

Kent County Council

Job Description: Kent Downs National Landscape Planning Manager

Directorate:	Growth, Environment and Transport
Unit/Section:	Kent Downs National Landscape
Grade:	KR 10
Responsible to:	Kent Downs National Landscape Place Theme Lead

Purpose of the Job:

This is an important role for the Kent Downs National Landscape – you will help us secure the conservation and enhancement of one of the nation's most beautiful and pressurised landscapes.

You will:

- Support the 'Place' theme Lead's work, primarily using land use planning and guidance as a tool to deliver the vision aims and principles of the National Landscape Management Plan and the UN Sustainable Development Goals aligned with the Cross Channel Global Geopark
- Support the Place theme Lead's work on all planning matters for the Kent Downs National Landscape Unit, partnership, as well as multi-agency partners, influence strategic planning issues, provide planning expertise and influence policy, plan making and development management, and provide, review and promote Kent Downs National Landscape design guidance.
- Influence national legislation, policy, regulations and decisions which may impact on the statutory purpose of the National Landscape.
- Provide a pre-planning advice service and establish a charging/ income generation programme for this.

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Influence national and local policies which may affect the Kent Downs National Landscape direct contact with senior managers, Members and multiagency partners, influencing future policy strategy and operations, monitoring and influencing legislative change supporting informed policy and decision-making.
- Lead on development management consultations for National Landscape Partnership which includes direct contact with senior officers in KCC and partner Local Planning Officers as well as Members and Natural England anticipating and responding to often politically sensitive planning applications and proposals affecting the National Landscape. Where appropriate liaising with and commissioning expert advice to establish a National Landscape position and to being the lead officer for Planning Inquiries or Examinations in Public.
- Provide timely and authoritative planning advice and comments on development management, disseminating relevant information on policy and development

management issues throughout the Unit, Partnership Directorate, amongst Partner Local Planning Authorities and Natural England as appropriate, to ensure Officers and Members are well-informed and to promote consistency of approach.

- Undertake research of specific topics and projects for instance best practice guides in order to contribute to the development of policy, strategy and influence and ensure the development of an effective business case to justify proceeding with individual projects or overall policy.
- Provide professional support and expertise to staff within the National Landscape Leadership Team and across National Landscape Unit and partnership identifying training and development needs, supporting professional development and the provision of a high quality of service.
- Review and implement a chargeable pre-planning advisory service to generate income for the Unit and support the planning function
- Support the development of the planning and place role of the National Landscape Unit to increase our influence in policy, design and sustainable development working with and through partnerships.

All members of the Kent Downs National Landscape + Cross Channel Geopark team are expected to work collaboratively, in an integrated way and where appropriate across the People, Place, Climate and Nature, Communications and Finance and Compliance themes.

KCC is committed to building a workforce which reflects the diversity of the county's working residents, encouraging applications from people of all ages, abilities, genders, sexual orientations, ethnic backgrounds, faiths and those with caring responsibilities, and aspires to create an inclusive workplace where everyone can be themselves at work. People of colour and disabled people are currently underrepresented across our service. If you identify as a person of colour and/or are disabled, we are particularly interested in receiving your application.

Footnote: This job description is provided to assist the job holder to know what their main duties are. It may be amended from time to time without change to the level of responsibility appropriate to the grade of post.

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Person Specification: Kent Downs National Landscape Planning Manager

The following outlines the criteria for this post. Applicants who have a disability and who meet the criteria will be shortlisted.

Applicants should describe in their application how they meet these criteria.

	CRITERIA
QUALIFICATIONS	<p>Degree or equivalent qualification in planning, environmental, landscape or other relevant subject, or considerable related experience at an appropriate level.</p> <p>Member of RTPI or possess a recognised town and country planning qualification and be eligible for MRTPI status</p>
EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates will need to demonstrate a significant level of experience and achievement in the principle functions identified for this role; • Commenting on and successfully influencing forward/strategic planning issues - for instance Local Plans. • Providing and promoting design guidance and training support for instance with Local Authorities. • Successfully influencing development management issues (planning applications) of significant scale and precedence. • Providing authoritative planning advice/comments on development control issues (planning applications). • Providing authoritative and helpful planning advice on a range of economic, social and environmental issues and support to colleagues, and partnership members and regional/ national colleagues. • Experience of preparing and giving evidence to public examinations and/or inquiries.
SKILLS AND ABILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-starter/high motivation outgoing and diplomatic. • Ability to provide and be responsible for timely, authoritative and influential judgment in sometimes complex and stressful environments – working to influence at senior levels with decision makers • Ability to work effectively with minimal supervision. • Excellent verbal and written skills and attention to detail, willing to work in an integrated and professional way beyond immediate delivery responsibilities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of and responsibility for high quality influential work to agreed sometimes challenging deadlines. • Ability/ confidence to work with and engage partners and team at all levels often in difficult and complex circumstances. Providing leadership where this is required and appropriate. • Ability to organise and co-ordinate different areas of work and prioritise work. • Excellent networking, influencing and partnership skills. • Computer literacy, particularly in Word. • Able to travel across the County and region and sometimes in remote areas and at various times of the day. • Personal resilience in a sometimes stressful environment. • Commitment to and promotion of diversity and high environmental performance in all aspects of working
KNOWLEDGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed knowledge and interest of planning and design issues especially in a rural or protected landscape context. • Thorough understanding of land use planning in England and a very good understanding of protected landscapes legislation practice and design issues. • Knowledge and experience in the application of Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. • Knowledge and experience of partnership working. • Commitment to and promotion of diversity in all aspects of working
KENT VALUES AND CULTURAL ATTRIBUTES	<p>Kent Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are brave. We do the right thing, we accept and offer challenge • We are curious to innovate and improve • We are compassionate, understanding and respectful to all • We are strong together by sharing knowledge • We are all responsible for the difference we make <p>Our values enable us to build a culture that is:</p> <p>Flexible/agile - willing to take (calculated) risks and want people that are flexible and agile</p> <p>Curious - constantly learning and evolving</p>

	<p>Compassionate and Inclusive - compassionate, understanding and respectful to all</p> <p>Working Together - building and delivering for the best interests of Kent</p> <p>Empowering - Our people take accountability for their decisions and actions</p> <p>Externally Focused - Residents, families and communities at the heart of decision making</p>
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