

Job Description

Community Engagement Officer (Treescapes)

Temporary – 24 months

Service:	Planning and Environment	Team:	Nature Recovery
Location:	County Hall, Preston		
Salary range:	£27,852 – £32,020	Grade:	7
Reports to:	Principal Nature Recovery Officer	Staff responsible for:	None

Job Purpose

Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen, and Blackpool councils have all identified tree and woodland planting as a key part of their responses to the climate change and biodiversity crises. We have jointly made a commitment to DEFRA and Forestry Commission that 170 hectares of rural woodland planting and 30,000 urban and peri-urban trees will be planted in Greater Lancashire by 2025.

The postholders will be instrumental in the delivery of the Lancashire Treescapes Programme which will develop and design tree and woodland planting proposals, consult widely, apply for capital grants and organise planting in both the rural and urban environments. The posts are funded by DEFRA and the Forestry Commission under the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund and will be hosted by Lancashire County Council.

The postholders will support the Development and Funding Officers in their work with existing staff in the three authorities and other key stakeholders such as the Rivers Trusts, Groundwork Trust, district councils, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission and Wildlife Trust in the delivery and implementation of the woodland creation and tree planting ambitions for Greater Lancashire.

They will provide support to policies, projects and programmes through the engagement of a range of stakeholders in delivery and implementation of the tree planting and woodland creation objectives of the environmental and climate policies of the three councils and other stakeholders.

They will adopt inclusive practices and develop a wide network of contacts and understanding of stakeholders and local communities. They will use their knowledge of development and engagement techniques to identify opportunities and meet the needs of stakeholders, volunteers and communities in project delivery. An element of the work may be to complement and closely assist key stakeholders with well-developed and progressed tree-planting programmes, such as the Ribble Rivers Trust and Groundwork Trust. This may involve working with supervised children, consequently candidates should be able to obtain a satisfactory DBS check.

The posts are overseen by the Senior Woodland Officer within the Environment and Climate Team, where you will work alongside other specialists in ecology and climate change. The team has well developed links with the 14 district and unitary councils of Lancashire, as well as voluntary sector environmental and community bodies which operate within our region.

This will be a busy and rewarding role, juggling both practical project delivery and co-ordination across the scheme. It will require stamina, good humour, inspirational qualities, a passion for trees

and commitment to widening community and stakeholder engagement in woodland and tree related activity.

The post will notionally be based in County Hall, Preston. However, Lancashire County Council operates a flexible working policy where the requirements of the role permit it. There may also be an opportunity to work from the offices of partner organisations.

Accountabilities/Responsibilities

The postholders will oversee community and stakeholder engagement activity throughout the scheme, delivering activity via a number of projects and also encouraging, mentoring and advising other project leads in how to successfully widen engagement.

1. Programme delivery

- Contributing to the site assembly process by liaising with key stakeholders, landowners, district councils, community groups and other bodies to identify sites suitable for inclusion in a large annual programme of tree planting works.
- Assist the Treescapes Development and Funding Officers in the preparation of grant bids to support the programme delivery.
- Assist in the provision of project management for landowners participating in the Treescapes programme.
- Responsible for developing opportunities for volunteers to assist in practical tree and woodland planting and aftercare.
- Deliver training and support for volunteers participating in programme activities.

2. Supporting engagement

- Provide encouragement and advice to other project lead partners to adopt inclusive community engagement activity or practices.
- Develop, promote and support the use of a Lancashire Treescapes Volunteer Toolkit and Manager's Handbook to ensure all staff are aware of policies, procedures and support available when working with volunteers.

3. Partnership development

- Develop a wide network of contacts and understanding of local communities within the programme area in particular the traditionally 'hard-to-reach' groups.
- Report to the Lancashire Treescapes programme management board to identify opportunities and needs for volunteer and community involvement in project delivery and to advise on community engagement.
- Provide reports, case studies and promotion of community engagement for the Treescapes programme as required

Other

- **Equal Opportunities**

We are committed to achieving equal opportunities in the way we deliver services to the community and in our employment arrangements. We expect all employees to understand and promote this policy in their work.

- **Health and safety**

All employees have a responsibility for their own health and safety and that of others when carrying out their duties and must help us to apply our general statement of health and safety policy.

- **Customer Focused**

We put our customers' needs and expectations at the heart of all that we do. We expect our employees to have a full understanding of those needs and expectations so that we can provide high quality, appropriate services at all times.

Our Values

We expect all our employees to demonstrate and promote our values:

- **Supportive**

We are supportive of our customers and colleagues, recognising their contributions and making the best of their strengths to enable our communities to flourish.

- **Innovative**

We deliver the best services we possibly can, always looking for creative ways to do things better, putting the customer at the heart of our thinking, and being ambitious and focused on how we can deliver the best services now and in the future.

- **Respectful**

We treat colleagues, customers and partners with respect, listening to their views, empathising and valuing their diverse needs and perspectives, to be fair, open and honest in all that we do.

- **Collaborative**

We listen to, engage with, learn from and work with colleagues, partners and customers to help achieve the best outcomes for everyone.

Person Specification
Community Engagement Officer (Treescapes)
Temporary – 24 months

All the following requirements are essential unless otherwise indicated by *

Your ability to meet the job requirements will initially be assessed by the information provided on your application but further assessment will be undertaken at interview and, in some cases, by using other types of assessment(s).

Qualifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant vocational qualification or technical training. OR • Degree qualified (or equivalent) in relevant subject. OR • Working towards a relevant professional qualification.
Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical experience of community engagement or community development work. • Practical conservation or countryside management work. • Project management including financial management and delivery of outputs to time. • Proven experience of identifying and engaging with 'hard to reach' groups. • Tree planting and/or woodland creation. * • Voluntary work. * • Working with rural and urban communities. * • Organisation and delivery of practical conservation or countryside management work with volunteers. * • Preparation of funding bids. *
Essential knowledge, skills & abilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorough knowledge of community development and engagement techniques. • Knowledge of the barriers to woodland creation and/or urban tree planting. • Knowledge of the benefits of trees and woodlands. • Knowledge of local communities and the voluntary and community sector. * • Technical knowledge of silvicultural practice. * • Ability to motivate, lead and deliver practical volunteer activity. • Advocate for trees and woodland. • Ability to work alone and as part of a small busy team. • Excellent communication skills. • Training and/or teaching skills. *

Other essential requirements

- Commitment to equality and diversity.
- Commitment to health and safety.
- Display the LCC values and behaviours at all times and actively promote them in others.

[To be included if the post is an essential car user post – delete if this requirement does not apply]

- This is an essential car user post
You will be required to provide a car for use in connection with the duties of this post and must be insured for business use. In certain circumstances consideration may be given to applicants who, as a consequence of a disability, are unable to drive