

## JOB DESCRIPTION

|  |                                       |                 |                         |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Job Title</b>   | Senior Data Scientist                 |                 |                         |
| <b>Directorate</b>   | Strategy Performance & Communications |                 |                         |
| <b>Reporting to</b>  | Data Engineering & Science Lead       |                 |                         |
| <b>Grade</b>   | 9                                     |                 |                         |
| <b>Evaluation ref:</b>   | RP111                                 | <b>Job ref:</b> | <b>Family</b> Temporary |
| <b>Role purpose</b>  |                                       |                 |                         |
| <p>The Senior Data Scientist at Somerset Council will play a pivotal role in driving data-driven decision-making within the Strategy Performance &amp; Communications directorate. The Lead Data Scientist will be a leader, coach, and champion of data science within the organisation. This role involves managing and developing teams, building organisational capability, and setting and communicating the direction for data science initiatives. The Lead Data Scientist will design and implement scalable data science outputs and products, driving collaboration with others to support organisational objectives. They will select the most appropriate tools and technologies, navigate ethical and data challenges, and communicate and present effectively to various stakeholders. The role also includes challenging delivery plans and priorities, ensuring that data science solutions are aligned with organisational goals and deliver significant business impact. This role involves leveraging advanced statistical analysis, machine learning, and data mining techniques to extract actionable insights from complex datasets. The post holder will collaborate closely with various stakeholders to understand their data needs, develop predictive models, and provide strategic recommendations. This position requires a deep understanding of data science principles and the ability to communicate findings effectively to both technical and non-technical audiences. The role also includes mentoring junior data scientists and leading data science projects from conception to deployment, ensuring that data solutions align with the council's strategic objectives.</p> |                                       |                 |                         |
| <b>Accountabilities</b>  |                                       |                 |                         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement advanced analytics models to support strategic decision-making.</li> <li>• Lead data science projects from conception to deployment, ensuring timely delivery and alignment with strategic goals.</li> <li>• Collaborate with stakeholders to identify data needs and provide actionable insights.</li> <li>• Design and deploy predictive models and machine learning algorithms.</li> <li>• Ensure data quality and integrity across all data science initiatives.</li> <li>• Mentor and guide junior data scientists, fostering a culture of continuous learning and development.</li> <li>• Communicate complex data findings to both technical and non-technical audiences.</li> <li>• Stay updated with the latest advancements in data science and incorporate them into the council's practices.</li> <li>• Develop and maintain data platforms for analysis and experimentation.</li> </ul>  |                                       |                 |                         |

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- Conduct exploratory data analysis to identify trends and patterns.
- Manage and develop data science teams.
- Build organisational capability in data science.
- Set and communicate the direction for data science initiatives.
- Design and implement scalable data science outputs and products.
- Drive collaboration with others to support organisational objectives.
- Select the most appropriate tools and technologies for data science projects.
- Navigate ethical and data challenges.
- Communicate and present data science insights effectively to stakeholders.
- Challenge delivery plans and priorities to ensure alignment with organisational goals.
- Identify opportunities to develop statistical insights, reports, and models.
- Critique statistical analyses and use a variety of data analytics techniques.
- Work with data engineers and data scientists to design and deliver products.
- Develop data science solutions that maximise insight.
- Champion user research and design processes to gather and establish user needs.
- Deliver scalable data science products and establish maintenance support.
- Act as a leader or technical specialist, providing detailed support and guidance.
- Keep up to date with new developments in data science and match them to organisational opportunities.
- Oversee compliance with data ethics standards and legislation.
- Develop and manage the ethical framework for data use.

### Knowledge / Experience / Skills

|   | Essential | Desirable |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Knowledge</b>  |           |           |
| Understanding of data science techniques and tools.                                 | x         |           |
| Familiarity with statistical analysis, data modelling and data visualisation tools. | x         |           |
| Awareness of emerging trends in data science.                                       |           | x         |
| Knowledge of data governance and data quality principles.                           |           | x         |
| Understanding of data engineering and manipulation                                  | x         |           |

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|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Knowledge of user research methodologies   |   | x |
| Knowledge of data ethics and relevant legislation  | x |   |
| <b>Experience</b>  |   |   |
| Experience in applying data science techniques to solve complex problems.  | x |   |
| Experience in leading data science projects from conception to deployment.   | x |   |
| Experience in developing and delivering data science products.   | x |   |
| Experience in collaborating with cross-functional and multi-disciplinary teams to deliver data-driven solutions.                           | x |   |
| Track record of developing and implementing predictive models and machine learning algorithms.   | x |   |
| Experience in presenting data insights to senior stakeholders and managing stakeholder expectations.                                       | x |   |
| <b>Qualifications / Registrations / Certifications</b>   |   |   |
| A degree in Data Science, Statistics, Computer Science, or demonstrate equivalent qualifications through relevant professional experience. | x |   |
| Advanced degree (Master's or PhD) in a relevant discipline.  |   | x |
| Professional certifications in data science or related areas.  |   | x |
| Training in data ethics and governance   | x |   |
| Continuous professional development in data science, data analysis and modelling.  |   | x |
| Certification in machine learning or artificial intelligence   |   | x |
| Advanced training in statistical analysis  |   | x |
| <b>Skills</b>  |   |   |
| Strong analytical and problem-solving skills - developing and implementing data science solutions  | x |   |
| Competence in using data science tools and technologies  | x |   |
| Proficiency in statistical analysis and data modelling   | x |   |
| Ability to communicate complex data insights and concepts clearly and effectively.   | x |   |
| Proficiency in coding and scripting for data science tasks   | x |   |
| Ability to work independently and as part of a team.   |   | x |

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### Working Conditions

This role involves working within a dynamic and supportive local authority environment. Candidates should be prepared for the following conditions:

- **Work Hours:** Standard working hours are 37, with occasional requirements for evening or weekend work to meet project deadlines or attend community events.
- **Location:** The primary work location is County Hall, with opportunities for remote work as per organisational policies.
- **Travel:** Some travel within the local area may be required for meetings, site visits, and community engagement activities.
- **Work Environment:** The role involves working both independently and as part of a team, with access to modern office facilities and resources.
- **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. This is a temporary 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: 21/10/2024