

- Elected members of the County, and Parish / Town Councils to provide professional advice and/or discuss issues related to the service.
- Managers/engineers concerning scheme implementation issues.
- Managers and professionals within the County Council, other authorities, and agencies. For the purposes of liaison, negotiation, information gathering, comparing performance etc.
- Civil and control system contractors involved with the implementation, commissioning, and maintenance of the installations/systems.

Responsible for the day to day running of more than 280 traffic signal installations, CCTV cameras, Variable Message Signs, Variable Speed Signs and Vehicle Actuated Signs. All the above dispersed across Somerset and with a capital replacement value of over £30 million.

Oversee individual schemes and technical works to support the Service Manager in the spending of the annual revenue budget of approximately £750,000 on proactive and reactive maintenance works; and approximately £2.500,000 of capital funding.

The job holder has direct management for up to 6 Traffic Control Engineers and technicians.

Notes

Competencies / attributes	Somerset Council has developed an attributes framework which will be a key component of the role; this can be found on the Council's website.
Working conditions and arrangements	The team do some <i>working outside of the normal working hours</i> . <i>The role is split between remote and office working</i>