

AMBITIOUS

CREATIVE

COLLABORATIVE

SUPPORTIVE

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Head of Environment
MANAGED BY:	Chief Executive
GRADE:	HOS 2

BACKGROUND

The Employer: The West of England Combined Authority

The West of England is an economic leader with an economy worth over £33 billion a year. With a population of over 1.1 million people, one of the highest rates of employment in the country, and over 45,000 businesses, the region competes on a global scale. The West of England is a place where highly-skilled people work, where ideas flourish, and where businesses grow. It's also a place that a diverse population of people call home.

The West of England Combined Authority was formed in 2017, to champion the region and drive clean and inclusive economic growth. As a result, significant powers and funding have been transferred to the region through the new Combined Authority and West of England Mayor.

Our aim is to deliver economic growth for the region and address some of our challenges, such as productivity and skills, housing and transport.

Covid-19 has had a big impact on the West of England, and we are leading the regional economic recovery, bringing people together to ensure our region remains a thriving, successful and innovative place to live and work. By joining the West of England Combined Authority, you will be helping us with this important work.

The West of England Combined Authority is made up of three of the local authorities in the region - Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire. Building on a strong track record of partnership working in the region, the West of England Combined Authority continues to work closely with North Somerset Council. The Combined Authority also the accountable body for the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership.

The West of England Combined Authority is an equal opportunities employer, in line with the Equalities Act 2010, and invite applicants to contact us to identify any additional support they may need during the recruitment process.

PURPOSE OF THE JOB

A senior leader, reporting directly to the Chief Executive and acting as part of the Authority's Senior Management Team (SMT), the post holder will lead on the Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change agenda for the region.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop and be accountable for the delivery of the region's Climate and Ecology Strategy and Action Plan
- Oversee Green Recovery Fund of £30m including requirement to secure match funding to deliver committee ambition of a £50m fund. Lead development of business cases including on Retrofit, Green Infrastructure, Low carbon transport inc EV infrastructure and renewable energy.
- Lead regional work to support Mayor's ambition for the West of England to be the bee and pollinator capital of the UK including overseeing development of a Pollinator Community Fund and a regular 'Pollinator Day'.
- Bring a team together from existing Combined Authority staff to lead on environment, sustainability and climate work for the region, developing an inspiring culture for this newly created directorate
- Lead on the Energy Hub for the South West region (hosted by the Combined Authority), including ensuring that the £50m Green Homes grant is allocated to maximum benefit across the region
- Through collaboration with Service Leads from other areas of the Combined Authority, ensure that planning, housing and transport ambitions are aligned with the region's strategy and action plan on the climate emergency
- Through the climate emergency action plan, develop clear deliverables for the region's ambition to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030
- Negotiate and influence key partners on a National and Regional level (including Central Government, the Environment Agency, Network Rail, Homes England, universities, etc) to support, adopt and be responsible for key deliverables within the climate emergency action plan
- Alongside the Chief Executive and the West of England Mayor, develop policy outputs to influence government at a national level to secure funding for the regional environment and climate change actions
- Develop and lead on a framework for ensuring that all projects align with the region's ambitions around climate change
- Work internally to ensure that the Authority is an exemplar organisation for environmental sustainability

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL (MUST HAVE)

Qualifications & Knowledge

- Degree level or equivalent standard of general education, gained in a relevant specialism
- Strategic understanding of the directorate specialism - significant experience of working at board or equivalent level in a role targeted towards environmental sustainability
- Knowledge of relevant legislation, regulations, national policies and professional best practice
- Knowledge of public sector funding sources, finance procedures and budget management
- Experience of key local, regional and national government politics, political structures and culture

Skills and Competencies

- Excellent communication, influencing and negotiation skills in a range of environments
- Ability to give appropriate, timely, targeted advice to support strategic decision making and ensure strong governance
- Ability to build partnerships internally and externally
- Ability to manage relationships and partnerships with a focus on the long-term, openly sharing to build trust, manage conflict and enable an understanding of the common ground.
- Ability to take a strategic approach, building coalitions or relationships to gain support over the long-term
- Demonstrable track record of leading and inspiring teams, motivating staff and developing a positive organisational culture
- Excellent interpersonal skills to command the confidence of colleagues, Members and external partners.
- Ability to balance logical and analytical approach to decision making whilst bringing innovative solutions to complex problems

DESIRABLE

- Management qualification eg DMS, MBA, NVQ level 5
- Member of relevant professional body
- Relevant post-graduate qualification

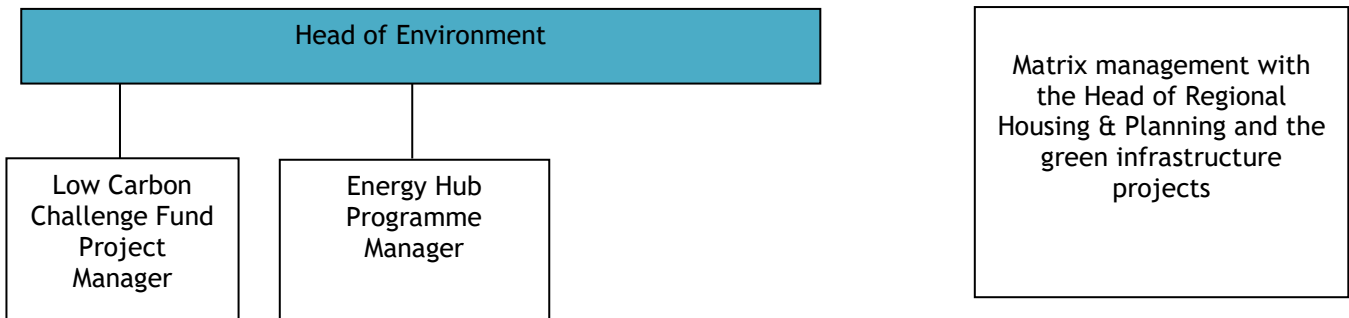
REWARDS AND BENEFITS

The West of England Combined Authority staff receive:

- 25 days annual leave, rising to 30 after five years' continuous service, plus bank holidays, pro rata
- Auto-enrolment into the Avon Pension Fund

- Cycle to work scheme and secure bike parking
- Free eye tests for all display screen equipment (DSE) users
- Commuter Travel Club - West of England Combined Authority employees can sign up to receive discounted monthly bus tickets, unlimited bus travel for work or leisure within your chosen zone, automatic ticket renewal and price freeze for 12 months.

Directorate management Structure



Members of the Senior Management Team are:

Chief Executive

Director of Investment & Corporate Services

Director of Business & Skills

Director of Legal & Democratic Services

Director of Infrastructure

Head of Strategy & Innovation

Head of Corporate Communications & Marketing

Head of Environment