

Job Pack

**Information
Governance
Officer**



Lewes District Council



Location

Thank you for taking the time to look at the details of this post.

Located in the heart of the Sussex countryside and one of the principal towns of the South Downs National Park Lewes offers the best of town and country. It is no surprise that the District is considered among the most desirable places to live and work in the UK.

Lewes town is one of the jewels of the South Downs National Park and the District also possesses many picturesque towns and villages, all with their own unique character.

Whilst nearby Eastbourne is a resort town on England's southeast coast. On the seafront are Victorian hotels, the 19th-century Eastbourne Pier and a 1930s bandstand. Discover a wide range of shops in Eastbourne from high street shopping at The Beacon to the quaint Victorian shopping streets of Little Chelsea, and the boutiques in the Enterprise Centre.

One of the most attractive aspects of living and working in the Lewes and Eastbourne area is the quality of life it has to offer. It is a truly exceptional location. Make the most of the area by enjoying a wide range of activities including country walks, water sports and much more.

Our offices in Lewes and Eastbourne are located close to Train Stations with direct connections to the coast and London. However, the Council provide all the necessary IT and infrastructure to enable home working and maintain a good work life balance

“The best of town, country and coast”

We are able to offer our staff a range of benefits and access to discounts as follows:

- Membership at local leisure centres who are part of Wave Leisure across the District and Borough and at the Sovereign Centre in Eastbourne.
- Kaarp Benefits which are only available to Local Government employees and includes between 3 and 4.5% savings at supermarkets when purchasing a gift card as well as savings on attractions and discounts on many other things.
- Chorus Workplace Savings Scheme
- Boundless which includes up to 10% off high-street and supermarket goods through discounted pre-paid shopping cards.
- CSSC which includes free entry to a number of tourist attractions and a free tastecard as well as discounted cinema visits and 4% saving on supermarket shopping through pre-paid shopping cards.
- Public Sector Discounts – by paying £9.99 for a Black Card £2.99 staff are able to access discounts such as 2.5% cashback – ASDA, 3.5% cashback – Sainsbury's, Waitrose and M&S, 4.5% cashback on B&Q and Primark and 5% cashback – Boots, Carpetright, Clarks, feelunique, Halfords, Harvester, John Lewis, National Express, New Look, River Island, Body Shop, Nike, The White Company, The Works, Waterstones, Wilko etc.
- Easit – the Councils have joined the Queens Award winning easitNETWORK group through which we hope to influence travel behaviour in the area by providing a full range of transport options to encourage staff to adopt more sustainable commuting habits. EasitNETWORK is a social enterprise, not for profit organisation that is all about sustainable travel. Our staff can benefit from many transport discounts including 15% discount on Southern rail journeys across the network (except central London zones 1,2,+ 3); including peak time travel; 10% discount at Halfords on all bikes, cycling accessories, servicing and parts; 15% discounts on monthly and annual bike insurance and 25% discount on new, electric, folding Beat Bikes.
- Eyesight tests vouchers are available for all drivers and computer users which include a discount off selected glasses and when glasses are required solely for VDU use.
- Vouchers for fully funded flu vaccinations through Boots which staff can redeem, arrange and book at a participating Boots Pharmacy of their choice.
- Cyclescheme - The UK's leading provider of the cycle to work scheme and the founding member of the Cycle to Work Alliance. It enables our staff to get a bike tax-free, saving between 25-39%. Participants can choose from over 2,000 retailers and enjoy the ability to shop in-store or online.

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- We also understand that balancing everyday life together with the requirements of work and home can create pressures for all of us. To support our staff in achieving this balance we have an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) in place. Our EAP is currently provided by Health Assured an independent external organisation who work to a robust professional code of strict confidentiality.
 - They offer both emotional and practical support to our staff when they feel they need it. They also have qualified legal advisors who will assist with any legal matters. They will provide advice and guidance on matters such as writing a will, tenancy and housing concerns, divorce procedures, boundary disputes, probate costs, motoring issues, property and partnership rights and immigration information.
 - Our EAP is available 24/7, 365 days and year. As part of this service we are also able to offer staff access to an app where they can find useful articles and webinars alongside an enhanced set of wellbeing tools and engaging features to support wellbeing and wellness.
 - Within the Councils we have a number of staff trained to provide 'first aid' to staff experiencing mental health issues. Mental Health first aiders are trained to listen, reassure and respond, even in a crisis – and even potentially stop a crisis from happening.
 - They are able to empower others to access the support they might need for successful management of symptoms. This could include self-help books or websites, accessing services via their GP, the EAP, other support groups and more.

Job Description

Post Title	Information Governance Officer
Service Area	Corporate Services
Team	Legal Services
Grade / salary	LDC Scale 4, 07-11
Reports to	Information Governance Manager
Date prepared	February 2025

Job Purpose

For both Lewes District Council and Eastbourne Borough Council, to maintain appropriate systems to support aspects of information governance, including Freedom of Information, Data Protection and Environmental Information Regulations and related requests, and to undertake day to day administration relating to information enquiries and requests.

Key Tasks

1. Maintain appropriate systems (including Pentana) for the efficient and timely administration of requests relating to Freedom of Information ('FOI'), Data Protection ('DP') (including subject access requests, housing disrepair requests) and Environmental Information ('EIR') requests ensuring all statutory deadlines are met.
2. Advise officers preparing responses to FOI, DP (including subject access requests, and housing disrepair requests) and EIR requests, to ensure information provided is appropriate and complies with FOI, DP and EIR legislation and associated guidance.
3. Provide advice and guidance as to (i) whether information requests fall under the FOI regime or EIR Regulations, (ii) whether one or more exemptions from the statutory duty to disclose may apply to individual requests, and (iii) how, in the case of qualified exemptions, the public interest test should be applied in deciding whether to disclose the information requested.
4. Where appropriate, and particularly on matters involving sensitive, high profile or legally complex issues, seek advice from Information Governance Manager on the operation of information governance legislation, case law and regulatory guidance.
5. Seek advice from Information Governance Manager on any matter which may require the application of section 36 of the FOI Act (exemption where disclosure prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs).

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6. Maintain, and update as necessary, the Council's Publication Scheme including updating Business Rates, Public Health funeral files monthly, this may also include uploading other files as and when needed.
 7. Log and record personal data breaches when the Information Governance Manager and Data Protection Officer are not available.
 8. Act as first point of contact with the Information Commissioner's office and council officers when the Information Governance Manager and Data Protection Officer are not available.
 9. Provide reports and statistical analysis when required from data collected.
 10. Be prepared to offer advice to other officers on Data Protection and Freedom of Information matters when necessary, including providing training when required on Information Governance.
 11. Check the council's information system regularly for information requests which come in via the website.
 12. Undertake all training activities needed to ensure continuing effective performance in their post, including developing and maintaining detailed knowledge of legislation and guidance relating to information governance through self-study, attendance at training courses and liaison with peer groups. Ensure relevant information is disseminated within the organisation, including providing briefings for the Corporate Management Team.
 13. Contribute to wider team goals and projects as required.
 14. Follow the Council's employment policies and procedures as set out in its "Staff Guide" plus any specific departmental requirements and in particular, to follow those relating to Health and Safety, Use and Security of IT facilities, Information Handling and Equalities
 15. Undertake such other duties as appropriate to the grade and designation of the post as may be required by their manager

Corporate Accountabilities

1. To promote equality of opportunity in service delivery in line with strategic commitment and corporate policies.
2. To Promote a culture that is supportive of the Council's purpose, aims and values, and to take all reasonable steps to maintain good employee relations
3. Staff are encouraged to participate fully in promoting a safety culture to protect the safety and health of themselves, colleagues and other people affected by the Council's activities
4. To understand and apply the council's Data Protection and Data Quality policy and procedures

5. Any other duties commensurate with the nature of the post.
6. You will be required to support Eastbourne Borough Council's corporate priorities and to ensure business continuity e.g. emergency response, elections, deployment to critical services.
7. To work within the Council's Core Competencies Framework. Central to the delivery of the role are the values and behaviours set out below. These are shared by all employees and applied to everything we do. The bullet points for each competency are examples of performance required:

Core Competencies

Sharing the Vision – Shaping the Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands the Council's purpose, goals, objectives and values, and is willing to behave consistently with them. • Knows the strategic direction of the Council and acts in support of it.
Communicating Well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the right information to the right people, at the right time, via the right method. • Works positively to gain understanding from others.
Driving Improvement, Performance and Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes responsibility and ownership for decisions, actions and results. • Takes actions to improve skills, knowledge and level of contribution. • Seeks and delivers high standards for self, team and Council.
Self-Management – self-motivated and professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is organised and uses time and technology efficiently. Adopts a flexible approach to change.
Delivering for our Customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates a desire to identify and give priority to meeting the needs of internal and external customers, generating high levels of customer satisfaction.
Working Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively contributes to team working, sharing information, valuing the input of others. Works cooperatively and is committed to building productive, positive relationships.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates commitment to achieving overall team objectives.
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This job description sets out the duties of the post at the time it was drawn up. Such details will vary from time to time without changing the general character of the duties or the level of responsibility involved.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

SKILLS & ABILITIES

Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high level of literacy and numeracy • A high degree of computer literacy • Able to work mainly without direct supervision • Able to interpret legislation and government guidance in a local government context • Highly organised and able to manage multiple tasks concurrently in a pressured environment • Methodical, thorough and with good attention to detail • Able to analyse complex information and reach sound conclusions • Able to develop and administer IT based systems for information management • Good communication skills, being able to train and brief staff at all levels • Able to demonstrate discretion and to handle confidential information sensitively. • Able to work with all officers sensitively but tenaciously in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to use content management systems to manage website content

ensuring statutory response deadlines are met.	
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KNOWLEDGE

Essential	Desirable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge and training in data protection, FOI, EIR and information governance issues and related legislation
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EXPERIENCE

Essential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience and knowledge of working in local government 	Desirable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience of dealing with Freedom of Information requests
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All staff must be prepared to have an understanding of the Equal Opportunities, Customer Care and Health and Safety policies. Managers in particular, must have a commitment to implement and abide by these policies.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Lewes District and Eastbourne Borough Councils have been on a transformational journey to fully integrate services. This has involved integrating staff teams, processes and systems whilst still retaining sovereignty of the individual councils.

The employer will be Lewes District Council.

Duration

This is a permanent contract.

Conditions of Service

The conditions of service for this post are for the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services. The post is graded SC4.

Salary

The spinal column points (SCP) for the post are as follows:

SCP 07	£26,813
SCP 08	£27,246
SCP 09	£27,689
SCP 10	£28,140
SCP 11	£28,599

Hours

The hours for this post are 37 a week. These will be worked within operational requirements. Actual starting and finishing times will be agreed with your manager. Within these boundaries the Council operates a flexitime scheme for all but Heads of Service. Details will be supplied to the successful candidate upon appointment.

Place of Work

Your normal place of work will be from home, however you will be required to attend the offices at either Eastbourne or Lewes, or such other places within the boundaries of Lewes District and Eastbourne Borough as may be reasonably required.

In particular, you will be required to:

- Budget for and cover the costs of all expenses incurred (including travel costs) to attend Team Meetings or Events, as well as for training at any of the Councils' sites.
- Budget for and allocate time to travel to appointments in the Councils boundaries where required. For example, visits that need to be performed as part of your role and cannot reasonably or appropriately be carried out remotely.
- Budget for and cover all postage costs (including return postage from Councils sites to your home) for all IT and other work equipment, when this needs to be replaced or updated. This includes but is not limited to, your work phone/headset and your laptop, such as for updates to software that need your laptop onsite connected to the LAN.

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- Continue to participate in all meetings as reasonably required, such as 121 meetings, team meetings, attendance management meetings, or consultations on any proposed changes, such as restructures. Where possible and appropriate, these meetings will be conducted remotely but where it is not possible or it is deemed inappropriate for the meeting to be conducted remotely, you will be required to cover all expenses incurred (including travel) for your attendance at said meetings.

Probationary Period

All posts are subject to a six months' probationary period where your suitability for the post will be assessed. During this time your progress will be reviewed and discussed with you at regular intervals.

Casual User Car Mileage

You will be entitled to mileage as a casual user on official business. This mileage is reviewed annually.

Annual Leave

The leave year runs from 1 April to 31 March and entitlement varies with length of service. The current minimum entitlement is 26 days. This increases to 30 days in the leave year following completion of five years' service. Subject to the demands of the post, you will normally receive additional paid leave on each Public Holiday.

An employee who starts part way through the year will receive a proportion of the basic holiday entitlement. For operational reasons some Service Areas have to restrict the maximum amount of holiday taken at any one time and its timing in the year. Holiday commitments entered into before taking up an appointment will be honoured wherever possible.

Notice Period

The contract of employment applicable to this post will specify a minimum period of one calendar months, to be given by either side.

Pension

We provide membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) to employees aged under 75 who have a contract of employment that is for at least 3 months. The LGPS is a qualifying pension scheme, which means it meets or exceeds the government's standards.

All employees are automatically entered into the Local Government Pension Scheme unless they choose to make alternative provision for pension. Scheme members contribute the percentage of salary as set out in the table below. We will also make an employer's contribution to the scheme.

The contribution bands with effect from 01 April 2025 are:

Pay Range	Contribution
Up to £17,800	5.50%
£17,801 to £28,000	5.80%
£28,001 to £45,600	6.50%

£45,601 to £57,700	6.80%
£57,701 to £81,000	8.50%
£81,001 to £114,800	9.90%
£114,801 - £135,300	10.50%
£135,301 - £203,000	11.40%
£203,001 or more	12.50%

The pay ranges will be increased each year from 01 April in line with inflation. Based on the salary for this role, the contribution will be 5.8%, increasing to 6.5% when paid from SCP10.