

Nature Recovery Project Manager

Grade: 10

About the Service

Environment & Countryside is responsible for the management and development of Staffordshire County Council's country parks and green spaces, 4500km of statutory public rights of way and the associated definitive map, the provision of high-quality environmental advice across SCC functions and externally, the conservation and recovery of Staffordshire's natural and historic environment, and the management of environmental data and spatial information. The service hosts the Cannock Chase AONB Partnership and is involved with other strategic environmental partnerships across the county.

About the Role

To lead collaborative delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to meet the requirements of the Environment Act 2021 and embed the framework for nature recovery across the county.

Responsible to: Environment Manager

Key Accountabilities:

1. Act as the local authority and Local Nature Recovery Partnership's expert on all matters related to this specialism, maintaining up to date knowledge of policy and practice to ensure the Partnership remains responsive to change.
2. Represent the authority and Local Nature Recovery Partnership at committees, and on other bodies as required, gathering and presenting information to ensure that the Partnership is enabled to act judiciously and expeditiously.
3. Ensure that an appropriate environmental perspective is included within all relevant internal and external strategies, policy documents and action programmes by engaging in and helping to shape those strategies' development, and by leading on delivering strategies and plans relevant to this specialism.

4. Promote the conservation and enhancement of Staffordshire's environment through the provision of expert advice and practical support to public authorities, Government agencies, partnerships, the private sector and the voluntary sector, and through direct action.
5. Lead Council and Local Nature Recovery Partnership responses to statutory and non-statutory nature recovery-related consultations by government departments and agencies, and other public entities.
6. Assist the Environment Manager to develop and implement projects to deliver the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent to meet statutory and regulatory requirements, working with them to agree delivery accountabilities, mechanisms and programme arrangements.
7. Organise and service meetings of the Nature Recovery Partnership to ensure the collaborative delivery and review of the strategy, producing and presenting reports to the steering group, and delivery group, and coordinating working groups.
8. Support governance processes for the Responsible Authority to ensure update and approval of the LNRS within required time frames, including briefing and production of reports to relevant committees and other recipients, and provide advice to Supporting Authorities where required.
9. Otherwise coordinate and collaborate with internal and external colleagues to ensure delivery of the LNRS.
10. Coordinate stakeholder engagement and consultative activities to meet required standards and ensure broad, deep, and ensuring involvement in the strategy's delivery and review.
11. Lead action to champion greater awareness and understanding of the importance of nature recovery and the purpose of the strategy utilising online, printed and face to face techniques targeted to key audiences.
12. Commission and utilise data and spatial analytical tools to refine the nature recovery network, including identifying opportunities for habitat restoration / creation and delivery of wider environmental and social benefits.
13. Identify delivery mechanisms for the nature recovery strategy and pursue and implement funding opportunities to facilitate their development as required.

14. Liaise with key organisations to ensure the strategy continues to meet legal requirements and liaise with the network of nature recovery leads regionally to share ideas and develop best practice.
15. Under the direction of the Environment Manager, manage allocated budget and commission work as required through the Council's procurement procedures and manage contracts to ensure delivery to time and budget.
16. Supervise and support volunteers and placement students to enhance the capacity of the service.
17. Any other duties that may be required commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

Person Specification

Qualifications/Professional membership

- A degree level qualification in a relevant environmental discipline or equivalent experience.

Knowledge and Experience

- Significant knowledge and experience of project / programme management and demonstrable track record of delivery.
- Significant experience of cultivating and sustaining partnership working, stakeholder engagement and consultation.
- Experience in developing, delivering and monitoring strategy / plans.
- Experience of developing funding bids, securing external finance.
- Knowledge and experience of nature conservation and nature recovery policy and practice.
- Knowledge and understanding of legislation and national policy requirements in relation to biodiversity and nature recovery in England.
- Experience in managing and interpreting ecological / environmental data.
- Knowledge and experience of using GIS and general IT packages including project management tools.
- Demonstrable experience of raising awareness and understanding through a variety of approaches.
- Understanding and application of financial and contract management and procurement procedures.

Skills

- Highly effective interpersonal skills including negotiation and consensus-building.
- Highly effective verbal and written communication skills with numeracy, literacy, interpretive and analytical skills.
- Leadership and coordination skills.
- Financial planning and budget management skills.
- Spatial information and mapping skills.
- Ability to manage, analyse and interpret data.
- Ability to lead work and meet deadlines with an organised and flexible approach.
- Ability to undertake visits to areas not accessible by public transport.

This post is designated as a Casual Car user

The content of this Job Description and Person Specification will be reviewed on a regular basis.