

Kent County Council

Job Description: Kent Tree Strategy Officer

Directorate:	Growth, Environment & Transport
Unit/Section:	Natural Environment & Coast Team
Grade:	KR9
Responsible to:	Natural Environment & Coast Manager

Purpose of the Job:

England has a target of at least 12% woodland cover by the mid-century, with the aim to treble woodland creation rates by the end of the current Parliament and contribute to the UK's overall planting target of 30,000 hectares per year. This restoration of tree cover is a key part of the country's response to the climate and ecological emergency, with a target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Kent County Council recognised the climate emergency in May 2019 and committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our own estate, operations and wholly owned traded services to net zero by 2030. In October 2019 we stated an ambition to extend tree cover by 1.5 million, one tree for every person in Kent, recognising the important role that increasing tree cover will play in the council and county reaching a net-zero target and tackling the crisis facing our biodiversity.

The Kent Tree Strategy Officer will be responsible for working with partners across the county to commence delivery on this ambition of 1.5 million new trees, turning the high-level aspirations of the (draft) Kent Tree Establishment Strategy into action. The Officer will be responsible developing tree establishment projects and programmes and securing the necessary funding and finance to see them implemented. The Officer will also be responsible for ensuring that any tree establishment follows the "right tree in the right place" philosophy and delivers multiple benefits, securing in addition biodiversity and societal gains plus a wide breadth of ecosystem services.

Main duties and responsibilities:

1. Drawing on the Government's recently published England Trees Action Plan, finalise the (draft) Kent Tree Establishment Strategy, ensuring adoption and endorsement council wide and support from our partners. Work with lower tier councils to gain their adoption (or endorsement) of the strategy at the local level.
2. Develop a 5 year action plan that will begin to deliver on the tree establishment target, with clear milestones working towards 1.5 million new trees in the county.
3. Develop and implement a monitoring and reporting system for tree establishment in Kent, so that progress towards the 1.5 million tree target can be accurately measured.
4. Using relevant data sets and working with partners and stakeholders, identify areas of priority and opportunity for tree establishment in Kent that not only addresses areas of tree deprivation, gaps in tree canopy cover and fragmented networks but also maximises other

benefits such as biodiversity gains, ecosystem services, landscape character enhancement and public realm improvements.

5. Working with KCC and district council colleagues, identify opportunities across the county for tree establishment on the public estate and develop a pipeline of projects.
6. Respond to central government calls for bids for tree planting, and other government support that will help implement the Kent Tree Establishment Strategy, leading on the development of applications and working with KCC services, district councils and other partners to produce coherent and joined up bids that succeed, maximising funding for the county.
7. Review other funding, finance and partnership opportunities for tree establishment and other Kent Tree Establishment Strategy priorities in the county and pursue these opportunities by leading on project/bid development, working with external partners and government agencies/departments as required. This will include consideration of the use of carbon accounting/offsetting/insetting as a mechanism for securing investment and the development of strategies/action as appropriate to enable this.
8. Work with county and regional partners to develop sustainable and bio-secure supply-chains for local-provenance trees, seed, tree-guards, fencing and other materials.
9. Act as a point of contact within the authority for tree matters and support local communities with advice and guidance in taking forward their own tree establishment initiatives.
10. Work with partners who are delivering other nature based solutions to ensure a joined up and complementary approach across the county.

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.

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Person Specification: Kent Tree Strategy 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	Educated to degree level or equivalent in an environment-related subject.
EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of developing and delivering environmental strategies and action plans. • Demonstrable experience of partnership working in the environmental sector. • Experience of developing and delivering environmental projects and securing the funding to enable this. • Experience of developing, commissioning and procuring works to deliver tree establishment (or other natural environment works).
SKILLS AND ABILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent and proven project development and bid writing skills. • Ability to think strategically and develop strategies and action plans. • Well-developed negotiation and inter-personal skills. • Ability to plan, prioritise and organise a diverse workload. • Able to use MS Office and other typical general office packages, and also specialist tree related software packages, including GIS or similar mapping package. • The ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner at various times of the day is essential.
KNOWLEDGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent knowledge and understanding of current and emerging opportunities, challenges and policy with respect to trees, resilient communities and landscapes, biodiversity and wider environmental considerations. • Good knowledge and understanding of nature based solutions, ecosystems services and the natural capital approach. • Good and applied knowledge of funding opportunities. • Knowledge of tree and woodland ecology in Kent and its historic context. • Knowledge of carbon offsetting and its application to deliver investment in the natural environment.
BEHAVIOURS AND KENT VALUES	<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

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