

Kent County Council

Job Description:

Strategic Commissioner

Directorate: Strategic and Corporate Services

Grade: KR18

Responsible to: Head of Paid Service

Job Purpose:

Lead, direct, and shape the Council's Commissioning strategy and its support structure to enable efficient delivery of the Council's objectives, including the provision of a range of cohesive, specialist professional services across the commissioning cycle and the County Council.

Accountabilities

As a member of the Corporate Management team the post holder will work within the KCC Organisational Responsibilities for Senior Officers. In addition, the post holder will work closely with Cabinet Members, and Corporate Directors to enable organisational responsiveness to elected members; secure the best approach to resource stewardship for the council's budget and finances; ensure that overall management attention, effort and controls are commensurate to risk and opportunity across the council's functions and activities; and enhance the reputation of Kent as a place as well as Kent County Council as the democratic agent of change in the region.

Shape, develop and review the Council's Commissioning strategy to ensure it continues to incorporate current thinking, creates further opportunity for synergy across the Council and supports delivery of the Council's objectives.

Direct and lead the Strategic Commissioning activity for the Council, to ensure a strong and consistent commissioning approach across the commissioning cycle, including data driven analytics, commercial support and market development and shaping.

Shape strategies to ensure all opportunities for joint commissioning across services are exploited and delivered, providing appropriate challenge to enable effective and efficient use of Council resources and successful delivery of commissioning outcomes.

Deliver the Council's Commissioning strategy by building and maintaining effective relationships with key stakeholders including relevant directors and lead commissioners

to ensure effective engagement in the delivery of the Council's objectives.

Direct and shape all Strategic Business Development & Intelligence activity for the Council to ensure delivery of a comprehensive intelligence & research led service that supports the Council's strategic aims.

Direct and shape the Council's Procurement activity, delivering a comprehensive service (including market analysis, planning, procurement strategy & execution, contract and supplier management) to achieve best value for money for the County Council.

Act as expert adviser on Strategic Commissioning supporting Members and senior officers on complex/high level matters, leading Strategic Commissioning activity to maintain and deliver effective commissioning standards across the council, advising the Head of Paid Service to ensure the Commissioning strategy meets the needs of the Authority, changes in service requirements, statutory obligations and legislative and financial requirements.

This job description sets out the accountabilities specific to the role. These should be read in conjunction with the Organisational Responsibilities that apply to the Corporate Director and Director roles.

Direct reports;

Director Commissioning
Director Strategic Business Development & Intelligence
Head of Procurement

Person Specification

Qualifications

- Relevant Management or Professional qualification and membership of a relevant professional body.
- Evidence of continuing professional development
- Educated to degree level or equivalent.

Knowledge & Experience

Expert knowledge in a relevant professional area and proven track record of using professional expertise to develop and deliver strategic objectives and expected outcomes

Extensive experience and successful track record of strategic leadership and successful delivery in local government and/or other large and complex Organisation.

Extensive experience of effectively managing a range of service initiatives within budget in a complex and changing environment.

Extensive experience and successful track record of transformational change and

achieving solutions to enable delivery of a diverse range of services in partnership with other organisations/bodies.

Extensive experience of working and influencing the direction of services within a highly political environment.

Skills and Abilities

Able to operate effectively as a member of the Corporate Management Team, shaping the strategic Council priorities and setting clear direction, and service commitment to the successful delivery of the Council's strategic priorities.

Able to establish strong positive relationships across the Organisation at all levels, in order to provide effective leadership and direction including a relationship of both personal and professional credibility and trust with elected Members.

Able to establish strong positive relationships across partner and other external organisations that command professional confidence.

Able to demonstrate effective motivational strategic leadership and vision to staff at all levels including a positive attitude to change in order to maintain and develop services in a constantly changing environment.

Able to command respect, influence and negotiate at a strategic professional and political level both locally and nationally in order to ensure the best interests of the Council are met.

Able to demonstrate a high level of personal resilience, challenge and focus in order to ensure the whole Organisation delivers the right services in the right way.

Highly developed communication and presentation skills.

Able to lead, influence and implement strategic policies and decisions.