

Kent County Council

Job Description

Director of Economic Development

Date: March 2014

Directorate: Communities and Place

Division: Economic Development

Grade: KR17

Responsible to: Corporate Director Growth Environment and Transport

Job Purpose

Lead and direct the County's economic development and regeneration activities, strategy and commissioning, acting as the Council's chief professional adviser on initiatives which will achieve the Council's objectives and contribute to employment and wealth generation in Kent.

Accountabilities

Directors will work within the KCC Corporate Responsibilities for Senior Officers. In addition, as members of Extended Corporate Management Team, Directors and Corporate Directors will work together to make strategic decisions on the most effective use of the Council's agreed budget, resources and policies and enhance the reputation of Kent as a place as well as Kent County Council as the democratic agent of change in the region.

Establish, plan and prioritise activities for economic development, to ensure both compliance with the framework established by Members and Chief Officers and continuing value for money invested.

Represent the County within the business community and other external agencies, linking with Business Support Kent, the Local Enterprise Partnership, and District Councils, in order to realise employment and trade opportunities and maximise economic benefits.

Participate in the development of the overall organisational strategic planning and direction, contributing expertise and information within Economic Development areas.

Drive forward a range of initiatives and projects that stimulate local business sectors, trade and technology transfer working with a range of organisations at local, regional, national and international level.

Expand and develop opportunities for economic development and regeneration through arts and culture initiatives e.g. the Turner Contemporary Gallery.

Develop, manage and broker relationships at senior level with key local sub-regional and national stakeholders.

Lead and commission the delivery of efficient customer led strategies to support the rural agenda and to promote the continued viable development of the rural economy across the county.

Bring high level influence to bear on the investment plans of partner organisations, effectively challenging and marshalling available resources in support of Kent's priorities.

Actively review all services provided by this post to identify the 'right source' for their future delivery including consideration of outsourcing, co-sourcing or in-sourcing to ensure the most effective and efficient delivery methods are employed.

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

Services

Economic & Spatial Development
Strategy & Development
International Affairs
Regeneration Projects
Arts including Kent Film Office
Community Services – Volunteering
Big Society