# EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL JOB DESCRIPTION

# Job Title: Solicitor

# Department: Governance Services

# Grade: [Local Managerial Grade 1/2](https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/jobs/working-here/pay/local-managerial-grades)

# Responsible to: Senior Solicitor

# Purpose of the Role:

Legal Services is a dynamic team which provides advice and representation to East Sussex County Council and to wider public sector partners. The Team advises on a range of matters, including safeguarding vulnerable adults and children, employment, information, criminal and civil litigation, contracts and procurement and planning and highways. The Service is supported by a team of around 50 qualified and unqualified staff.

The purpose of the role is to provide a high-quality legal service to instructing departments acting on behalf the Council clientand to contracted public bodies, to enable them to make and implement decisions within the law and to protect the Council and contracted public bodies against prosecution and challenge.

# Key tasks:

1. Act upon instructions to assist and support instructing officers to carry out their objectives, utilising the post-holders skills, expertise and knowledge.
2. Advise instructing officers of legal and other consequences of proposed courses of action, so as to enable them to give or modify instructions effectively.
3. Notify the Senior Solicitor of any instructions or events that would result in a breach of any legislation, common law, standing order or rule of propriety or would constitute a course of action amounting to maladministration.
4. Review the general activities of the Council in the areas of law and practice that may be assigned to the post and to consider and propose alternative or different courses of action to ensure effective implementation of the instructing officer’s proposals or achievement of objectives or resolve problems and/or to ensure best practice within the Council, particularly in the light of changes of developments in the law.
5. Undertake casework across a range of legal services provided by the Department as required; particular areas of law may be assigned to the post, but it is essential that post holder should be able and willing to carry out a variety of legal work to support an effective legal services team. The post-holder may be required to give advice to Members/ Committees.
6. Ensure all work is carried out to the standards required by arrangement with the instructing department and by any policy or practice management standards adopted.
7. Aware of the cost to the instructing department of individual activities. To make reasonable estimates of likely costs to instructing officers for the effective implementation of instructions and to advise the Senior Solicitor in the event that such estimates are agreed where fixed costs are likely to be exceeded.
8. Participate in the appraisal process currently in place and to participate in training and development activities identified as a result of that process.
9. Ensure that the Council’s equalities and health and safety policies are observed.
10. Undertake available training opportunities and show a commitment to continuous development, to maximise your potential and ensure the efficient and effective delivery of the Council’s services.
11. Undertake any other tasks commensurate with the grading of the post.
12. Undertake advocacy if the particular post demands it.

**For progression to LMG2:**

1. Lead meetings/team discussions to solve problems and implement solutions.
2. Advise, guide and train less experienced staff/instructing departments/county councillors effectively.
3. Undertake a complex caseload effectively with minimum supervision.
4. Explain complex legal documentation and points of law to instructing departments, including non-specialists.
5. Undertake advocacy on behalf of the Council on a more regular basis, if the particular post demands it.

Please note that the above grades are not linked and therefore it is not possible to automatically progress through the Solicitor grades. Grade will be determined by the level of business need, the tasks undertaken and essential criteria that have been met upon appointment to the role.

Recognising that ESCC is a large organisation with a number of over-arching priorities extending to all areas of our work, you should be aware of these Council priorities and align strategic decisions with them, proactively seeking appropriate opportunities in your work/service area, and that of others, to contribute, in consultation with your line manager; in particular, but not limited to:

* Net zero emissions targets – reduce the environmental impact of your work, and that of the services you are responsible for.
* Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – proactively contributing to an inclusive and supportive working environment.
* Making the best of our resources - always being aware of what you can do to maximise the use of public monies in the services we both commission and provide, and proactively identifying areas to improve value for money wherever possible.

# PERSON SPECIFICATION

# Essential education and qualifications

1. Practising Solicitor or Barrister

# Essential key skills, abilities, knowledge, experience, values and behaviours

1. Ability to provide prompt and accurate legal advice
2. Clarity in both written and oral communications
3. Ability to communicate effectively with a diverse range of personnel/organisations
4. Negotiating and drafting skills
5. Ability to analyse factual situations, research the relevant law and apply it
6. Ability to work effectively with elected members
7. Knowledge and experience of the law and practice within the designated field as specified in the advert text.
8. Ability to demonstrate experience of conducting own caseload within defined areas of legal practice.
9. Advocacy experience
10. Ability to work within a team and when necessary independently.
11. Aptitude to embrace new areas of law and concepts so as to develop specialist skills further.
12. Committed to equal opportunities.
13. Ability to meet the travelling requirements of the role.

**For LMG2:**

1. Ability to lead meetings/team discussions to solve problems and implement solutions.
2. Ability to undertake a complex caseload effectively with minimal supervision
3. Ability to explain complex legal documentation and points of law to instructing departments, including non-specialists
4. Ability to advise,guide and train legal staff/instructing departments/county councillors
5. Ability to regularly undertake advocacy, if required by the post

# Desirable key skills, abilities, knowledge, experience, values and behaviours

1. Understanding of Local Government practice and procedure
2. Knowledge of democratic and political aspects of Local Government
3. Recent Local Government experience
4. Ability to adapt to changing work practices and the challenges presented by shared services and change in Local Government

**Document version control:**

Date created/amended: November 2024

Name of person created/amended document:RD

Job Evaluation Reference: 5413

Health & Safety Functions

This section is to make you aware of any health & safety related functions you may be expected to either perform or to which may be exposed in relation to the post you are applying for. This information will help you if successful in your application identify any health-related condition which may impact on your ability to perform the job role, enabling us to support you in your employment by way of reasonable adjustments or workplace support.

| **Function** | **Applicable to role**  |
| --- | --- |
| Using display screen equipment  | Yes |
| Working with children/vulnerable adults | No |
| Moving & handling operations | No |
| Occupational Driving | No |
| Lone Working | No |
| Working at height | No |
| Shift / night work | No |
| Working with hazardous substances | No |
| Using power tools | No |
| Exposure to noise and /or vibration | No |
| Food handling | No |
| Exposure to blood /body fluids | No |