

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	NSIP / DCO Strategic Lead		
Directorate	Planning		
Reporting to	Service Manager Placemaking & Projects		
Grade	8		
Evaluation ref:	RP125	Job ref:	Family
Role purpose			
<p>This role is responsible for leading and managing the strategic planning and delivery of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and Development Consent Orders (DCOs) within Somerset. The post holder will ensure that these projects align with national and local planning policies, contribute to sustainable development, and meet the needs of central government requirements and the local community. The role involves extensive collaboration with internal and external stakeholders, including government agencies, developers, and the public. The NSIP / DCO Strategic Lead will provide expert advice, coordinate project teams, and manage the preapplication advice, submission, and consideration of planning applications. The post holder will be expected to navigate complex regulatory frameworks, manage project risks, and ensure timely and cost-effective delivery of infrastructure projects that support Somerset's growth and development.</p>			
Accountabilities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the strategic planning and delivery of NSIPs and DCOs within Somerset. • Ensure alignment of projects with national and local planning policies and sustainable development goals. • Collaborate with internal and external stakeholders, including government agencies, developers, and the public. • Provide expert advice on planning and regulatory matters related to NSIPs and DCOs. • Coordinate and manage multidisciplinary project teams. • Oversee the preparation and submission of planning applications and related documentation and manage the discharge of requirements • Negotiate and manage S106 agreements related to the DCO and NSIP schemes • Navigate complex regulatory frameworks and ensure compliance with relevant legislation. • Manage project risks and implement mitigation strategies. • Monitor and report on project progress, ensuring timely and cost-effective delivery. • Represent the Council at public meetings, inquiries and examinations related to NSIPs and DCOs. • Manages the Principal Planning Officer post in the team 			

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Knowledge / Experience / Skills		
	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge		
Understanding of the planning and regulatory frameworks for NSIPs and DCOs.	x	
Knowledge of national and local planning policies and sustainable development principles.	x	
Familiarity with project management methodologies and best practices.	x	
Awareness of environmental and social impact assessment processes.		x
Understanding of public consultation and stakeholder engagement techniques.		x
Knowledge of funding mechanisms and financial management for infrastructure projects.		x
Experience		
Experience in managing and delivering NSIPs and DCOs.	x	
Experience in leading multidisciplinary project teams.	x	
Demonstrated experience in stakeholder engagement and public consultation.	x	
Experience in providing advice and responding to proposals for DCO/NSIP/TCPA development	x	
Experience in navigating complex regulatory frameworks.	x	
Experience in risk management and mitigation.		x
Qualifications / Registrations / Certifications		
Degree in Planning or demonstrate equivalent qualifications through relevant professional experience.	x	
Professional membership or eligibility for membership of the RTPI	x	
Project management certification		x
Additional qualifications in public administration or community engagement		x
Training in environmental and social impact assessment		x
Continuing professional development in planning or related area and infrastructure delivery.		x
Skills		

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Excellent leadership and team management skills.	x	
Strong analytical and problem-solving abilities.	x	
Effective communication and interpersonal skills.	x	
Ability to manage multiple projects and priorities simultaneously.	x	
Proficiency in using planning and project management software.		x
Strong negotiation and conflict resolution skills.		x

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.

Corporate Accountabilities

- Provide clear leadership to deliver the Council's strategic priorities and meet the Council's financial targets, as a member of the Directorates Senior Leadership Team.
- Update and advise Elected Members in respect of operational and policy issues in relation to the Planning Services teams.
- Lead the Planning teams with a clear identity in terms of flexible and responsive ways of working, inclusive and diverse culture, and high level of employee engagement and wellbeing.

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- Undertake representational and communication duties on behalf of the Council to promote and protect the Council's interests in matters concerning their specialist areas.
- Create, monitor, and review frameworks of performance measures and quality standards to be applied in the delivery of services.
- Function as an ambassador for the Council promoting, both internally and externally, the Council's vision, strategic aims, and values.
- Value the diversity of Somerset's communities ensuring equality of access and treatment in service delivery and employment.
- Function as a role model for Somerset's vision and values. Promotes a culture of continuous improvement that encourages creativity and innovation to ensure services are efficient and develop the potential and flexibility across the Council and its workforce including the motivation and development of employees within the Planning service teams.
- Ensure that Planning services place a high value on customer responsiveness by demonstrating a commitment to meeting and involving the broadest range of direct and indirect service users, citizens, customers, communities, and businesses.
- Support the delivery of the Councils' key strategic aims and objectives ensuring understanding and commitment from staff from across the Planning service.
- Support Corporate and Directorate and service specific transformational change programmes with the aim of maximising efficiency, modernising services, and achieving better outcomes and opportunities for service users and customers.
- Ensure flexibility in reacting to the needs of the Council, its' customers and partners supporting a culture of continuous improvement.
- Ensure compliance with all relevant legislation, the Council's standards of conduct, organisational policy, and professional codes of conduct to uphold standards of best practise.
- Accountable for compliance with all relevant health and safety legislation and Somerset Council H&S policies.

Date: 21/10/2024