West Sussex County Council
County Arboriculturist

Further details

Closing: 11 July 2022

If you have a ‘can do’ attitude this could be the role for you...

About the job

We are looking for a County Arboriculturist to provide professional expertise on arboriculture.

**Salary:** £33,486 to £40,578 per annum, dependant on experience and knowledge.

**Working Pattern:** Full time, 37 hours per week.

**Contract Length:** Permanent.

**Location:** Based in Chichester, Hybrid working, requirement to travel around the County.

As a County Arboriculturist you will represent the County Council at relevant meetings and be an authoritative advocate for the trees, woodlands and hedgerows of West Sussex.

You will also be responsible for:

- Advising other business units on the implications of their work
- Overseeing the provision of, and directly providing, specialist advice to the County Council in relation to its own developments and its statutory planning role as the County Planning Authority and as the Highway Authority.
- Supervise the work of other specialists and provide mentoring and professional support as required.
- Identifying and taking an initial lead on matters affecting West Sussex trees such as ash dieback, oak processionary moth
- The protection and enhancement of the tree asset through delivery of the West Sussex Tree Plan.
- Maintaining and developing the established West Sussex Tree Wardens’ Network.
- Creating, reviewing and coordinating the delivery of policy and strategy
- Maintaining relationships with key external stakeholders such as The Tree Council, Forestry Commission and District and Borough Tree officers.

You’ll need to be able to travel independently to various sites, some in remote locations, attend external meetings and work in other locations around the county. The role may periodically require some limited physical demands and stamina. Occasionally, you may be inspecting trees in close proximity to dilapidated buildings where due care and attention to the environmental conditions and hazards are needed.
Experience and skills

Key Skills:

- Ability to research, analyse and interpret varied and complex information to produce and interpret complex drawings, to make effective and robust judgements.
- Strong problem-solving skills with the ability to anticipate problems and resolve issues independently, making sound pragmatic decisions which will have a direct impact on the business/service.
- Able to assist with effective people management, including performance management skills.
- Ability to exercise highly developed advisory or persuasive skills, encouraging individuals to adopt specific courses of action. You will be confident and effective at conveying information, judgements and recommendations in a professional manner to Council officers and elected members at every level and to external stakeholders as individuals and groups; you will be able to engage with a variety of media. You will be able to work collaboratively with colleagues to resolve problems and develop opportunities as a team.
- Sound and accurate IT and keyboard skills in order to analyse and research data and produce reports/statements.

Qualifications and/or experience:

- Degree in a relevant arboricultural discipline, or equivalent professional qualification or equivalent experience, demonstrating a high level of applied knowledge in researching, analysing and evaluating arguments and information.
- Professional membership of the Institute of Chartered Foresters or another relevant professional body is desirable.
- Relevant advanced theoretical and procedural knowledge of arboriculture, including an excellent working knowledge of relevant policy and legislation such as:
  - Tree Preservation Orders (and trees in Conservation Areas), BS5837, BS8545, BS3998, the National Planning Policy Framework, NJUG4, felling licences, England Tree Action Plan.
  - A thorough practical knowledge of trees, their pathogens, habitats and above and below ground requirements including advanced knowledge of how to care for, treat and maintain trees and tree inspection experience. A good understanding of the range of benefits that trees deliver (ecosystem services), with a balanced appreciation of their position in the overall infrastructure of West Sussex, e.g., the highway network, utilities and buildings and in the wider landscape context.
- Knowledge of the customer base to provide effective professional advice and to assist with motivating a specialist team in an environment service area.
- Experience in arboricultural environment related management, including experience of carrying out more complex work in one of the following areas: project management, providing high level complex advice, development of a day-to-day service.
- Sound and accurate IT knowledge.
Reward and benefits

In addition to working within a great team and a brilliant opportunity you will receive:

- A competitive salary.
- 26-29 days annual leave + bank holidays.
- A generous pension scheme.
- Training and development opportunities, including coaching and mentoring.
- A strong supportive management team.
- A range of discounts giving our staff access to hundreds of offers with the opportunity to save over £1,000 (Including: Argos, Samsung, Asos, B&Q and many more).
- Free access to employee assistance programmes.
- Discounted membership at selected local sports and fitness centres.
- Car benefit scheme.
- A range of commuting and business travel discounts and initiatives

For a full list of the benefits offered to you as a West Sussex County Council employee, go to our Rewards and Benefits page.

Further Information

The reference number for this role is **EIE00959**.

For an informal conversation or for further information regarding the role, please contact Don Baker, Team Manager - Environment & Heritage at **don.baker@westsussex.gov.uk**. For issues or queries regarding your application please contact **hrrecruitment@westsussex.gov.uk**.

To apply, please follow the links below upload your CV and complete the application form explaining the skills and experience you can bring to the role ensuring that any gaps in employment are covered in your CV.

West Sussex County Council is an equal opportunities employer committed to promoting an environment that is inclusive and free from all forms of unlawful or unfair discrimination and values the diversity of its people. We actively welcome applications from people of all backgrounds and take every possible step to ensure that no individual will be disadvantaged.

For information regarding your eligibility to apply for this role under our Disability or Veteran’s Guaranteed Interview Scheme, this can be found on our [application help](#) page.

Note for Recruitment Agencies: We prefer to hire people directly, but we do have a supplier list for when we need a helping hand. We’ll be in touch directly if we need you!