

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Flood and Coastal Engineer		
Directorate	Community Place and Economy		
Reporting to	Flood & Coastal Principal Engineer		
Grade	10		
Evaluation ref:	RP295	Job Family ref:	

Role purpose

The Flood & Coastal Engineer serves to support the Chief Technical Authority on flood and coastal management within the Council. Acting as both the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and Coastal Protection Authority (CPA), the Engineer provides expert technical advice and guidance across the Council and to external partners on a wide range of issues, including planning and development, drainage assessments, enforcement, and asset management. In addition to strategic oversight, the Engineer supports the delivery of Somerset's Local Flood Risk Strategy and the design and implementation of flood defence and coastal management projects.

Responsibilities

Main Responsibilities & Duties

Provides professional and technical advice, guidance and support to Senior Professionals and Line Managers across the Council (acting as the Lead Local Flood Authority) as well as other external organisations on a wide range of Flood and Coastal Management related issues.

- Supports the development and implementation of an Asset Management System and associated Infrastructure Maintenance & Renewal Programme related to the Flood & Coastal Management Infrastructure for which the Council is responsible.
 - To include Critical Flood Risk Infrastructure designation and SuDS Approval as defined within Schedules One and Three of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010.
- Supports Officers in the receiving and response to Riparian Management matters, providing deliberation and assessment where required.
- Provides input to technically complex Planning Application Referrals from the Local Planning Authority, supporting the Senior Flood & Coastal Planning Officer in application of best practice under guidance from the National Planning Policy Framework.
 - This is to include Appeals, Pre-application Advice and Committees.
 - The Officer is to be a Technical expert in matters relating to Flood & Coastal Management as part of the Lead Local Flood Authority statutory role in the Planning process.
- Participates in the review for delivering the aims and objectives contained in the Somerset's Local Flood Risk Strategy using a combination of professional and technical knowledge and interpersonal skills, including consultation, and negotiating skills.
- Participates in service activities ensuring the Council fulfils its statutory duties and responsibilities to meet the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Coast Protection Act 1949 to reduce the impact of flooding and coastal change on residents, businesses, and visitors to Somerset.

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- Conduct site inspections and field investigations to gather data and monitor project progress.
- Coordinate with contractors and consultants to ensure project deliverables are met.
- Promote sustainable and innovative engineering solutions in all projects.
- Undertakes service delivery and professional work within the Flood and Coastal Management Team to:
 - Participate with positive and proactive communications to Members, staff, and the public for all matters regarding flood risk.
 - Provide advice, guidance and support to Line Managers and Senior Professionals in handling Flood and Coastal Management issues and ensure that all procedural and legal requirements are met.
 - Share technical expertise with junior colleagues and assist them to identify potential career development opportunities.
 - Contribute to development and delivery of the Groups work and service improvement plans. Carry out other professional duties in support of directorate, service, and corporate objectives.

Contacts & Relationships

- The management of flood risk is a priority for the Council, particularly as a result of recent flood events both within Somerset and those witnessed nationally. As such, this involves providing information to advise the Council on high-level complex matters, which have major implications on the welfare of local people and the economy of the County.
- The postholder will have extensive regular and proactive contact with a variety of people and organisations, including external agencies and stakeholders such as, the Environment Agency, Water Companies, Town and Parish Councils, elected Members, community groups, the emergency services the public and other County / City Councils. Many flood-related issues are contentious and complex requiring the ability for successful negotiation, support, diplomacy, tact, persuasion, and sensitivity.
- Public: daily contact - the role will require successful, positive, and proactive communications with the public of a wide range of matters ranging from complaints, to request for service. Often, expectations and demands cannot be met, and it will be necessary to successfully manage these occasions without prejudicing Somerset Council's reputation. The postholder may be required to meet property and landowners and attend site meetings. The needs for proactive communications are vital and arranging and participating in exhibitions is highly likely.
- Statutory bodies and emergency services: daily contact - the postholder will have proactive communications consistent with the legislative requirements of the Lead Local Flood Authority. This inevitably requires substantial contact with key partners including the Environment Agency, Water Companies, internal Groups (including the Local Planning Authority) and Sections, etc.
- Other individuals and organisations: daily contact - the postholder will liaise with internal Groups and Sections within the Council to include the Emergency Planning Response & Recovery, Public Rights of Way, Highway Information Team, Transport Development, Countryside, County Farms, and others.

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Impact

- The current operational budget is currently around £750,000.
- The Flood & Coastal Engineer is expected to provide regular and frequent technical advice inside and outside of the Flood & Coastal Management Team.
- The Flood & Coastal Engineer will represent the Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority across the County and wider region, upholding the principles of the Council and working toward the betterment of the people it serves.

Knowledge / Experience / Skills

	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge		
The role holder must have a thorough understanding of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Land Drainage Act 1991, and the Coast Protection Act 1949.	X	
The role holder must have an in-depth and expert knowledge in Engineering Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy and Implementation, understanding the linkages between Service Levels, Risk, Investment, Criticality and Asset Lifecycles.	X	
They should be knowledgeable about Local Flood Risk Strategies, Coastal Management Strategies, and their implementation, able to understand and forecast impacts related to Climate Change.	X	
An in-depth understanding of Flood & Coastal management functions and their importance in reducing flood risk.		X
Familiarity with the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, including the Environment Agency and Water Companies, including associated regulations and compliance practices.	X	
Knowledge of the council's equality, diversity, and inclusion policies is necessary to uphold these values in all interactions.		X
Awareness of the latest developments and best practices in flood and coastal management is desirable.		X
Experience		
The role holder must have experience in providing professional and technical advice on Flood and Coastal Management issues.	X	
The role holder must have demonstrable experience in the development and delivery (including construction) of Civil Infrastructure projects, preferably with a focus on coastal defences, drainage, and flood risk mitigation.	X	
They should have a proven track record of delivering the aims and objectives of local flood risk strategies.	X	
Experience in planning and preparation related to flood risk is desirable.		X
They must have experience in engaging with various stakeholders, staff, and the public, on flood risk matters.	X	

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Experience in contributing to the development and delivery of service improvement plans is desirable.		X
Experience in developing novel and innovative solutions to challenging problems, ranging from 'common sense' approaches through to technically complex solutions.		X
Qualifications / Registrations / Certifications		
A degree in Civil Engineering or similar.	X	
Professional certification in flood risk management or a related area is highly desirable.		X
Chartership with a relevant professional body, such as the Institute of Civil Engineers.		X
Additional training or coursework in flood and coastal management and/or Project Management is beneficial.		X
Continuous professional development in the field of flood and coastal management is essential.	X	
Skills		
The role holder must be expert in reviewing flooding matters at a desktop or site level and provide an informed assessment proportional to the information available at that time, leveraging their experience in Engineering and its practical applications.	X	
The role holder must be able to review drainage and coastal systems, identify points of critical functionality, and provide guidance on the optimisation of the system with commentary on associated risks, benefits, and investment requirements.	X	
The role holder must possess excellent communication skills to effectively convey technical information to various audiences, specifically in the form of reports and briefings.	X	
Strong analytical and problem-solving skills are essential for addressing complex flood and coastal management issues.	X	
Strong interpersonal skills to engage with stakeholders and build positive relationships.	X	
The ability to work collaboratively with different departments and external organisations is crucial.	X	
Proficiency in using relevant software and tools for flood risk assessment and management is necessary.	X	
The role holder should have strong organisational skills to manage multiple tasks and projects effectively.	X	
Proficiency in GIS and remote sensing technologies.		X
Working Conditions		
- Regular travelling and able to travel countywide, including travel outside standard work hours and to areas that are not currently serviced by public transport. - This role involves working within a dynamic and supportive local authority environment. Candidates should be prepared for the following conditions:		

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- **Work Hours:** Standard working hours are 37, with occasional requirements for evening or weekend work to meet project deadlines or attend community events.
- **Location:** The primary work location is County Hall, with opportunities for remote work as per organisational policies.
- **Travel:** Some travel within the local area will be required for meetings, site visits, and community engagement activities.
- **Work Environment:** The role involves working both independently and as part of a team, with access to modern office facilities and resources.
- **Health and Safety:** Adherence to all health and safety regulations is mandatory, ensuring a safe working environment for all employees.

Working Arrangements

Dynamic working arrangements apply. Regular travelling and able to travel countywide, including travel outside standard work hours and to areas that are not currently serviced by public transport.

Corporate Responsibilities

Ensure compliance with all relevant legislation, organisational policy, and professional codes of conduct to uphold standards of best practise.

Deliver the aims of the council's equality, diversity and inclusion policies; health, safety and wellbeing of self and others; and Organisational values in everything you do, ensuring team members are also aware of their responsibilities and maintaining their understanding that Equality and Diversity practice covers both interaction with staff, service users and communities and includes challenging discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity for all.

Date: 10/12/2025