Kent County Council
Job Description: *Green Finance Officer*

Directorate:	**Growth, Environment and Transport**
Unit/Section:	**Energy and Adaptation Team**
Grade:	**KSH**
Responsible to:	**Energy and Adaptation Team Manager**

Purpose of the Job:

Develop a Green Finance Strategy that accelerates the delivery of the county council's environmental and social targets by securing external grants and private investment.

Develop a portfolio of green finance opportunities and secures funding for energy, climate adaptation, natural capital and other sustainability projects.

Support the design and development of individual financial products.

Main duties and responsibilities:

1. Develop a Green Finance Strategy for the delivery of the Environment Plan goals, providing a framework to explore, develop and secure a breadth of financing options for energy, climate adaptation, natural capital and other social/sustainability projects. The Strategy will:
    - Review green financing options to determine which are the most appropriate and readily implementable for local government environmental and sustainability projects – including but not limited to: bonds, loans, revolving credit facility, hire purchase, lease and asset loans, grants and debt funding of green investment.
    - Define the criteria of a "green project", clarifying projects eligible for funding support by the Green Finance Strategy.
    - Develop investment principles that will guide the application of green finance for local government projects.
    - Establish a risk management approach that assesses and mitigates risk.
    - Develop clear and auditable measures for projects and investments, and a verification process where national accreditations are not available.
    - Establish transaction structures and other mechanisms as required to create confidence and certainty and enable grants and investment to be secured.

2. Develop a portfolio of green finance opportunities and secure funding for energy, climate adaptation, natural capital and other sustainability projects. This will include:
    - Work with services across the authority, and selected external partners and stakeholders, to develop a pipeline of investment-ready projects. Projects many include but not be limited to energy efficiency (KCC owned estate and Kent wide); waste management; digital infrastructure; electrification and hydrogen projects; renewable electricity generation, balancing services and smart grids; carbon sequestration projects (e.g. tree planting and grassland restoration); climate adaptation; pollution prevention and control; habitat banking; and nature recovery.

- Match projects to potential investment and grant opportunities and ensure they have the necessary elements needed to secure such funding when the opportunities arise.
- Maintain a portfolio of interested parties, establishing and managing relationships with potential buyers, investors and funders. Determine investment interests, criteria and goals in order to match investors/buyers to investible assets.
- Engage with a variety of stakeholders, including private sector partners, financial institutions, financial advisors, ESG consultants, investment platforms, and community groups, to foster collaboration and support for green finance projects.
- Ensure all projects align to national standards and accreditations.
- Monitor opportunities - identify and evaluate new financial facilities, grants and mechanisms.
- Establish and manage the necessary scrutiny, monitoring and reporting framework to underpin green finance in the council.
- Act as a point of expertise and advice on green finance.

3. Support the design and development of individual financial products, including:
    - Build a financial plan by conducting background research, assessing demand and supply, performing impact assessments etc.
    - Engage with potential buyers/investors.
    - Establish legal and governance structures and secure necessary approvals.
    - Launch and promote the product.

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.

Kent County Council
Person Specification: *Green Finance Officer*

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	Degree in finance, business management, economics, environmental science, or a related field.
EXPERIENCE	• Proven track record in successful bid development and/or securing green investment. • Experience in financial modelling, constructing cost models and market analysis. • Experience of environmental projects. • Experience of developing green financial products. • Experience of stakeholder and market engagement. • Experience of working with the likely buyers and suppliers for green finance and investment markets.
SKILLS AND ABILITIES	• Project management skills, with ability to see work through from concept to project/product. • Ability to write compelling bids. • Strong analytical skills. • Ability to evaluate opportunities and risk. • Project evaluation and monitoring. • Strong influencing and persuasive skills. • Excellent communication and collaboration skills. • Innovative and problem solving. • Drive to secure funding to address environmental challenges.
KNOWLEDGE	• In depth knowledge of green bonds and carbon markets and other green investment/finance mechanisms. • In depth knowledge of government and other grants available to support environmental and sustainability projects. • Good understanding of financing, business and investment. • Good understanding of the drivers for green investment. • Good understanding of the environmental challenges facing the county and the action needed to address these.
KENT VALUES AND CULTURAL ATTRIBUTES	**Kent Values:** • 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

	Our values enable us to build a culture that is: **Flexible/agile** - willing to take (calculated) risks and want people that are flexible and agile **Curious** - constantly learning and evolving **Compassionate and Inclusive** - compassionate, understanding and respectful to all **Working Together** - building and delivering for the best interests of Kent **Empowering -** Our people take accountability for their decisions and actions **Externally Focused** - Residents, families and communities at the heart of decision making