

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Senior Landscape Officer		
Directorate	Planning		
Reporting to	Placemaking Team Manager		
Grade	9		
Evaluation ref:	RP215	Job ref:	Family
Role purpose			
<p>The Senior Landscape Officer will play a pivotal role in the Planning Directorate, contributing to the sustainable development and enhancement of Somerset's natural and built environments. This role involves providing expert advice on landscape matters, ensuring that development proposals align with local and national policies. The postholder will be responsible for assessing the landscape and visual impacts of planning applications, developing landscape strategies, drafting landscape policies for inclusion in statutory development plans, and promoting high-quality landscape design. The role requires collaboration with various stakeholders, including developers, community groups, and other council departments, to achieve the council's vision for a greener, more sustainable Somerset. The post holder will also support the Placemaking Team Manager in delivering strategic projects and initiatives that enhance the county's landscape and public spaces.</p>			
Responsibilities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide expert advice on landscape and visual impact assessments for planning applications. • Support the preparation, implementation, and review of statutory development plans by drafting and/or inputting to the formulation of policies and assessing the impact of site allocations. • Develop and implement landscape strategies, design codes, masterplans and policies in line with local and national guidelines. • Promote high-quality landscape design in development proposals. • Collaborate with developers, architects, and other stakeholders to ensure landscape considerations are integrated into planning processes. • Conduct site visits and surveys to assess landscape conditions and inform planning decisions. • Prepare and present reports to planning committees and other relevant bodies. • Prepare and present evidence as an expert witness at public examinations, local inquiries and appeals in so far as it relates to landscape. • Monitor and review the implementation of landscape conditions and agreements. • Support the Placemaking Team Manager in delivering strategic landscape projects. • Engage with community groups and the public to promote landscape initiatives and gather feedback. 			

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- Provide training and guidance to junior staff and other council departments on landscape matters.

Impact

Knowledge / Experience / Skills

	Essential	Desirable	
Knowledge			
In-depth knowledge of landscape planning and design principles.	x		
Understanding of local and national planning policies and guidelines.	x		
Familiarity with landscape and visual impact assessment methodologies.	x		
Knowledge of sustainable landscape management practices.		x	
Awareness of biodiversity and ecological principles in landscape design.		x	
Understanding of public engagement and consultation processes.		x	
Experience			
Proven experience in landscape planning or a related field.	x		
Experience in assessing and advising on landscape and visual impacts of development proposals.	x		
Experience in developing and implementing landscape strategies and policies.	x		
Experience in working with a range of stakeholders, including developers and community groups.	x		
Experience in preparing and presenting reports to planning committees.		x	
Experience in delivering training and guidance on landscape matters.		x	
Qualifications / Registrations / Certifications			
Degree in Landscape Architecture, Landscape Planning, or a related field.	x		
Membership (or eligible to join) of a relevant professional body, such as the Landscape Institute.	x		
Postgraduate qualification in a related discipline.		x	

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Certification in landscape and visual impact assessment.		x	
Training in sustainable landscape management practices.		x	
Qualification in public engagement and consultation.		x	
Skills			
Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.	x		
Strong analytical and report-writing skills.	x		
Ability to work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders.	x		
Proficiency in using landscape design and assessment software.	x		
Strong project management skills.		x	
Ability to deliver training and guidance effectively.		x	
Working Conditions			
<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"> • 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: Involves frequent travel across rural areas of Somerset and lone working on occasion. • 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. 			
Working Arrangements			
Somerset Council's dynamic Working Strategy will be applied to this position.			
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. 			

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- 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: 29/01/2025