

# Kent County Council

## Job Description: *Senior Climate Change Officer*

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<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Growth, Environment and Transport</b>
<b>Unit/Section:</b>	<b>Growth and Communities</b>
<b>Grade:</b>	<b>KR10</b>
<b>Responsible to:</b>	<b>Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Manager</b>

### **Purpose of the Job:**

To take an active role in promoting Kent County Council's position on tackling the climate emergency by providing specialist input on how to address climate change and embed sustainability principles in planning for growth in Kent. This will include facilitating the delivery of a Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy priority to ensure that climate change, energy and air quality considerations are integrated into local planning policy.

The post-holder will provide the principal point of contact within the County Council for matters relating to climate change and sustainability within the growth agenda and will inform the planning process by developing low carbon and sustainable design guidance to inform Local Plans, influence national planning policy and shape strategic growth opportunities across Kent.

### **Main duties and responsibilities:**

1. Act as the principal point of contact at Kent County Council for all sustainability and climate change matters associated with planning for growth across the County, providing briefings, technical advice and responses to Local Plans, strategic planning applications, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and other relevant consultations.
2. Influence, build and maintain strong working relationships with partners and stakeholders to ensure consistency in practice across the county to prepare sustainable design and climate change guidance for the Kent Design Guide and to develop related tools and training opportunities.
3. Develop shared strategic planning approaches across the county to deliver clean growth, which supports the delivery of net zero, and a guidance framework that identifies the latest evidence, best practice to inform policies for Local Plans.
4. Identify future funding, income and business development opportunities, working across the Growth, Environment and Transport Directorate and County Council.
5. Ensure effective and efficient implementation of projects which are delivered on time, on budget and as described in the project application/funding agreement/initiation documents.
6. Maintain an up-to-date knowledge of current and emerging climate change and sustainable design research, government policy and legislation, and best practice.
7. Provide professional advice to Elected Members, Directorate and Corporate Management Teams to ensure effective decision-making in respect of climate change and sustainability principles in planning for growth in Kent.
8. Positively and proactively contribute to the extended management team for the Growth and Communities Division, including the annual business planning process.

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

## Kent County Council

### Person Specification: *Senior Climate Change Officer*

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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
<b>QUALIFICATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graduate level qualification in an environmental or planning discipline or equivalent knowledge/professional experience.</li> </ul>
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience of working in, or with, local government in a planning or sustainability role.</li> <li>Proven experience of working collaboratively with stakeholders and extensive partnership working.</li> <li>Proven experience in interpretation and analysis of complex information.</li> </ul>
<b>SKILLS AND ABILITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excellent interpersonal skills to enable effective working with Members, partners, and other senior professional staff within KCC and across other local authorities.</li> <li>Excellent communication skills applied to a wide variety of needs and audiences.</li> <li>Enthusiasm and the ability to get jobs done proactively.</li> <li>Excellent organisational skills and ability to prioritise and work independently.</li> <li>Ability to work well under pressure of deadlines.</li> <li>Must work well in a team.</li> <li>Is able to take and implement instructions and lead on projects.</li> <li>Strong ICT skills (Word, Excel, Outlook, Powerpoint).</li> </ul>
<b>KNOWLEDGE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excellent knowledge of climate change and sustainable development issues, legislation and policy.</li> <li>Excellent knowledge of how effective climate change mitigation and adaptation can be delivered through planning.</li> <li>Excellent knowledge of local authority responsibilities in respect to planning for growth.</li> </ul>
<b>KENT VALUES AND CULTURAL ATTRIBUTES</b>	<p><b>Kent Values:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are <b>brave</b>. We do the right thing, we accept and offer challenge</li> <li>We are <b>curious</b> to innovate and improve</li> <li>We are <b>compassionate</b>, understanding and respectful to all</li> <li>We are <b>strong together</b> by sharing knowledge</li> <li>We are all <b>responsible</b> for the difference we make</li> </ul> <p>Our values enable us to build a culture that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Flexible/agile</b> - willing to take (calculated) risks and want people that are flexible and agile</li> <li><b>Curious</b> - constantly learning and evolving</li> <li><b>Compassionate and Inclusive</b> - compassionate, understanding and respectful to all</li> <li><b>Working Together</b> - building and delivering for the best interests of Kent</li> <li><b>Empowering</b> - Our people take accountability for their decisions and actions</li> <li><b>Externally Focused</b> - Residents, families and communities at the heart of decision making</li> </ul>