

ROLE DESCRIPTION
February 2022

Title & Reporting Relationships

Position Title: **Policy Planner (Principal) Kaiwhakatau Kaupapa Matua, District Planning Team, Strategy Growth & Recovery Group**

Grade: SP 18

Reports to: District Planning Manager

Direct Reports: Role has significant thought leadership responsibilities and will involve coaching less experienced team members.

Purpose of the Group and the Position: **The Strategy, Growth and Recovery Group** leads the Council's strategic growth and recovery work.

Overall the Group is responsible for the policy, research and strategy work program, district planning, strategic property matters, strategic housing matters, and economic development including tourism support activities. The teams within this Group will work collaboratively together and across the organisation to ensure effective and fit for purpose research, policy formulation, and strategic planning.

Within this Group, the Principal Policy Planner role works within the District Planning team to maintain the District Plan and to ensure that it is fit for purpose.

Indirect Reports:

- Graduate, intermediate and senior policy planners in terms of managing workload and providing peer review and advice.
- University students carrying out research and consultants providing services to Council.

Internal Contacts: This role is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective, co-operative and professional working relationships with all stakeholders including:

- Group Manager Strategy, Growth and Recovery Group
- District Planning Manager
- Other District Planning Team staff
- Other teams in the Strategy, Growth and Recovery Group
- Staff in other Council Groups, particularly Regulatory Services, Infrastructure, People and Partnerships and Parks
- Elected Members

External Contacts:

- Tāngata whenua
- Business, educational, professional and community groups
- Greater Wellington Regional Council
- Staff in other local authorities and government and non-government agencies
- Developer and local environmental groups
- Residents, ratepayers and community groups
- Consultants/contractors providing services to Council.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND OUTCOMES

In the current local government environment the Council must be well positioned and supported to meet the current and future needs of communities for good quality local infrastructure, local public services and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for businesses and households. The Council needs to be ready for, and respond appropriately to, changes in external operating environments (such as shifts in government policy), which influence how we do things. The Council works 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.

Our behaviours demonstrate 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 the implications of the Treaty of Waitangi on the operations of a local authority.

FUNCTIONAL KEY RESULTS

The Principal Policy Planner is a senior role within the team and will be expected to lead and coach less experienced members of the team. The role will also be required to:

- Assist the District Planning Manager and other team members as required with tasks related to preparing and processing plan changes to the District Plan. This includes but is not exclusive to:
 - Drafting of plan changes including section 32 analysis;
 - Consultation with statutory bodies, tangata whenua and affected parties;
 - Notification and administration of plan changes;
 - Summarising and notification of submissions;
 - Writing plan change approval and hearing reports;
 - Notifying decisions;
 - Giving evidence and responding to questions at the Environment Court where necessary;
 - Amending the District Plan when plan changes are operative.
- Provide mentorship and guidance for less experienced Policy Planners within the team.
- Undertake research on planning issues affecting the District as directed by the Manager.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the District Plan and ensure it is able to be implemented effectively.
- Assist Manager as required in providing advocacy and comment on a variety of environmental policy issues by way of submission to other agencies.
- Ensure relevant statutory deadlines are met.

- Successfully work with the community, interest groups including non-governmental organisations, iwi and government agencies to achieve their effective involvement and better environmental outcomes.
- Lead significant sustainable growth and development projects, including District Plan changes as required.
- Conduct effective project design and management.
- Provide high quality policy advice to Chief Executive, Group Managers and Elected Members.
- Conduct thorough research sufficient to progress strategic and policy issues.
- Produce well-structured, readable and accessible strategic and policy statements.

Legislative Compliance

- 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

- 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

- Maintain a professional, courteous, and helpful attitude to all customers (internal and external) ensuring communication is accurate, succinct and in a manner which promotes customer service excellence.
- Maintain confidentiality at all times.

Teamwork

- Participate willingly and positively in the orientation and training 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

- Ensure all financial activity is conducted in accord with current policy and procedures.
- Ensure you work within your financial delegation.

Monitoring and Reporting

- Review, monitor and report on activity or projects as required by the manager.
- Ensure any written reports are produced using Council standard templates and are provided within the required Peer Review timeframes.

Relationship Management

- Build and maintain effective professional working relationships 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

- Take responsibility for ensuring Council information is stored with the appropriate accessibility in the designated EDRMS system, using processes and tools as described in the current Information Management Policy.

Personal Key Results

- Demonstrate commitment to organisational values through behaviour that is consistent with our Caring, Dynamic and Effective – Open for Business approach to customer service;
- Establish and maintain effective and efficient working relationships with all stakeholders;
- Contribute positively and effectively to the operation of the team and the Group as a whole;
- Take responsibility for your own self development in order to enhance skills and knowledge applicable to current and future positions; and
- Exhibit behaviours consistent with the understanding of the Treaty of 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

- effective interpersonal skills with a demonstrated commitment to customer service and willingness to and capability for working with a wide range of people within and outside the organization.
- effective time management skills and ability to work effectively without supervision and collaboratively as an effective team member.
- holder of a current and valid NZ Drivers' license.
- Demonstrated effective interpersonal skills with a commitment to customer service and capability for working with a wide range of people within and outside the organisation;
- Demonstrated ability to gain and maintain professional credibility, confidence and respect among wide range of District agencies, community groups, and council staff;
- Proven conceptual skills and demonstrated capability to contribute to the formulation of policy;

- Demonstrated thorough understanding and knowledge of ramifications and impact of legislation interpretation in particular the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Local Government Act 1974 and 2002;
- Demonstrated effective communication skills, both oral and written;
- Demonstrated high level of accomplishment and a solid track record in sustainable development, environmental and/or resource management issues;
- Demonstrated success with investigations and involvement of the community and interest groups leading to the development of policy.

Technical Skills:

- A relevant tertiary qualification in planning, resource management, law, public policy, environmental science or related fields, and significant relevant working experience in the area of urban and/or environmental planning.
- Membership of the New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI) is preferable.
- Demonstrated sound understanding and knowledge of sustainable development principles.

Leadership skills:

- Demonstrated ability to influence agencies, groups and individuals to attain sustainable development outcomes.
- Demonstrated ability to lead multidisciplinary teams and the community in undertaking urban development projects.

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.

Civil Defence Duties

All staff of Kāpiti Coast District Council may be required to undertake Civil Defence duties in the event of an emergency. (Training will be given as appropriate.)

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.