

A large, stylized blue horse logo is positioned in the background of the page. The horse is depicted in a rearing posture, facing left, with its front legs raised and its mane flowing. The entire background is a solid blue color.

Corporate Accountant

Kent County Council



Content details

| | |
|--|-------|
| Introduction to Kent County Council | 3-4 |
| Structure of KCC | 5-6 |
| Job Description and Recruitment Selection Criteria | 7-8 |
| Organisational Responsibilities | 9-10 |
| Kent Values | 11 |
| Our Commitments | 11 |
| Working for Kent County Council | 12-14 |
| Selection Process | 15 |

Introduction to Kent County Council

Visit our website at www.kent.gov.uk

We are the UK's largest local authority, with a workforce in excess of 30,000 people, including maintained schools, serving a population of 1.4 million. We have various offices in central locations and a large number of service establishments throughout Kent; our corporate office is based in Maidstone.

More than two thirds of our workforce provide services directly to the public – such as domiciliary Care Workers, Classroom Assistants, Social Workers, Teachers, and Occupational Therapists etc.

Our annual budget covers a huge range of services. This translates into a host of interesting roles and career paths awaiting those who want to work in a leading edge public sector organisation.

Aims and objectives

Our focus is on improving lives by ensuring that every pound spent in Kent is delivering better outcomes for Kent's residents, communities and businesses. As long as those outcomes are supported by the right services, at the right quality and right cost, they could be delivered by KCC, the public, private or voluntary and community sector. This shift towards a strategic commissioning approach is set out within our Strategic Statement "Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes".

In becoming an outcome focused organisation the way we work within KCC, and with our partners and providers, is changing. Our approach is to:

- Promote personal and family responsibility;
- Focus on prevention and supporting independent living;
- Maximise social value from the services we commission;
- Commission and design services with our partners;
- Maximise the value of the Kent tax pound;
- Be business orientated and entrepreneurial;
- Be a strong voice for Kent nationally and internationally;
- Recognise that no one size fits all.

The [Strategic Delivery Plan](#) is our business plan for 2019 - 2022.

The plan summary captures all of our significant commissioning, service and policy activity in one place, looking ahead over the next 3 years.

Our business plan plays an important part in delivering the outcomes of our strategic statement, [Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes](#).

Political Arrangements

The County Council has 81 councillors and elections take place every four years.

The political composition of the County Council is as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Conservative | 65 members |
| Liberal Democrat | 7 members |
| Labour | 5 members |
| Independent Groups | 4 members |

The Leader of Kent County Council is Roger Gough.

There is a Cabinet of Executive Members which meets regularly to debate policy issues and make key decisions. The cabinet comprises of:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Roger Gough | Leader of Kent County Council |
| Peter Oakford | Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services |
| Clair Bell | Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health |
| Susan Carey | Cabinet Member for Environment |
| Sue Chandler | Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services |
| Mike Hill OBE | Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services |
| Richard Long | Cabinet Member for Education and Skills |
| Michael Payne | Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation |
| Shellina Prendergast | Cabinet Member for Communications, Engagement and People |
| Mike Whiting | Cabinet Member for Economic Development |

Structure of KCC

The structure of the organisation is as shown [here](#)

The Senior Officer team consists of six Corporate Directors. For more information on the Corporate Management Team please follow this [link](#)

The four directorates are as follows:

Growth, Environment and Transport

The Directorate comprises a range of key frontline, strategic, policy and commercial functions, and plays a major role in making Kent a better place to live, work and visit. The services provided, and the future the directorate helps to shape, affects every household in Kent. This includes strategic responsibility for the future of the county in terms of planning, economic development, transport policy, and major transport improvement schemes, waste disposal and recycling services. In addition, GET manages country parks; libraries; and delivers enforcement services including trading standards, community safety and emergency planning.

Responsible for services that include:

Highways, Transportation & Waste, Regulatory Services, Economic Development, Community Safety & Emergency Planning, Libraries, Registration & Archives, Sport & Country Parks, Arts including Kent Film Office, Development Planning, Planning Applications, North Downs Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Flood Risk & Environment, Sustainability & Climate Change and Heritage Conservation

Adult Social Care and Health

The Directorate commissions and provides a range of services to improve outcomes for older and vulnerable adults, including those with mental health issues or disabilities, and their families. The Directorate supports vulnerable adults to live independently by promoting their wellbeing and supporting their independence. Services for adult mental health and learning disability already work in integrated teams with NHS colleagues and as a key partner in the Kent and Medway STP we are developing multi-disciplinary teams within communities to support local care.

Responsible for services that include:

Adults Central Referral Unit, Adult Community Teams, Safeguarding and quality, Kent Enablement at Home, Sensory and Autistic Spectrum Conditions Service, Integrated/Registered Care Centres, Day Centres, , Community Learning Disability Teams, In-House Provision and Mental Health Services.

Children, Young People and Education Directorate

This Directorate combines and integrates the statutory responsibilities of Specialist Children's Services together with Education services and the targeted and universal services for children and young people within Early Help and Preventative Services. There is a strong focus on alignment of resources to help ensure achievement of one of the key County Council strategic outcomes: 'Every child and young person in Kent gets the best start in life'. To improve outcomes for children and young people, services within the Directorate are working together with relevant partners to deliver the vision set out in the Children and Young People's Services Integration Programme.

Responsible for services that include:

Children's Social Care, Adoption & Fostering, Standards & School Improvement, Skills & Employability, Early Years and Childcare, Provision Planning, Fair Access, Educational Psychology, SEN Assessment & Placement, Youth Justice, Outdoor Education Centres, Children's Centres and Youth Hubs, Inclusion & Attendance, Early Intervention and Community Learning & Skills and Disabled Children and Young People Teams.

Strategic and Corporate Services

The Directorate supports the delivery of our front line services. The Directorate leads and co-ordinates major change, organisational design, development and provides a critical client and contracting role with our trading companies including property, legal and customer contact. It provides organisational wide governance, financial management and a major contribution to our political and external relationships.

Responsible for services that include:

Engagement, Communications, Organisation Design & Development, Finance, Governance & Law, Infrastructure, Policy and Strategic Commissioning including Procurement & Business Intelligence and Public Health

Job Description

Corporate Accountant

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Directorate: | Strategic and Corporate Services |
| Grade: | KR13 |
| Responsible to: | Head of Finance (Operations) |

Job outline:

A strategic thinker and leader, you will develop and champion new ways to deliver our objectives. You will lead on major transformation projects and assist the Head of Finance (Operations) on specific pieces of work.

You will work collaboratively with Revenue Finance Managers, the Chief Accountant and the Capital Finance team, plus the Council's key stakeholders including Heads of Service, Business Partners, and the Revenue Strategy team to ensure a consistency of approach to achieve best practice.

Job accountabilities:

1. Develop and champion new efficient ways to provide Finance services by working collaboratively with key stakeholders, to continually improve the services we deliver.
2. Lead on any continuous improvement programme as instructed by the Head of Finance (Operations).
3. Support the revenue finance teams in the delivery of their objectives, as directed by the Head of Finance (Operations)
4. Support other teams within Operations, as directed by the Head of Finance (Operations)
5. Undertake specific project work as requested by the Head of Finance (Operations).
6. Lead on large transformation projects, ensuring effective resources are engaged, clear monitoring is provided and excellent communication is undertaken, working closely with Finance and Directorate colleagues.
7. Lead on any authority wide restructures, pulling together the relevant resources to deliver the changes
8. Provide cover for revenue finance managers when required.

Recruitment Selection Criteria

The qualifications, knowledge and experience criteria below will be used in shortlisting. Applicants should describe in their application how they meet these criteria.

Qualifications:

Qualified Accountant (CCAB) and/or proven ability to do the job.

Experience:

Substantial experience within a senior management finance role.

Proven ability to think and act at a strategic level taking full account of operational needs.

Experience of working effectively with Service Directorates, Senior Officers and Members.

Skills and Abilities:

Problem-solving ability.

Ability to think and act at a strategic level taking full account of operational needs.

High levels of interpersonal and communication skills, both orally and in writing, including excellent report-writing skills.

The necessary tact, sensitivity and political awareness to negotiate/work with Senior Officers.

High Level of valid technical accounting skills.

Ability to meet fixed, non-negotiable deadlines and still maintain high quality standards.

Commitment to equalities and the promotion of diversity in all aspects of working.

Ability to maintain confidentiality.

Ability to lead a team.

Knowledge:

High level of proficiency in operating KCC financial systems.

Thorough understanding of budgeting, budget monitoring and year end closure of account processes.

Comprehensive understanding of financial controls.

Awareness of data protection and confidentiality issues.

Organisational Responsibilities

All Corporate Directors, Directors and Heads of Service have an explicit responsibility to work as part of a team to deliver, collectively, the agenda of the County Council. These are fundamental elements of their role not an addition and are summarised as follows

Whole Council

- Seek to improve the lives of all residents in Kent and the economy of Kent
- Act as corporate parent to the Council's Looked After Children
- Take an active role in promoting and ensuring the Council's responsibilities for safeguarding are met
- Understand, communicate and contribute to the delivery of KCC's strategic aims
- Meet statutory obligations and promote and ensure compliance with policies and procedures and the Council's Code of Conduct (Kent Code)
- Advise elected Members and support the democratic process
- Promote the Council brand and enhance the overall reputation of the Council
- Understand and monitor the measures of performance, including customer insight, which define successful outcomes for KCC services
- Maintain and ensure a relentless focus on the customer
- Act to support the Council-wide need to deliver services within budget, thereby avoiding an overspend that could damage the financial viability of the Council
- Overcome professional and service silos to achieve the County Council's objectives

Integration of Services

- Focus resources where they have the biggest impact
- Deliver services that are flexible and adaptable
- Integrate services within KCC and work with partner agencies to ensure a seamless customer experience
- Fully and inclusively engage all staff in the delivery of services, demonstrating the Council's leadership values and competencies

Embedding Commissioning and Engaging Relevant Markets

- Establish an outcome focused organisation
- Meet the financial regulations and standing orders of KCC
- Challenge the status quo and engage with the market to constantly improve
- Ensure all services are delivered effectively and efficiently
- Proactively and continuously seek to improve service delivery
- Proactively manage risk to avoid inertia whilst not exposing the Council to needless and avoidable challenge or loss

Managing Change

- Understand and support the Authority's overall change agenda
- Deliver required outcomes of service specific change on time and to budget
- Understand the quality of staff, support their development, nurture those with talent
- Identify the skills for the future and the level of staff through robust workforce planning
- Identify and deal with underperformance
- Deliver to agreed budget and income targets

Kent Values

Open

Acting with integrity, honesty and transparency; healthy attitude to risk; welcoming and expecting change and evolving technology; working in new ways; willing to learn; working as a whole-Council and treating people fairly and with respect.

Invite contribution and challenge

Working collaboratively and innovatively to find new solutions that put the interests and wellbeing of customers first; open to challenge and actively encouraging and expecting contribution.

Accountable

Self-sufficient, taking personal and professional responsibility for our actions, the pace at which we work; performance and the council's money.

Our Commitments

1. To deliver the Strategic Outcomes contained within our strategic statement '[Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes](#)'
2. To deliver better outcomes for Kent residents through our [Commissioning Framework](#)
3. To provide excellent value for money services and continuously improve [KCC Performance](#)
4. To take [better care of the public](#) by improving the ways we communicate, listen and respond to their needs
5. To [inspire our staff](#) and ensure KCC promotes [equality of opportunity](#)

Working for Kent County Council

Salary and Status

This post is offered as a fixed term contract.

The appointment will be subject to 3 months' notice.

KCC pays salaries to bank accounts on the 25th of the month unless this falls on a weekend or public holiday.

Terms and Conditions

The appointment is subject to the terms and conditions contained within the Kent Scheme of Conditions of Service.

30 days annual leave is provided excluding Bank Holidays. You will also receive paid time off for public holidays plus a concessionary day at Christmas.

An excellent relocation package is available to assist with costs, including removal companies, temporary lodgings and professional expenses.

The postholder will be expected to provide a car for official journeys.

Personal Interests

Kent County Council policy requires all employees to declare membership of any organisation that falls within the following definition:

Any lodge, chapter, society, trust or regular gathering or meeting, which:

- is not open to members of the public who are not members of that lodge, chapter, society or trust;
- includes in the grant of membership an obligation on the part of the members to make a
- commitment (whether by oath or otherwise) of allegiance to the lodge, chapter, society, gathering or meeting; and
- includes, whether initially or subsequently, a commitment (whether by oath or otherwise)
- of secrecy about the rules, membership or conduct of the lodge, chapter, society, trust, gathering, or meeting

A lodge, chapter, society, trust, gathering or meeting as defined above, should not be regarded as a secret society if it forms part of the activity of a generally recognised religion.

Pensions

The post holder will have the choice of contributing to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Further details will be available for the successful applicant.

Politically Restricted Posts

This is a politically restricted post which means that the post holder cannot stand for public elected office (other than to a parish council) and is subject to further restrictions on more general political activity.

Whole Time Employment

The person appointed will be required to devote their whole time service to the work of Kent County Council and should not engage in any other business without the express consent of the County Council.

Health and Safety Policy

The County Council recognises and accepts its responsibility as an employer, and will take positive action to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all employees and other persons who may be affected by its operations, by providing safe working conditions and a healthy and safe working environment.

Sickness Provision

Our sickness benefit scheme exceeds statutory requirements. Actual paid absence depends on how long you have worked for KCC and the circumstances of your absence. For example, after 6 years' service your benefit would be 6 months full pay and 6 months half pay.

Training and Development

KCC is committed to supporting staff to reach their full potential through annual appraisal and personal development plans, enhanced by a range of career development opportunities.

Managers from KR9 to KR20 will be required to undertake our Kent Manager standard programme within the first year of employment.

Green Travel

Our Green Travel Plan is exploring alternative modes of transport to improve travel choice and reduce congestion and pollution. This includes:

- Car sharing and emergency taxi home.
- Discounted fares, free tickets, trip planning and improved travel information.
- Pool car and bikes

Other benefits

KCC offers a range of family friendly policies including:

- A generous maternity scheme
- Emergency leave
- Parental leave
- Special leave
- Help Fund – all employees have the opportunity both to pay into the fund and to apply for help from it when experiencing financial hardship
- An in-house confidential counseling service and Occupational Health Service
- Kent Rewards - discounts at over 1,200 retailers ranging from reduced rates at Health Clubs to house and car insurance to holidays

Living in Kent

With great schools, vibrant cities, golden beaches and stunning countryside Kent has lots to offer you. Find out more about [locations in Kent](#).

Selection Process

Closing Date

This post will close at midnight on 4th November 2020.

Selection Process

As part of the interview process for this role you may be required to complete an occupational personality questionnaire prior to your interview.

How to Respond

To apply please visit www.kent.gov.uk to complete an online application form.