

LONDON COUNCILS CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The role

You will be expected to work closely with leading members of the political parties and portfolio members advising them on policy and lobbying issues; to represent London local government and encourage partnership working between member boroughs. This is a high profile role which requires exceptional qualities of leadership and communication.

Job description

1. To articulate elected members' ambitions for London Councils and to turn these into clear plans and outcomes.
2. To lead London Councils lobbying with Government and others to secure the resources, freedoms, powers and influence that London local government requires to best serve its various communities and contribute to the success of the city overall.
3. To build and maintain strong, productive relationships with national and London government and with organisations and individuals relevant to London's governance.
4. To help broker the support and contribution of officers across London towards realising the ambitions and objectives that are set by leading members for London Councils collectively.
5. To work with boroughs to help sustain means and structures for mutual exchange of ideas, intelligence, support and challenge to help London local government's drive for ongoing improvement in its performance
6. To foster strong, collaborative relationships with a range of London public service, business and voluntary sector partners in order to further the interests of London and its communities.
7. To create and maintain a framework for communication which delivers key messages and brings people together to work on a shared agenda for London Councils and London local government
8. To review, develop and maintain the organisation's ability to achieve the objectives of elected members and deliver agreed plans.
9. To provide high quality advice to elected members and to provide leadership and challenge at times of change.
10. To lead, inspire and motivate the staff of London Councils and make it an employer of choice.
11. To manage the financial resources of London Councils in a timely and effective manner and to ensure that its administrative processes are swift, secure and secure the support of member councils on a cross party basis.
12. To encourage the development of service and employment policies which reflect the diversity of London's communities and promote an inclusive society.

Person specification

There is no preference for any particular background, but you need be able to demonstrate an impressive range of relevant experience to win the confidence of key stakeholders in London government. It is essential that in your written application/CV you give evidence or examples of proven experience in each of the following criteria listed in “Part One” of the Person Specification. These responses will be further developed and discussed with those candidates invited for interview, together with the other criteria listed in “Part Two”.

Part One

Experience:

1. An understanding of the machinery of local government.
2. Success in advising senior leaders and/or board level members.
3. A record of engaging successfully at senior level across multiple organisations and sectors including local government, Government, private sector providers, public agencies and statutory authorities.
4. Demonstrable success in change management and translating organisational ambitions into real achievements.
5. A proven success in corporate management and participation in the formulation of corporate objectives, policies and strategies.
6. Experience of establishing a positive and effective performance culture that involves users in driving up standards.
7. Proven ability in resource and financial management.
8. A track record of maintaining neutrality and integrity in a highly politicised environment.
9. Able to demonstrate achievements on diversity and inclusion, challenging the status quo where necessary.

Part Two

Key Competencies:

1. Ability to provide visible and supportive leadership, empowering, enabling, motivating and developing the workforce and fostering a positive and creative organisational culture.
2. Ability to maintain a clear overview of issues affecting London Councils Members’ current thinking, ensuring they are given objective and timely advice, guidance and, where appropriate, leadership and are properly informed on relevant matters.
3. Financial and commercial skills, understanding and experience, with strong analytical skills and a creative approach to problem solving.
4. Knowledge and understanding of the issues currently affecting services within the public sector and the vision to anticipate the future trends and policy changes.
5. Outstanding interpersonal skills to relate effectively to Council Members, Government, senior officers in London local government, other agencies, the public and employees, and command their respect, trust and confidence.
6. Ability to work in a pressurised political environment and manage competing priorities.

7. Highly developed networking, advocacy, oral, written and presentation skills that are persuasive and influential with others.
8. Insight into how London Councils can be shaped to meet the challenges of the future.

Personal Style and Behaviour

1. A strong leader and effective manager of sound judgement, who is energetic, determined, positive, robust and resilient enough to cope with the demands of the role.
2. An enthusiastic and effective ambassador for London Councils.
3. An innovator and motivator who can promote new thinking and a corporate focus to achieving the organisation's objectives.
4. An inclusive team worker who can foster partnerships, work collaboratively across boundaries and achieve performance and results through others.
5. A confident and ambitious individual who can operate effectively in a complex environment.
6. Able to motivate and lead people, and at the same time able to be firm and demanding when necessary.