Principal Flood and Water Management Officer

JE Code: JE2482



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| **Values – We are dedicated, respectful, collaborative, we are Milton Keynes Council** |
| **Service:** | Property and Environment |
| **Reports To:** | TBC |
| **Job Family:** | Professional/Technical |
| **Grade:** | H |
| **Political Restricted:** | Y/N |
| **Date:** | January 2023 |

**Key Deliverables**

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| **1.** | Co-ordinate and manage workstreams such as Lead Local Flood Authority statutory consultee role, the development and delivery of flood and water projects and statutory flood investigations. |
| **2.** | Manage team to undertake and support work on surface water management / flood risk including reviewing planning applications, pre-application requests and planning appeals as required. |
| **3..** | Lead development and delivery of the LLFA’s flood and water projects, leading business case development, community engagement, funding application, procurement and implementation stages. |
| **4.** | Use technical flood risk knowledge to lead statutory flood investigations and progress prioritised ones to project status. |
| **5.** | Provide technical advice to the team, other Council officers and external stakeholders on matters relating to flood risk management in Milton Keynes. |
| **6.** | Represent the LLFA at appropriate meetings such as planning appeals, public inquiries, council committees. |
| **7.** | Providing professional leadership to the team in this highly technical sector, encouraging the development of technical skills and knowledge and professional accreditation. |
| **8.** | Respond professionally to enquiries from the public, media, professional and private bodies and Council members by phone, letter and email in line with corporate procedures. Ensuring that internal and external enquiries are effectively dealt with. |
| **9.** | Oversee and/or project manage strategic flood and water documents and policies as required e.g., Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document. |
| **10.** | Ensure excellent cross-council and partnership working across all workstreams. Key stakeholders include the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Board, Parks Trust, other Lead Local Flood Authorities, Anglian Water and residents. |
| **11.** | Represent the flood and water team at external and departmental working groups to ensure that service and project delivery complies with emerging approaches and legislation. |
| **12.** | As dictated by workload and significant projects, work as part of the team to deliver all of the Council’s duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. |

*Within reason these key deliverables may evolve to meet service need and it is expected that you will be flexible and adaptable in your delivery to meet both service and council wide needs*

**Essential Requirements (key skills & qualifications)**

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| **1.** | Bachelor’s degree in civil engineering, environmental sciences, physical geography or related discipline, or equivalent qualification, or equivalent years’ work experience in this field. |
| **2.** | Higher qualification or equivalent work experience (e.g., Higher Degree; Master’s Degree; Bachelor’s Degree + qualification; NVQ Level 5 or equivalent; membership of relevant chartered institute; equivalent years’ experience in this field. |
| **3.** | Thorough understanding of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the duties, powers and statutory consultee work of a Lead Local Flood Authority. |
| **4.** | Working knowledge of the structure of local government, the role of elected members and current issues facing local government. |
| **5.** | Understanding of the technical factors affecting the likelihood and severity of flooding in a community and to a property. |
| **6.** | Understanding of the range of different funding options available to flood risk management projects and the processes for applying for funding. |
| **7.** | Excellent organisational skills and time management skills and capable of working under pressure to achieve deadlines. |
| **8.** | Ability to manage projects to produce high quality outputs, delivering on time and to budget. |
| **9.** | Excellent written and verbal communication skills including being confident giving presentations and communicating with residents and Councillors. |
| **10.** | Ability to brief and train other people at different levels of knowledge and skills in relation to flood and water management and LLFA duties. |
| **11.** | Ability to manage sensitive conversations, focusing on effective customer care whilst also dealing with difficult customers. |
| **12.** | Practical knowledge of Microsoft Office packages, specialist databases and Geographical Information Systems. |
| **13.** | Willingness to travel regularly for site visits and meetings across Milton Keynes and semi-regularly further afield for strategic meetings. |
| **14.** | Full driving licence or alternative means of accessing appointments in Milton Keynes. |
| **15.** | Will have to attend Flood sites to assess damage/reasons. |



Job Family

Professional/Technical

Grade H

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| **Colleagues expectations*** Be professional at all times
* Work together for the good of the team, council and local people
* Promote a supportive culture
* Challenge assumptions
* Take ownership
* Be willing to change and do things differently
* Always work in a safe manner
 | **Managers expectations*** Be a role model by displaying positive behaviours at all times
* Make well-considered decisions
* Support, coach and communicate with my team
* Be accountable for my team’s performance
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Professional/Technical job holders rely upon their deep knowledge of the specialism or discipline in which they work to carry out vital tasks and provide authoritative advice to others. Often developing within recognised career paths, their evolving expertise sees them bear increasing responsibility for managing Council assets, the development of policies and procedures and the strategic direction of the functions they support.

### Role characteristics

At this level roles will have many day-to-day professional, technical and management issues to deal with but must also take a longer-term view of the service sector they support, assessing its changing needs and demands and making significant contributions to resource planning. This will see job holders dealing with serious issues without recourse to managers and making autonomous decisions based upon their specialist knowledge and dedicated experience.

### The knowledge and skills required

The broad knowledge requirement needed to deal with the technical and business challenges of roles is usually underpinned by an appreciation of the theoretical basis of the particular discipline such that job holders can fall back on the first principles of their specialism to make decisions and offer advice.

This level of knowledge is often indicated by the need for a degree level education in the relevant field, but for some roles this is substituted by a significant level of on-the-job training and focussed experience such that the level of expertise confers a similar level of authority.

While the majority of roles will have demands for manual dexterity in relation to typing and similar functions, other jobs at this level will use a range of equipment requiring precision in their use and handling.

### Thinking, planning and communication

Job holders will use their professional expertise to deal with complex, pressing issues on a day to day basis, but will also look well ahead and take a more strategic view of their project and service delivery objectives, shaping their teams’ composition, approach and operating procedures in accordance with wider service goals mandated by Service management.

At this level, the information exchanged with internal and external colleagues, and members of the public will call for developed communication skills on the part of the job holders. Matters will be technically complicated, requiring careful explanation, or sensitive, requiring significant listening skills to interpret information and provide appropriate advice.

**Decision making and innovation**

Job holders will have the freedom to interpret policy and broad operating guidelines in order to shape their teams’ detailed approach to meeting their corporate objectives and targets. They will deal with escalated, multi-faceted problems independently and will tend to only consult their manager on fundamental policy or resource issues.

### Areas of responsibility

With a diverse range of jobs being represented at this level, the precise blend of responsibilities for which the job holder is accountable will depend upon the service in which they operate.

External facing roles will focus on the needs of people, whether external service users or partners and will be responsible for high impact decision making and the implementation of appropriate programmes on behalf of individuals or groups of people or enforcement of regulations which have direct and significant consequences upon those served. Such roles are likely to have at least one other elevated level of responsibility for such elements as finance, information assets, equipment or premises.

Internal roles are likely to have this pattern reversed, with the weightiest responsibility for highly valuable or significant financial and non-financial assets, but somewhat less accountability for the assessment of needs of individuals and groups.

Jobs will generally have formal line management responsibility and will not only allocate and check work, but also be directly involved in assessment, recruitment, and other human resource related procedures. Posts that do not have this level of managerial responsibility are likely to have compensatory levels of accountability in relation to the users of Council services, finance or other major asset(s).

### Impacts and demands

Tasks and duties will be generally carried out in a sedentary position but there will always be a requirement for standing and walking from time to time, and the occasional need to lift or carry items.

The combination of both tactical and strategic matters that job holders deal with means that roles are inherently complex, demanding of lengthy periods of concentrated mental attention while also managing high levels of work-related pressure.

Duties of jobs at this level will not require job holders to develop and maintain working relationships with people who, through their circumstances or behaviour, place particular emotional demands on the job holder.

Job holders find themselves exposed to some disagreeable, unpleasant or hazardous working conditions. Particularly when the needs of their specialism require them to work on external sites exposed to the weather, in or around refuse and waste plant, close to particularly noisy machinery and in similar environments.

Other jobs, such as enforcement roles, may also see job holders exposed to verbal abuse and threatening environments. In all cases, job holders will minimise risk and conform to health and safety regulations to mitigate any negative effects of such exposure.