

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**PLANNING, ECONOMY AND PERFORMANCE DIRECTORATE****JOB DESCRIPTION**

POST TITLE:	ECOLOGIST
UNIT:	Planning, Economy and Regeneration Unit (PERU)
POST REF:	GC0009
GRADE:	SO1
RESPONSIBLE TO:	Environmental Policy Team Leader
RESPONSIBLE FOR:	Temporary Project Officers (as appropriate) Technician and Administrative Support (as appropriate)

MAIN PURPOSE OF JOB:

To provide, promote and give ecological/biodiversity advice to the Authority, including the preparation and review of environmental policy and the monitoring of environmental change, with particular regard to the aims and objectives of Biodiversity Action Plans and to the local character of the County, working in partnership with the regional planning body, district councils, other organisations and communities, where this is appropriate.

To contribute to the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of Worcestershire, by improving the quality of life of local people through the delivery of an efficient County Council service, in accordance with the Corporate Plan, The Directorate Performance Plan and the Planning, Economy and Regeneration Unit Business Plan.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To proactively engage with and provide ecological/ biodiversity advice to all Directorates within the Authority, particularly in relation to its own land and its management and the impact of its functions, including proposals for new development.
2. To prepare the County Council's response to consultations over new legislation, initiatives, plans and guidance etc. with regard to their ecological implications.
3. To participate in the development, preparation, monitoring and review of environmental and ecological policies, plans and strategies for the

Authority including the Biodiversity Action Plan and the County Council's own Biodiversity Action Programme; which will include an audit of County Council functions that are likely to have a biodiversity impact.

4. To participate in the development of appropriate county and regional biodiversity data and monitoring mechanisms.
5. To be actively involved in the initiation, development and delivery of appropriate regional and countywide projects and initiatives.
6. To participate in the effective management of the budgets and resources related to the work of this post.
7. To provide ecological advice to external organisations, and to interested parties or persons, with particular regard to the aims and objectives of appropriate Biodiversity Action Plans, landscape character, local distinctiveness, appropriate Environmental legislation and relevant industry standards and best practice principles.
8. To assist in the development of appropriate partnerships and to represent the County Council at appropriate meetings, steering groups, working groups and other fora , for example the Worcestershire Biodiversity Partnership and the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Grassland Forum.
9. To represent the Environmental Policy Team Leader where required.
10. Where required, to ensure the effective management and supervision of consultants and contractors.
11. To have a working knowledge of planning law and practice and natural environment legislation and advise others on ecological matters as appropriate.
12. To organise, implement and deliver training events for the authority, local groups and partner organisations in order to meet the needs of the authorities and local communities.
13. To attend and give evidence on behalf of the authority at Examinations in Public/Development Plan Inquiries as required.
14. To liaise with local authority partners and government and non-government agencies, charities, media, national and local interest groups over appropriate matters.
15. To prepare members briefing papers, reports to Cabinet and to input into reports to the Planning and Regulatory Committee as required.
16. To provide liaison with appropriate representative national, regional and local bodies, to ensure cohesion with national and regional policies and effective inter-agency communication.

OTHER DUTIES

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. Reasonable adjustment will be considered as required by the Disability Discrimination Act.

To undertake health and safety duties commensurate with the post and/or as detailed in the Directorate's Health and Safety Policy.

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.

CONTACTS

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

External: Senior Officers of other Local Authorities
 External Agencies (Regional Planning Body; Natural England)
 NGO's
 General Public

Internal: Councillors
 Senior Officers
 Other officers

SPECIAL NOTE: LINKED GRADES

Progression through linked grades will be at management discretion and subject to performance judged to be appropriate at higher levels.

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 the level of responsibility.

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.