

Job Description

Service:	Development Management - Planning
Job title:	Senior Landscape Officer
Grade:	G
Hours of work:	37
Responsible to:	Conservation and Environment Team leader

Purpose of Post:

As part of the Councils corporate objectives, you will help to create, protect and enhance the Districts environment.

Provide specialist technical advice to Huntingdonshire District Council on landscape, biodiversity, nature conservation under the management of the Team Leader Conservation.

Working alongside the Councils existing Arboricultural officer as part of a busy team the post holder will provide specialist advice on landscape matters throughout the District.

To be the lead officer for landscape and biodiversity across all of Planning Services and to ensure that the council meets its statutory obligations and priorities

Key Deliverables:

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1. To provide specialist technical advice to the public, developers, agents, members, other departments of the Council, and other persons and bodies as appropriate, in connection with matters relating to landscape and biodiversity
2. To provide specialist technical advice relating to matters pertaining to landscape and biodiversity, in relation to planning applications and all other development consents. Advise on the impact of planning applications, including Environmental Impact Assessments, on landscaping and biodiversity.
3. Recommend and advise on the acceptability of surveys, method statements, planning conditions, monitoring requirements and nature conservation management.
4. Be responsible for the co-ordination and delivery of timely consultation responses to Development Management, including Environmental Impact Assessments
5. Preparing and presenting specialist evidence in response to appeals and other applicable challenges against the decisions of the Planning Authority.
6. Providing specialist support to the Councils Planning Enforcement Team regarding unauthorised development as it impacts upon landscape issues.
7. To prepare and consult upon Policy Statements and other initiatives that relate to landscape, biodiversity/ecology and trees in association with the Ecology Officer/ Arboricultural Officer.
8. To be responsible for ensuring that the council meets its obligations under the legislation. Managing and assisting with the development and delivery of natural environment related outcomes of the Environment Act, including Biodiversity Net Gain and Local Nature Recovery Network.
9. Assist the authority in complying with nature conservation legislation and duties (including biodiversity) through the provision of user-friendly information, advice and by finding solutions to resolve issues.
10. To be the lead officer providing technical expertise to senior officers and members on council responsibilities and relevant actions to meet these.
11. Participate in effective employee relations and undertake appropriate departmental training courses to improve effectiveness in tasks set.

This job description is intended only as a guide to the range of duties involved. The post holder will need to be flexible and adaptable in order to respond to other duties that may be required from time to time and the changes and developments within HDC

Knowledge and Qualifications	Degree in landscape, biology, ecology, management or a related subject. Eligible for Membership of relevant professional organisation.
Experience	The post holder also needs to demonstrate a good working knowledge of the town and country planning system (both development management and statutory planning frameworks), and sustainable development issues. Together with Enforcement. To identify and prioritise initiatives based on greatest social, environmental or financial return and ensure that they are deliverable and contribute towards achieving the actions associated with the; Council's Climate Strategy, and Environment Act. Demonstrated practical experience of identifying and reviewing, Landscape policies, plans, programmes and projects, for example: EIA, and the development of nature conservation policies. Detailed experience in landscape identification skills; invasive species; land use planning and management plans.
Skills and Abilities	Ability to use initiative and think creatively. Good oral and written communication skills. The ability and professionalism to be able to justify your decisions and the ability to communicate this process to others. The ability to present project proposals and updates to senior officers and members including presentation of reports to committee. Good interpretative and interpersonal skills are needed to ensure effective

	evaluation of situations and interactions with all types of customers. A proven ability to project manage initiatives and projects that arise from the Climate Emergency; and Environment Act to ensure they keep to time whilst delivering against agreed outcomes. Ability to understand and interpret legislation and case law. Significant negotiation skills are required in order to achieve desired high-quality outcomes Organisational and record keeping skills and ability to meet deadlines. An ability to understand the council's obligations with respect to Biodiversity Net Gain To work with major project leads for major developments to incorporate actions that protect and enhance landscape and biodiversity within development throughout the district. An ability to ensure that service delivery complies with current regulations, accepted professional standards, the council's policies and procedures and appropriate legislation (including legislation on data protection, equalities, health and safety and safeguarding children and vulnerable adults)' Able to work either on own initiative or as part of a team. Solution focused and business-friendly approach Commitment to continuing professional and personal development. Clear presentation skills. Standard keyboard skills and ability to use Microsoft packages
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	Ability to work on site safely.
Decision Making and Impact on Others	Discretion to exercise professional judgement in the formation of professional recommendations within sphere of expertise An ability to provide Landscaping advice to the forward planning team and development management teams for major projects. To include input to the Local Plan Examination and planning appeals and public inquiries. An ability to ensure that service delivery complies with current regulations, accepted professional standards, the council's policies and procedures and appropriate legislation (including legislation on data protection, equalities, health and safety and safeguarding children and vulnerable adults)'.
Communication with Internal and External Customers	Predominantly internal customers providing specialist advice to colleagues some visibility with external customers including natural environment and built environment professionals. Internal customer contact 60% External customer contact 40%
Personal Attributes and Other Requirements	Willing to travel and occasionally work unsocial hours. A current driving licence Be a good team worker demonstrating loyalty and commitment to the organisation and team members. Occasional work outside normal hours is required including occasional evenings and weekends. Ability and flexibility for independent travel to meet the requirements of the post.
HDC values	The values outlined below reflect our collective positive attitude and how all staff are expected to work together as one team.

	Inspiring: We have genuine pride and passion for public service; doing the best we can for customers matters to us all. Collaborative: We achieve much more by working together, and this allows us to provide the best service for customers. Accountable: We take personal responsibility for our work and our decisions, and we deliver on our commitments to customers. Respectful: We respect people's differences and are considerate to their needs. Enterprising: We use drive and energy to challenge the norm and adapt to changing circumstances. We are always ready for challenges and opportunities, and we embrace them.
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Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults

Huntingdonshire District Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

HEALTH & SAFETY

All staff are responsible for the implementation of Health and Safety Policy so far as it affects them, their colleagues and others who may be affected by their work. The postholder is also expected to monitor the effectiveness of the Health and Safety arrangements and systems to promote appropriate improvements where necessary

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The postholder will be expected to comply with, observe and promote Equal Opportunities policies of the Council.

Huntingdonshire District Council is positive about disability.