

Context statement

To accompany job description and person specification when required

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Job title: **Strategic Consultation and Engagement Officer – Transport**

Directorate/Service/Team: Place/Highways/Transport Planning

Organisation Structure

Reporting to: Implementation Team Manager – Transport Planning

Responsibility for: leading, developing and implementing strategic engagement and consultation activity on challenging transport schemes, stakeholder engagement, building and strengthening relationships with community partners to deliver impactful transport schemes

Context of Work

Dorset Council is committed to becoming a carbon neutral council by 2040 and a carbon neutral county by 2050. Currently over 30% of Dorset Council's carbon emissions come from the transport sector. A key objective of our Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology Strategy is to accelerate electric vehicle and charging infrastructure deployment and shift how Dorset travels to prioritise active and public modes through an integrated and affordable local transport system. High quality active travel schemes and increased coverage of electric vehicle charging infrastructure are critical to achieving the objectives of Dorset's Council plan: driving economic prosperity, creating stronger, healthier communities, creating sustainable development and housing, and protecting our natural environment, climate and ecology. To achieve these goals while being a more responsive customer focused council we want to work with communities to understand their needs and priorities and to tailor interventions to specific local circumstances.

Central Government has awarded Dorset Council funding to elevate our ability to deliver complex and impactful transport schemes. There are two specific focus points for this work – the delivery of active travel schemes and the next phase of our Electric Vehicle Charge Point programme, bringing on-street charging to Dorset.

For active travel schemes there is an opportunity to bring about change particularly in town centres, in schools and in lower income areas where car ownership is lower and public health impacts potentially highest.

The post will lead engagement on our electric vehicle charge point programme as we roll out on-street charging in Dorset. Placing new equipment on the highway in residential areas requires sensitivity to local demands while taking a robust approach to installation.

The role will also shape the consultation and engagement strategy for our emerging Local Transport Plan 4.

Dorset Council seeks someone to lead, develop and implement highly effective and targeted public and stakeholder engagement plans to enable the delivery of transport infrastructure and promote the transition to sustainable modes of transport. The successful candidate will need to work with a variety of stakeholders both internally (Dorset Highway Teams, Communications Teams, Public Health, Legal and Procurement Teams etc) and externally (Dorset Councillors, Town and Parish Councils, distribution network operators,).

The job may require you to work occasional evenings and even some weekends.



Key Responsibilities:

- Developing engagement strategies for stakeholders and the public on active travel and low carbon transport in accordance with Dorset Council’s strategic transport objectives
- Working closely with Dorset Council’s communications and consultations teams to ensure effective integration with other council initiatives
- Building relationships with key stakeholders on active travel, public realm and sustainable transport projects
- Engaging with internal stakeholders to embed active travel and sustainable transport activity within all relevant Dorset Council strategies and plans
- Actively listening to stakeholders and communities to develop insights and local intelligence to better hone schemes to local circumstances.
- Identifying and mitigating key risk points around public opinion and support for challenging schemes

Travel Requirement

This position has a significant travel requirement. This means that there is a requirement for a vehicle (or transport deemed to be suitable by the Council) to be available on most working days to carry out normal duties. Employees in positions with a significant travel requirement are required to provide a replacement vehicle if their usual vehicle is not available over an extended period. Where possible and reasonable however the applicant will be expected to lead by example in the use of public transport, walking and cycling when undertaking the role. Dorset Council also provides electric pool cars for use by employees. For this role the use of internal combustion vehicles for business travel is strongly discouraged.

Context statement prepared by:			
Manager	Laura Russ	Date	24/10/2024