

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Senior Environment Manager - Nature Recovery
MANAGED BY:	Head of Environment
GRADE:	12

BACKGROUND

The West of England Combined Authority is seeking to appoint a Senior Environment Manager to join the Environment team.

This is an exciting time to join the West of England Combined Authority. In the last year nearly three quarters of a billion pounds of new investment has been secured for the region. New plans are in place to deliver on Mayoral priorities to improve transport, skills and housing for our residents, take decisive action to tackle the climate emergency, and to support communities facing the cost-of-living crisis. There is a relentless focus on delivery to put the West of England on the map for regional, national and global success.

Led by the regional Metro Mayor, the West of England Combined Authority brings together three local councils, the Local Enterprise Partnership and works with communities, other public services, and industry to deliver for the region.

You will be a key player in leading our response to tackle the climate and ecological emergency. We are delivering on the West of England's Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan and making the West of England the bee and pollinator capital of the U.K. as we push to reach our very ambitious net zero targets by 2030. Come and help shape the future of the West of England, a place so many people are proud to call home.

THE ROLE

Reporting into the Head of Environment, the Senior Environment Manager for nature recovery will help safeguard, promote and enhance the rich biodiversity interests of the region.

They will act as the lead on Nature Recovery for the Combined Authority, working in close partnership across the region and with delivery teams across our business and skills and infrastructure teams.

The successful candidate will be expected to lead across a range of environmental issues, working flexibly and independently, ensuring environmental outcomes are integral to the delivery of our work.

The role is fixed term for 12 months. A secondment can also be considered.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The overall aim of this role is to help ensure that wildlife and the natural environment are in recovery, with their decline halted. You will be the lead officer in this area within the Authority, supporting the consideration, integration and promotion of value of the natural environment into all that we do.

You will be expected to:

- Lead the delivery of the 'Nature Recovery' elements of the West of England's [Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan](#) and [Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy](#).
- Lead on the identification of funding opportunities to ensure that the region has enough resource to fully realise the short, medium, and long-term actions set out in the Plans.
- Providing strategic advice to SMT, leaders within unitary authorities, regional partners, Government and other stakeholders to shape and deliver regional strategies and priorities.
- Lead collaboration with colleagues in Strategy and Innovation to appraise existing and new policy and funding opportunities, research and intelligence, relevant to the natural environment to inform planning.
- Lead the drafting of briefings for senior managers and the Metro Mayor on Nature Recovery issues, coordinating the input of colleagues.
- Lead on partner engagement, including maintaining oversight of government engagement within areas of responsibility, ensuring consistency and visibility.
- Lead on the development of policy across a wide range of areas relevant to Environment.

Lead complex cross regional project teams as required to deliver strategic objectives.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL (MUST HAVE)

Qualifications and Knowledge

- Educated to degree level in a relevant discipline or able to demonstrate equivalent experience
- Knowledge of the work of national, regional and local bodies in the context of environmental management and protection

- Knowledge of the local and regional policy context and how this will impact the work of this role

Experience

- Have a high level of understanding of the legislation and planning policies governing biodiversity and other nature conservation issues
- Experience of leading the translation of strategy into delivery opportunities.
- Influencing and negotiating with senior leaders locally, regionally and/or nationally.
- Demonstrable management experience in building and leading teams effectively

Skills and Competencies

- Ability to develop and lead strategic relationships with a wide range of stakeholders
- Able to negotiate and influence stakeholders at all levels of the organisation
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills including translating complex information into clear and engaging reports for a variety of audiences
- Ability to provide leadership and mentoring to teams, with minimal direction.
- Able to work to tight deadlines, whilst managing and solving a wide range of risks and issues

DESIRABLE

- Knowledge of the West of England Combined Authority and Local Enterprise Partnership and how these contribute to environmental outcomes
- Knowledge of relevant policy or planning areas (environmental planning, skills, business and innovation, infrastructure) or experience of government relations/public affairs.
- Experience of managing Boards, steering groups or committees with senior leaders in a public-sector context

REWARDS AND BENEFITS

Alongside a competitive salary, we offer an excellent benefits package including:

- 25 days Annual Leave plus bank holidays
- Generous Employer-Contribution Pension Scheme through the Avon Pension Fund
- Cycle to work scheme and secure bike parking
- Free eye tests for all display screen equipment (DSE) users
- Discounted monthly bus tickets
- Hybrid working to split your week between the office and home to help you achieve the best work/life balance and career goals.

We are about to move into a new bright, airy, modern office space, with all latest

technology, under a 10 minute walk from Bristol Temple Meads Train Station. We offer flexible and hybrid working options too if you would rather work from home, or another suitable location.

As an equal opportunities employer, we invite applicants to contact us to identify any additional support they may need during the recruitment process.

WE PAY THE LIVING WAGE

We're proud to have been accredited as a Living Wage Employer

Living Wage accreditation means that everyone working at The West of England and Combined Authority receives a minimum hourly wage of £9.90 - higher than the government minimum for over 23s, **currently £9.50 per hour**

It also means that anyone who provides services to, or has contracts with us, must pay the Living Wage, setting the bar for good employer practices in the region. This includes those who provide services to The West of England and Combined Authority, such as cleaning and facilities management contracts, as well as those who have contracts with us - such as IT providers.

