

## JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	<b>Senior Environment Analyst</b>
<b>MANAGED BY:</b>	<b>Principal Economist</b>
<b>GRADE:</b>	<b>10</b>

### BACKGROUND

The West of England Combined Authority is seeking to appoint a senior environment analyst to join the Research and Analysis 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 UK 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.

### PURPOSE OF THE JOB

The West of England Combined Authority has ambitious goals for 2030, to reach net zero and for nature to be in recovery. This job will lead research and analysis to guide our plans to achieve those goals.

You will help us to understand the state of the region's environment and the impact of the Combined Authority's projects. As part of the analysis team, you will work closely with the Environment Directorate and with regional stakeholders.

You will be responsible for gathering evidence on the state of nature in the region, to inform the West of England Local Nature Recovery Strategy and better target funding for nature-based projects in the region. You will also address wider evidence gaps behind our climate emergency strategy. You will design and carry out high-quality research and analysis to ensure that we use public money in the most effective way possible to achieve our objectives.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

You will lead the Combined Authority's evidence research on the environment. You will be responsible for shaping and producing high quality analysis to guide the development of the West of England's Local Nature Recovery Strategy and environmental policy priorities.

This includes:

- determining evidence and analysis requirements, working closely with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy policy and delivery stakeholders;
- gathering data on nature from a range of sources, working with stakeholders to overcome challenges in accessing and analysing this data, identifying evidence gaps, and developing new future sources;
- integrating regional data into a single information portal for users to interrogate;
- using this evidence to assess the condition of nature in the region, working with the strategy lead to inform development of strategic priorities; and
- carrying out research and analysis to identify progress in the region's wider transition to net zero, and to inform policy development.

You will design and produce an environment information portal for the region. You will ensure that the data and presentation are strategically relevant, accurate and appropriate for a range of audiences. Your reports will need to provide insights by identifying the implications of the evidence for strategic and project decisions. You will:

- build strong working relationships with local and national partners, universities and others to understand evidence requirements, draw on expertise, and agree access to data;
- ensure that evidence is robust and meets the needs of users;
- communicate complex technical ideas and arguments in ways which non-specialists can readily understand, both in writing and in verbal presentations; and
- ensure that confidential information is dealt with appropriately and that data is managed in accordance with data protection legislation.

The analyst will work closely with policy and delivery colleagues within the Combined Authority and our constituent local authorities.

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

### ESSENTIAL (MUST HAVE)

#### Qualifications and Knowledge

- Educated to degree level with a strong analytical component, or with equivalent experience
- Excellent analytical skills, both quantitative and qualitative, working with a range of data sources and using standard tools including Geographic Information Systems and SQL databases
- A good understanding of the principles of ecology and climate transition

#### Experience

- Experience of designing and conducting research and analysis to shape and influence strategy and policy development
- Experience of reporting evidence to a high standard that can be readily understood by non-specialists, highlighting key insights and implications for the organisation
- Experience of ensuring quality research, such as data quality checking and validation techniques

#### Skills and Competencies

- Highly motivated, with demonstrable experience of achieving personal objectives and contributing to the achievement of team objectives
- Strong project management skills, with the ability to prioritise and focus on what is important to ensure delivery of results
- Ability to build relationships with clients and stakeholders to understand evidence needs and design analysis and reporting accordingly

### DESIRABLE

- Experience of local and central government working practices
- Knowledge of the environment in the West of England and familiarity with relevant ecological data

## 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 the employee's and employer's needs whilst maintaining 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 £9.50 - significantly higher than the government minimum for over 25s, currently £8.72 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.

