

JOB DESCRIPTION

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

BACKGROUND

Working at the West of England Combined Authority

The West of England is a fantastic place to live and work; a place where ideas flourish and businesses grow, and a diverse population calls home. With a highly-skilled workforce, innovative businesses, rich cultural and natural assets, and excellent connections, the West of England competes on a global scale.

In 2017, the West of England Combined Authority was formed to bring the region together to drive economic growth. Significant powers and funding were transferred to the region to support work to ensure residents have better skills, more job opportunities and a better quality of life. In May 2021, the second Metro Mayor for the West of England was elected, and we're working with our regional partners and with Government to deliver against our ambitious agenda, protect the environment and ensure the West of England continues to be a thriving, successful and innovative place for future generations.

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 continues to build on its success.

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

We are an equal opportunities employer, in line with the Equalities Act 2010, and invite applicants to contact us to identify any additional support needed during the recruitment process.

PURPOSE OF THE JOB

The main purpose of this role will be to help safeguard, promote and enhance the rich biodiversity interests of the region. The role will report to the Head of Environment and will play a role in helping to shape the new directorate. It will act as the lead on Nature Recovery for the Combined Authority, working in close partnership with delivery teams across our business and skills and infrastructure teams, ensuring environmental outcomes are integral to the delivery of our work.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful candidates will be expected to lead across a range of environmental issues, working flexibly and independently, but will focus on the enhancement of the natural environment.

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 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 (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

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 - all 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.
- The Combined Authority has adopted a Hybrid working approach, which enables employees to split their week between working in the workplace and working remotely. Hybrid Working forms just part of the flexible working options that the Combined Authority is offering as the new way of working. Flexible working is an arrangement that enables employees to have a way of working that suits employee and employer needs whilst maintain a work-life balance.

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 cleaning and facilities management contracts, as well as those who have contracts with us - such as IT providers.

