

## Kent County Council

Job Description: *Making Space for Nature in Kent & Medway Local Government Officer*

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<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Growth, Environment &amp; Transport</b>
<b>Unit/Section:</b>	<b>Natural Environment &amp; Coast Team</b>
<b>Grade:</b>	<b>KR9</b>
<b>Responsible to:</b>	<b>Natural Environment &amp; Coast Manager</b>

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

Kent County Council is the Responsible Authority for the development of the Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

The *Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway* project will develop this important strategic document for the county. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will agree and map our most valuable areas for nature, priorities for its recovery and opportunities for wider environmental benefits. It will be collaborative and locally led, with a large emphasis on stakeholder engagement. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy Regulations create a Supporting Authority role for all local planning authorities.

The Making Space for Nature Local Government Officer will lead the partnership work with Kent's local planning authorities. They will be responsible for ensuring there is comprehensive and meaningful engagement with the Supporting Authorities throughout the Strategy's development; that the necessary evidence and information is collated from these partners and analysed; and that the Strategy benefits from a planning view and constructive challenge. As a result, the Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy will be well placed to inform the county's local plans and land use decision making.

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

1. Act as the main point of contact for the county's Supporting Authorities during the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and manage the Supporting Authorities working group and Access and Connection working group.
2. Pull together the following information and evidence from the county's planning authorities and map with GIS where relevant:
  - a. information on strategic site allocation and other land allocations
  - b. information on any existing and potential restrictions and challenges within the authority area.
  - c. green infrastructure plans and projects.
  - d. targets and policies relevant to the Local Nature Recovery.
  - e. land under the authority's ownership or management.
  - f. any locally held data or information which could be used to inform the Strategy.
3. Review the information and evidence to consider:
  - a. Any areas of potential conflict.
  - b. Any areas of potential opportunity.
  - c. Any requirements of the Strategy in relation to biodiversity net gain and nutrient neutrality, net zero targets, and other environmental goals.

4. Keep informed of, and engaged with, the local plan processes throughout the county. Where local plan reviews are underway during the Strategy development, ensure close coordination and communication.
5. Manage the process of Supporting Authority approval at critical stages of the Strategy development, ensuring that approval requirements at the lower tier level do not impede the progression of the work. Support the planning authorities by providing the information and reports they need to secure approval/adoption.
6. Identify priorities, opportunities and potential actions for green infrastructure, access and planning.
7. At the priorities and action identification, and mapping stages, ensure local policies and existing/proposed strategic sites do not conflict with proposed areas for recovery.
8. Advise and support planning authorities on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy duty of regard and biodiversity duty reporting requirement.
9. Work with Kent Association of Local Councils to ensure parish and town councils have the opportunity to engage and input to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
10. Work with Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and the Marine Management Organisation (and any other government bodies as required) to ensure they have the opportunity to input to discussions relating to their statutory responsibilities.
11. Coordinate and lead events, workshops and other face to face engagement activities for Supporting Authority Officers and elected members and produce communication materials.
12. Manage a record of Supporting Authority engagement.

The post holder will be required to travel throughout the county and, at times, to work evenings.

The post is offered on a fixed term contract of 20 months. Secondments and approaches from self-employed professionals will be considered for this role.

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: *Making Space for Nature in Kent & Medway Local Government 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.

	<b>CRITERIA</b>
<b>QUALIFICATIONS</b>	Appropriate higher education or vocational qualification(s) relating to planning, green infrastructure or natural environment.
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>	<p>Practical experience of working in, or with, the planning sector.</p> <p>Strong track record of partnership working with local planning authorities.</p> <p>Experience of strategic planning for, or delivery of, green infrastructure or nature recovery within a local government context.</p>
<b>SKILLS AND ABILITIES</b>	<p>Ability to think strategically and innovatively and find solutions to competing/conflicting demands.</p> <p>Excellent interpersonal skills, with a proven ability to collaborate, influence and build trust and develop highly effective relationships.</p> <p>A demonstrable ability to assimilate and analyse extensive information and present this in an easy to understand format.</p> <p>Applied GIS skills.</p>
<b>KNOWLEDGE</b>	<p>Strong understanding of local plan development and the role of planning in protecting and restoring nature and delivering high quality green infrastructure.</p> <p>A good understanding of nature recovery at a landscape scale.</p> <p>A good understanding of the principles of green infrastructure and Natural England's GI Framework.</p> <p>An understanding of biodiversity net gain and other nature recovery mechanisms delivered through local planning or by local government.</p> <p>An understanding of nature-based solutions and how these can be used to address environmental challenges facing communities.</p>
<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</li></ul>

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