National Infrastructure Lead - Environment

Job Description

Position Pay Level: 9
Position Pay SCP: 42 – 47
Salary: £56,354 - £62,066 **(Inclusive of Local Weighting Allowance of £1,130 per annum)**

Reports to: Chief Planning Officer/Head of Service
Number of reports: Up to 5 (Technical officer, Consultancy posts)

Responsible for: Providing and leading on environmental matters in relation to National Infrastructure.

Financial Responsibilities: Whilst not a budget holder, the post holder will be required to manage contracts, procurement and oversight of projects and commissions up to £1m.

Main purpose of Job:

- To set direction and objectives with regard to environmental sustainability as a key stakeholder of the Heathrow Strategic Planning Group (HSPG) and to respond directly to Heathrow Airport Limited and the Arora Group's, consultations, engagement, working groups and DCO submissions and other National Infrastructure and strategic regeneration projects (including data centres, Western Rail Link and enabling Planning applications in advance and adjacent to, but enabling, National Infrastructure projects.
- The National Infrastructure Lead – Environment (NILE) will act as the lead environmental advisor on Heathrow Expansion, Development Consent Order (DCO) applications, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). The postholder will provide strategic leadership across the full range of environmental disciplines typically considered through Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including air quality and greenhouse gases, noise and vibration, climate change, water resources and flood risk, geology, hydrogeology and contaminated land, ecology and biodiversity, landscape and visual effects, cultural heritage, materials and waste, traffic and transport, land use, socio-economics, population and human health, and cumulative and in-combination effects.
- The role will work in tandem with the National Infrastructure Lead to identify the requirements for external support, procure and project management specialist technical consultants to ensure that environmental impacts are robustly assessed and represented in support of the Council's interests.
- The role essentially involves supporting HSPG in providing a clear direction in order to respond to and shape, proactively and comprehensively, Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL) and the Arora Group Development Consent Order's that are emerging for third runway and related proposals (DCO submission is expected in 2027/8), by ensuring those proposals are robust and fully evidenced and by developing effective transport

solutions to ensure that Slough's objectives are met. The role will further require supporting Slough at DCO examination and presenting expert evidence.

- The role will also require detailed analysis of the issues and evidence prior to and including the DCO application for HR3 and potentially other National Infrastructure projects (such as Western and southern new rail links, and the relocation of the Grundon EfW). The scope of work will include day to day liaison with Slough officers, and regular liaison with other organisations such as Heathrow Airports Ltd (HAL), Arora Group and contracted consultants, Department for Transport (DfT), Network Rail, Grundons, Transport for London (TfL), Highways England, and other related organisations.
- The role covers all environmental topics relevant to DCO and NSIP applications and their associated Environmental Statements, Preliminary Environmental Information Reports (PEIRs), examination processes and subsequent consent requirements. Whilst air quality and noise are expected to remain significant considerations for Heathrow-related proposals, the postholder will maintain oversight of all environmental topics and their interrelationships, ensuring cumulative effects and in combination effects and wider environmental outcomes are fully understood and appropriately addressed.
- The role is also key in the development of the Council's Local Plan by providing advice and guidance, stemming from NSIP's that are proceeding ahead, or concurrently with the Council's Local Plan and Local Transport Plan development. Input into this is process is key in relation to advising on the potential impact of Heathrow expansion on these work streams.

Main Accountabilities:

- Providing strategic environmental input on all environmental matters associated with Heathrow Expansion, NSIPs, DCO applications ensuring effective integration of environmental, planning, transport, climate and public health considerations liaising with Senior Officers and Senior Management, Local and Central Government and external stakeholders.
- Attending relevant Internal project boards (e.g. HAL and Arora Bilateral Meetings) and Stakeholder partnership groups (e.g. HSPG officer meetings and technical groups) representing the Council interest and to act as the lead expert with respect to environmental quality.
- Representing Slough Borough Council at HAL and Arora Group DCO related meetings and working groups, including HSPG and HAL/Arora Group workshops.
- Reviewing, coordinating and evaluating Preliminary Environmental Information Reports (PEIRs), Environmental Statements, Habitats Regulations Assessment documentation, technical appendices and related DCO submissions across all environmental disciplines, identifying risks, opportunities and matters requiring further assessment.
- Considering and advising on national consultations (such as the Heathrow Expansion

National Policy Statement) and providing expert advice and input in relation to Environmental factors in any representations or feedback on behalf of SBC.

- Evaluating of scoping reports, methodologies and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports and technical appendices relating to the DCO process. Environmental Lead officer responsible for Heathrow Airport Expansion DCO application responses, consultations, meetings and preparation of Local Impact Reports and evidence in relation to environmental quality, including avoidance, mitigation and offsetting.
- Responding to consultations and statutory engagement associated with DCOs, NSIPs and strategic developments, covering all relevant environmental topics and cumulative effects assessments.
- To produce high quality and accurate reports (including committee, cabinet and group reports), letters, and correspondence and statements of evidence. To personally present these documents and, where required, coordinate, commission and manage specialist technical experts and consultants to prepare evidence, statements and proofs of evidence for DCO examinations, hearings and inquiries. The postholder will provide evidence within their own area of competence and act as lead witness on environmental coordination matters.
- Lead the procurement, commissioning and management of specialist environmental consultants, legal advisers and technical experts, ensuring delivery to programme, budget and required quality standards.
- Provide effective line management, supervision, mentoring and performance management of allocated staff and consultants, ensuring delivery of corporate and service objectives.
- Review desk top studies and intrusive site investigations relating to the Heathrow Expansion and data centres and other NSIP (or enabling applications) working collaboratively with the Councils other scientific and environmental officers to prepare technical responses ensuring that remediation of contaminated land is carried out to standards prescribed in legislation, code of practices and guidance to ensure the final use of the land cannot be deemed contaminated and does not pose a risk to human health.
- Working collaboratively with members of the Carbon & Sustainability Team, DCO Team, Public Health Team and associated Council Teams including Planning, Highway and Transport, Environmental Health colleagues to support Slough's long-term goals and strategies.
- To carry out any other related work as required.

Person Specification:
National Infrastructure Lead - Environment

Area	Description	Essential/ Desirable	Method: Application (A) Interview (I) Test (T)
Experience	Extensive experience in local authority or private sector with respect to environmental quality and environmental policy, and clear understanding of the links between both.	Essential	A/I
	Significant experience of Development Consent Order (DCO), Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) or other major infrastructure consenting processes.	Essential	A/I
	Extensive experience of working in environmental quality or sustainability services and at a senior level for at least 3 years.	Essential	A/I
	Experience of reviewing and interpreting Environmental Impact Assessments, Environmental Statements and associated technical assessments across multiple environmental disciplines.	Essential	A/I
	Experience of procuring, commissioning and managing specialist environmental consultants and multidisciplinary technical teams.	Essential	A/I
	Experience of all relevant environmental regulatory regimes at a national and local level.	Essential	A/I
	Experience of representing organisations at Examinations in Public, Public Inquiries, Hearings or equivalent formal regulatory processes.	Desirable	A/I
	Project Management experience delivering environmental programmes and projects.	Essential	A/I
	Significant post graduate experience within a field of environmental quality/Sustainability.	Essential	A/I
	Experience of collaborative/partnership working to deliver projects.	Essential	A/I
	Experience of preparing presentations, to business, communities and/or Members.	Essential	A/I

Area	Description	Essential/ Desirable	Method: Application (A) Interview (I) Test (T)
	Experience in compiling data and producing high-quality technical reports and plans.	Essential	A/I
Skills and abilities	Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written as well as presentation skills with demonstrable ability to influence key stakeholders, senior officers and management, Members and external partners and bodies, and ability to present technical complex information in a simple way.	Essential	A/I
	Ability to analyse and interpret complex data and present key facts in the preparation of reports, briefings and other material.	Essential	A/I
	Ability to coordinate multidisciplinary technical advice and integrate specialist environmental disciplines into a coherent strategic position.	Essential	A/I
	Politically astute and sensitive to elected Members environmental requirements, including demonstrating and presenting complex evidence in clear precise, non-technical way.	Essential	A/I
	Ability to deliver work programme with minimum supervision, to work effectively to meet challenging deadlines and manage competing and changing priorities.	Essential	A/I
	Ability to commission and manage consultants effectively.	Essential	A/I
	Excellent verbal and written communication skills, able to communicate well with a range of individuals, organisations and audiences.	Essential	A/I
	Strong project governance, programme management and budget management skills for complex infrastructure projects.	Essential	A/I
	Has the ability to understand the principle of equal opportunities, apply it to providing and developing an excellent service.	Essential	A/I
	Excellent IT skills including Microsoft Office 365 applications, Teams, SharePoint, Power BI and document	Essential	A/I

Area	Description	Essential/ Desirable	Method: Application (A) Interview (I) Test (T)
	management systems.		
Knowledge and understanding	Demonstrable specialist expertise and recognised professional competence in at least two fields of air quality, environmental noise, contaminated land, carbon management and water quality.	Essential	A/I
	Broad professional knowledge of environmental planning and assessment within the UK planning and Development Consent Order system, including understanding of key environmental disciplines and their interaction within Environmental Impact Assessment processes.	Essential	A/I
	Knowledge and understanding of secure environmental data handling, collection and accuracy, quality control and storage of data, and ability to analyse and report and present findings in a clear and concise way.	Essential	A/I
	Knowledge of local government, its role in safeguarding the environment and public health, and promoting environmental initiatives and linkages with other local and central government functions.	Essential	A/I
	Full working knowledge of ambient air quality regulations, air quality guidance, air quality standards, Codes of Practice, Planning Policy framework and Government Policy.	Essential	A/I
	Knowledge of environmental noise regulations, guidance, standards (BS8233, BS4142, BS5228, BS7445 etc.), Codes of Practice, Planning Policy framework and Government Policy.	Essential	A/I
	Knowledge of undertaking air quality modelling, source apportionment and reduction scenarios to determine the impact of Heathrow Expansion on Slough residents.	Desirable	A/I
	Full working knowledge of contaminated land regulations, Standards and Codes of	Essential	A/I

Area	Description	Essential/ Desirable	Method: Application (A) Interview (I) Test (T)
	Practice, Government Policy framework relating to Contaminated Land.		
	Knowledge of climate change and the role of carbon management and Government Policy in the UK.	Essential	A/I
	Knowledge of collating carbon data and preparing carbon calculations.	Essential	A/I
	Knowledge of carbon/energy management schemes, reporting and monitoring	Essential	A/I
	Knowledge of Statutory regulations and mechanisms including air quality, carbon management, water quality and contaminated land.	Essential	A/I
	Detailed understanding of the Planning Act 2008, Development Consent Order process, Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations and relevant national planning policy applicable to NSIPs.	Essential	A/I
	Understanding of examination procedures, Local Impact Reports, Statements of Common Ground and related DCO documentation.	Essential	A/I
Qualifications	Degree educated with an environmental related discipline.	Essential	A
	Master's Degree within a related environmental discipline.	Essential	A
	Chartered membership of an appropriate professional institution (IEMA, CIWEM, CIEEM, RTPI, IAQM, Institute of Acoustics or equivalent) or ability to demonstrate equivalent professional standing.	Desirable	A
	Demonstrable record of continuous professional development.	Essential	A
	Driving Licence and car available for work with business use insurance.	Essential	A