

JOB DESCRIPTION

PRINCIPAL BIODIVERSITY AND LANDSCAPE OFFICER

Directorate and Section/Unit: PEP/PERU

Scale / Grade: PO2

Reporting to: Strategic Planning and Environmental Policy Team Leader

Responsible for: Senior Ecologists (x2)_

Senior Landscape Architects (2 x 0.5)

Biodiversity Manager (2 x 0.5)

Habitats Mapping Officer

Administrative and Technical Support (as required)

Main purpose of job:

On a day-to-day basis supervise and direct the work of the biodiversity and landscape team in providing advice on and coordinating policy and activity in connection with Environmental Policy at the regional, sub-regional and local level.

To act as lead officer for the Council on regional and sub-regional ecological, biodiversity and landscape matters.

To manage the Council's role within the Biodiversity Partnership.

Responsibilities, duties and tasks:

- To provide strategic policy advice to the Council and the Regional Planning Body in relation to the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy.
- To lead on, and provide input to, technical environmental studies for the sub-region to inform, implement and review the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy.
- To represent the Council on the Regional Environment Group.
- To provide ecological, biodiversity and landscape policy advice in relation to the preparation of the Council's Development Plan Documents and in support of the Council's role as Section 4(4) Advisor and Regional Conformity Advisor to the Regional Planning Body.
- To coordinate the provision of Council advice on ecological, biodiversity and landscape matters to Development Control, other Council Directorates, national, regional and local organisations (including District Councils and LSP's) as appropriate.
- To be responsible for the preparation of Council policy and advice in relation to all ecological, biodiversity and landscape matters.
- To be responsible for the future development of, and overseeing the implementation of, the Council's Due Diligence Procedure in relation to ecology and biodiversity.
- To be the Council's lead officer of the Biodiversity Partnership and to line manage the Biodiversity Action Plan Manager.
- To draft committee reports and provide professional advice.
- To represent the Council and Regional Planning Body (as appropriate) and give evidence as required at Examinations in Public and Public Inquiries.
- To assess the need for, coordinate the appointment of, manage and supervise the work of Consultants as required.
- To keep apprised of changes in legislation and keep officers informed in this area of work.
- To assist in corporate projects as required.

General Duties:

- To maintain personal and professional development to meet the changing demands of the job, participate in appropriate training activities and encourage and support staff in their development and training.
- To undertake such other duties, training and/or hours of work as may be reasonably required and which are consistent with the general level of responsibility of this job.
- To undertake health and safety duties commensurate with the post and/or as detailed in the Directorate's Health and Safety Policy.

Contacts:

In all contacts the postholder will be required to present a good image of the Directorate and the County Council as well as maintaining constructive relationships.

Internal: Other Officers of the Council (at all levels); County Councillors.

External: Regional Planning Groups; National, Regional and Local Environmental Agencies/Organisations; Specialist Interest Groups; Other Local Authorities; General Public.

Notes:

- The Council reserves the right to alter the content of this job description, after consultation to reflect changes to the job or services provided, without altering the general character or level of responsibility.
 - Reasonable adjustments will be considered as required by the Disability Discrimination Act.
 - The duties described in this job description must be carried out in a manner which promotes equality of opportunity, dignity and due respect for all employees and service users and is consistent with the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Prepared by: P K Maitland 20th February 2008