

JOB DESCRIPTION
July 2024

Title & Reporting Relationships

Position Title:	Water/Rates Officer, Te Āpiha Tāke Kaunihera Wai Rates Team, Corporate Services Group
Grade:	SP10- SP11 <i>* appointment will be made based on skills, experience, and the organisational needs at the time</i>
Reports to:	Team Leader Rates
Direct Reports:	NIL
Purpose of the Group and the Position:	The Corporate Services Group , comprises: Digital Solutions; Finance; Governance and Legal Services; and Risk and Assurance.

The Corporate Services Group is responsible for providing the strategic management and robust effective operation of all financial management, information and technology management, governance and legal services as well as ensuring organisation wide risks are assessed and monitored.

As part of the wider Finance team, the Water/Rates Officer role works within the Rates team to enable the levy and collection of property and water rates. This includes management of the various databases and systems.

The Council has over 25,000 ratepayers who pay their rates on a quarterly basis. Water rates are charged separately to those properties within the water supply service area on a volume basis recorded by water meters.

The role of the Rates team is to ensure the billing and collection of rates in a manner that is:

- Customer focused
- Efficient
- Accurate
- Timely

The Water/Rates Officer works as part of a team to ensure all functions of rating are working effectively. This will include maintaining ratepayer information; processing changes; rebates and remission; debt collection and responding to customer enquiries.

- Internal Customers:** This role is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective, co-operative and professional working relationships with all stakeholders including:
- Team Leader Rates
 - Rates Manager
 - Chief Financial Officer
 - Group Manager Corporate Services
 - Other Members of the Rates and wider Finance team
 - Property team
 - Customer Engagement team
 - Infrastructure Services Group
 - Water and Wastewater Asset Manager
 - Reticulations team
 - ICT Team
 - staff from other teams across the Council

- External Customers:**
- Ratepayers
 - Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency
 - Kainga Ora Housing New Zealand
 - Meter Reading Contractor
 - Dataprint
 - Valuation Service Provider – Quotable Value
 - Solicitors
 - Department of Internal Affairs
 - Land Information New Zealand
 - MagiQ
 - Debt collection agencies

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND OUTCOMES

In the current local government environment, Council must be well positioned and supported to meet the current and future needs of our communities for good quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is cost-effective for businesses and residents. The Council needs to be ready for, and respond appropriately to, changes in external operating environments (such as shifts in government policy), which in turn influences how we do things. The Council is working to be well-positioned not only to see what is coming but also to take opportunities to influence the shape of these externally driven changes.

We require all staff to demonstrate behaviours that underscore our commitment to build and maintain an organisation that is acknowledged and respected for being:

- Caring – we understand our customers’ needs, share information and work as a team;
- Dynamic – we bring a can-do attitude to make it happen; and
- Effective – we get it right and deliver consistent, value for money services.

Staff will be aware of political sensitivities, support equal employment opportunities, and demonstrate an understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi within the context of a local authority.

Functional Key Requirements

Water Rates Administration and Processes:

- Maintenance of the rates and water rates database to ensure compliance with the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and Councils Funding Impact Statement – Rating Policies.
- Setup of new rates accounts - focus may be assigned to either property or water or both.

- Assisting with the processing of new subdivisions in the District with a focus in regard to water as required.
- Ensure all water meter reading schedules are correct and sent to meter reading contractors within required monthly timeframes.
- Process all water meter readings received and resolve meter reading discrepancies with AD Riley and /or Ratepayers to ensure that water rates invoices can be issued each month to meet invoicing deadlines as included in the Funding Impact Statement – rating policies. This includes all checks for accuracy and may require liaison with external printer and other teams as required.
- Liaise with Reticulations and Infrastructure Team regarding water meter replacement and new connections.
- Investigate undelivered water invoice emails.
- Preparation of the yearly water meter reading schedule.
- Assess and calculate all private water leak credit applications, including obtaining necessary supporting information, and notifying ratepayers of application outcomes..
- Calculate and process water rates recalculations once approved.
- Maintain Water rates records in Council Document management system Ed.
- Ensure Water Rates process notes are kept up to date.
- Assist with completing year end processes for water rates including identifying changes required on the water invoice and database changes required for the new rating year.
- System testing as required for new or system changes for the water rates module.
- Identify and implement improvements to the water processes and systems as required by the Manager.
- Process direct debit authorities when required.
- Assist with the collection of outstanding water rates as required.
- Maintain the Customer Rating Information Database as required.
- Prepare refunds/transfers as required.
- Answer all property and water rates queries received by phone, email, service request and the customer service counter.

Rates Administration and Processes

- The Water/Rates officer will also assist with property rates processes as required, including but not limited to:
 - Responding to Customer enquiries
 - Processing Rates Rebates
 - Processing Sale Notices and Change of Ownership Notices
 - Customer Change of Details requests
 - Solicitor enquiries
 - Processing direct debits
 - Assist with the collection of outstanding property rates as required
 - Prepare refunds/transfers for approval as required.

Personal Key Results

- Demonstrate commitment to organisational values through behaviour that is consistent with our caring, dynamic and effective approach to customer service.
- Establish and maintain effective and efficient working relationships with all stakeholders.
- Contribute collaboratively, positively, and effectively to the operation of the team, the Group, and the organisation as a whole.
- Take responsibility for your own self-development to enhance skills and knowledge applicable to current and future positions.
- Exhibit behavior which is consistent with the understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its application for the Council.

Health and Safety

All employees have a responsibility to work towards keeping a safe and healthy work environment by following all safe work methods, identifying work place risks and

hazards and using appropriate safety equipment. This includes but is not exclusive to demonstration of the following:

- Taking all reasonable steps to ensure your own safety at work, and that no action or inaction of yours while at work causes harm to any person or the environment;
- Reporting any risks and/or hazards you become aware of in the workplace;
- Observing all safety policies, procedures and precautions, including wearing and using the protective clothing and equipment;
- Notifying your manager/Group Manager/H&S Advisor immediately if you have an accident/incident/near miss at work and completing the required forms within 24 hours;
- Notifying your manager/Group Manager/H&S Advisor within 24 hours of filing any ACC claim for a work related accident or gradual process injury, and provide your manager/Group Manager/H&S Advisor with copies of relevant medical information specific to your claim; and
- Complying with all policies and procedures that are in place.

At the discretion of the Council, as part of a rehabilitation programme, you may be required to return to work to undertake such alternative duties as are available and are as reasonably within your capability and level of fitness as determined in consultation with a registered medical practitioner.

Essential Skills, Knowledge and Experience

- Demonstrated attention to detail.
- Experience with financial systems, software and databases.
- Demonstrated good interpersonal skills and commitment to customer service and capability to work with a wide range of people within and outside the organisation.
- Demonstrated ability to plan, work to and meet deadlines and manage workloads effectively under pressure if required.
- Ability to work effectively without supervision and collaboratively as an effective team member.
- Ability and willingness to learn new systems and applications.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Knowledge of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and/or experience working in a similar role.
- High level of computer skills competency – MS Office products; and MagiQ is an advantage.

OTHER INFORMATION

From time to time, the position holder may be required to perform other duties in conjunction with the role and which are reasonably within their experience and capabilities.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Kapiti Coast District Council has a responsibility to contribute to meeting obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Meeting our commitment to Te Tiriti will contribute towards creating an organisation that is grounded, dynamic and resilient and supports our organizational values of being Caring, Dynamic and Effective in how we work.

Staff will contribute to the promotion of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the involvement of Māori within the decision-making process for matters related to and important to them within the Council management processes and procedures.

Inclusion of Te Tiriti o Waitangi within all aspects of the role and its outcomes is necessary, while ensuring the engagement processes include appropriate mechanisms to meet the needs and aspirations of our hapori Māori, informed by our mana whenua partners – in an appropriate and safe manner.

To give effect to our responsibilities and achieve our respective outcomes – Tiriti training will be appropriate and organised through Te Rōpū Hononga ā-Iwi / Iwi Partnerships Group.

Civil Defence, Emergency Management and Business Continuity Duties

All staff of Kāpiti Coast District Council may be required to undertake Civil Defence and/or Emergency Management duties in the event of an emergency. (Training will be given as appropriate.) Staff will also be required to assist with maintaining business continuity in the event of a disruption to Council business and/or the impact of a pandemic by undertaking duties in accordance with how the Council responds to the interruption.

The Council likewise recognises the staff member's need to ensure their family's needs are adequately catered for.

Performance Review

Performance in this position will be assessed in terms of an agreed performance plan.

JD APPENDIX - GENERIC ORGANISATIONAL COMPETENCIES

Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All employees of the Council are expected to be leaders in supporting the Council's vision, role modelling the delivery of consistent high customer service levels to internal and external customers and championing Council values. • Leaders are expected to actively contribute to achieving the Council's aspirations with respect to the relationships with Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki; and be willing and able to provide thought leadership and quality advice to enable our elected members to make good decisions. • People Leaders are expected to: effectively build and maintain an engaged, healthy, thriving and high performing team; ensure their people are current in their knowledge of legislation and training is available to keep pace with best practice. • Ensure people policy and practices are consistently observed and implemented and opportunities exist for ongoing professional growth and development; ensure their people are consistently working collaboratively with other Council teams in the delivery of operational and strategic outputs; effectively manage day to day work output and timeframes; schedule and conduct regular team meetings to enable opportunities for team members to be informed and up to date in their areas and those areas that cross over with other teams. • Ensure individual team member performance is monitored, reviewed with appropriate and timely feedback, and written performance reviews are formally completed in a timely manner; ensure adequate provision of backup/cover for team members; establish an effective performance culture within their team, including ongoing performance appraisals with clear performance indicators and consistent standards. • Team Leaders/Supervisors/Managers are accountable for the leadership, support and coaching of their team members, the fostering of a teamwork approach to the delivery of both the team and the Group's outputs, and the identification of training and development as appropriate; enable, create and encourage linkages across the Council and the region for the benefit of all, the delivery of work programmes and the achievement of strategic priorities; embed strong leadership within their team and across the wider Council leadership group that drives increased diversity, engagement, capability and performance.
Legislative Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep up to date with legislation/amended legislative frameworks and be able to demonstrate the application of such changes (in work and or communicate them to others).
Project Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectively manage assigned projects to ensure on time and within budget, monitor and report regularly to manage risk and provide updates to key stakeholders. • Ensure documentation is current, available as required and is prepared using Council standard templates/documentation. • Ensure Council processes and procedures are complied with.
Customer Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a professional, courteous, and helpful attitude to all customers (internal and external) ensuring communication is

	<p>accurate, succinct and in a manner which promotes customer service excellence and demonstrates organizational values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always maintain confidentiality.
Teamwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate willingly and positively in the orientation, training and support of new staff in specific areas, providing coaching/buddy support as required. • Provide a contribution to or participate in any projects and initiatives within the Group/organisation where required and the opportunity arises. • Participate in initiatives and contribute suggestions as to improvements and/or efficiencies to enable ongoing quality improvement. • Demonstrate a collaborative working style and participate as a member of the team undertaking all tasks maintaining positive working relationships with other staff members and internal and external customers.
Financial Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all financial activity is conducted in accord with current policy and procedures. • Ensure you work within your financial delegation.
Monitoring and Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure any written reports are produced using Council standard templates and are provided within the required Peer Review timeframes. • Review, monitor and report on activity or projects as required by the manager.
Relationship Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build and maintain effective professional working relationship with all key stakeholders. • Build and maintain effective working relationships with other council staff members based on a collaborative, collegial and cooperative working style.
Information Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take responsibility for ensuring Council information is stored with the appropriate accessibility in the designated systems, using processes and tools as described in the current Information Management Policy.