

Job Description

Job Title: Senior Sustainable Drainage and Flood Risk Officer

Grade: SO2

Salary: £32,909 - £34,723

Overall purpose of the job

This role will focus principally on Cambridgeshire but the officer will also be expected to assist with a number of projects being undertaken on a consultancy basis for other external authorities.

To influence, promote and provide technical input to the achievement of sustainable development through:

- Reviewing and providing technical advice on the sustainable management of surface water as part of new development schemes, ensuring Cambridgeshire County Council continues to fulfil its statutory consultee role in the planning system.
- Working with major infrastructure scheme promoters, landowners and developers to regulate activity on ordinary watercourses, ensuring that the designs of works are appropriate, sustainable and do not adversely impact flow within the watercourses.

To drive reductions in flood risk and improvements in the natural environment for existing and new communities through:

- Working closely with other flood and water management organisations to investigate flooding and take enforcement action where necessary.
- Designing, developing and project managing revenue and capital flood risk management schemes including traditional and natural flood risk management solutions

Main accountabilities

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1.	<p>Sustainable Drainage and Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical advice in relation to surface water and sustainable drainage on development proposals in Cambridgeshire • Use effective working relationships to negotiate and gain agreement on delivery of high quality SuDS schemes across the County • Provide advice and technical input into the review or development of strategic plans, studies, Supplementary Planning Documents, and policies such as the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, Local Plans and Strategic Flood Risk Assessments • Support the Principal Officer in evaluating and defending the Council's position at planning appeals including written representation, public inquiries and informal hearings as necessary

2.	<p>Innovation and Transformation Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project manage and/or provide technical input into flood investigations and alleviation projects for existing communities. This may include SWMPs, SuDS retrofit schemes and natural flood risk management projects. • Work with internal and external stakeholders to seek delivery of multiple benefits through flood risk schemes. • Seek opportunities for knowledge sharing, transformation and/or innovation in design and approaches • Work closely with the development sector to better understand development challenges, improving efficiency and updating guidance documents or hosting workshops as required. • Actively encourage use of the Council’s surface water pre-application service, attending meetings/site visits and preparing written advice as required • Actively engage in cross-departmental discussions aimed at encouraging the uptake of sustainable drainage systems in new developments, regeneration sites and retrofits
3.	<p>Consenting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technically review and determine applications for Land Drainage Consent under Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 (as amended by the Flood and Water Management Act). Consult with relevant partners and process applications within the statutory time limit, in line with agreed Council procedures. • Undertake site visits where appropriate • Where necessary support Principal Officers and the Business Manager with the appeals process including assisting with evidence gathering to support enforcement processes.
4.	<p>Communication, Reporting and Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain strategic partnerships with key stakeholders including City and District Councils, the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards, Water and Sewerage Undertakers and other Lead Local Flood Authorities • Prepare update reports and communicate outcomes to project stakeholders. • Prepare and deliver presentations, reports, data, project plans for internal and external meetings. • Respond professionally to enquiries from the public, media, private bodies, Directors and Council members by phone, letter and email, in line with corporate procedures. • Use and help to maintain the Flood and Water team database and GIS records as part of your daily work, to enable accurate data tracking, retrieval and management. • Contribute to annual service plans, corporate delivery plans and programmes for submission to Government by ensuring accurate record keeping and providing highlight report updates for the Principal Sustainable Drainage Officer and Business Manager.
5.	<p>Equal Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To demonstrate awareness/understanding of equal opportunities and other people’s behavioural, physical, social and welfare needs.

Person Specification

Qualifications, knowledge, skills and experience

Minimum level of qualifications required for this job - overseas equivalents will be recognised.

(Please note for some roles you may be required to register with a professional body e.g. Social Work England that have specific rules in relation to overseas qualifications).

Qualifications Required	Subject	Essential/ Desirable
Bachelors Degree; HNC; HND; NVQ Level 4 or equivalent qualification, or equivalent years' work experience in this field.	Environmental Management, Geography, Engineering, Hydrology or other relevant discipline	Essential
Higher qualification or equivalent work experience (e.g. Higher Degree; Masters Degree; Bachelors Degree + qualification; NVQ Level 5 or equivalent; Membership of relevant chartered institute; equivalent years' experience in this field)	In a relevant field/discipline	Desirable

Minimum levels of knowledge, skills and experience required for this job

Identify	Describe	Essential/ Desirable
Knowledge		
Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of how to review and design appropriate surface water drainage for developments and experience of making technical comments on drainage plans and strategies Understanding of hydrology, hydraulics and geomorphology relevant to drainage and flood risk 	Essential
Legislation and Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good understanding of the sections of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Land Drainage Act 1991 that affect Lead Local Flood Authorities Understanding of the aims of Cambridgeshire County Council's own flood and water policy and strategy documents Working knowledge of the National Planning Policy Framework and its supporting Planning Practice Guidance 	Essential

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good understanding of the Non-Statutory Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage • Awareness of the statutory planning and development control processes in a Local Planning Authority 	
Political Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working knowledge of local government practices • Understanding of the structure of local government, the role of elected members and current issues facing local government 	Essential
Skills & Experience		
Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of using or interpreting outputs from drainage software packages and Computer Aided Design drawings • Use of databases to store and interrogate data collections • Practical knowledge of Microsoft Office packages and Geographical Information Systems 	Essential
Planning and Organising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to organise a variety of different workstreams, through prioritising and taking a methodical approach to tasks • Ability to work well under pressure and often to tight and immovable deadlines • Focussed on delivering results and overcoming obstacles • Ability to manage own health, safety and well being 	Essential
Communications, Partnerships and Influencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to communicate effectively and confidently in different forms (including report writing and presentations) with various customers and professionals including drainage engineers, planning authorities, developers, members of the public and technical stakeholders • Ability to focus on effective customer care whilst also dealing with situations of conflict • Ability to build networks of contacts and maintain effective relationships across local government and external partner organisations • Ability to react positively to problems and issues and develop solutions • Ability to seek out and implement good practice across the team 	Essential

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to use negotiation skills to achieve desired results and ability to influence and persuade others • Experience of working in partnership with several different groups of stakeholders to investigate flood and/or water management issues and/or solutions 	Desirable
Team Work and Performance Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proven ability to work in partnership with internal colleagues and external organisations to develop and deliver effective services 	Essential
Additional Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full driving licence or alternative means of accessing appointments in Cambridgeshire when attending site visits across the County 	Essential

Disclosure level

What disclosure level is required for this post?	None	Standard
	Enhanced	Enhanced with barred list checks