

ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH

JOB DESCRIPTION

DEPARTMENT: Resources / Digital & Customer Services

POSTHOLDER SECTION: Product

GRADE: PO8

POST DESIGNATION: Technical Architect

Purpose of Job:

To be responsible to Head of Product to:

1. Take responsibility for the technical strategy and design of our products and services, translating user and business need into architectural vision and principles.
2. Support multiple product teams to set the vision and strategy for whole services, ensuring all components are consistently designed and coherent
3. Articulate the value of technical architecture across the council, working with stakeholders at all levels

Manages up to 3 directly managed staff.

Manages up to 3 indirectly managed consultancy/contracting staff.

Main Duties:

1. Take a lead role in the Technical Architecture function, forming a team of specialists who are jointly responsible for the overall technical design of the whole council.
2. Create technical visions and designs for complex, interdependent services, making technology choices and tradeoffs. Design services across whole business areas, making complex information simple to give a blueprint that teams can follow
3. Take responsibility for designing overall council-wide architectural visions and designs, including the whole of our corporate systems
4. Make recommendations and decisions about which services and services components to stop, degrade, renew or rebuild
5. Take decisions in partnerships with services about the future of their systems; plan with them to intervene in contracts; explain build/buy/subscribe tradeoffs; explain the financial implications of technology choices to non-technical stakeholders
6. Work with suppliers across the council to influence their designs and plans, ensuring the council can get value for money in the long term
7. Work with other authorities to set the vision for, plan and execute shared projects to help reduce the overall cost of technology; work with LOTI (London Office of Technology and Innovation) to invest our time in shared goals and projects
8. Take responsibility for the Council's self-built services, including any code which we publish or share.
9. Work across the council, persuading stakeholders at the highest levels of the

- reasoning behind your recommendations and decisions
10. Support product teams to make technology choices within their services.
 11. Maintain up-to-date knowledge of emerging technology trends and developments in areas of interest to the organisation seeking to identify where technology might be deployed in order to deliver business improvements.
 12. Exploit new approaches, proposals and technologies to build a credible technology strategy, building on the existing strengths of the current estate and marrying all relevant organisation objectives with achievable goals.
 13. Communicate technology strategies and plans as appropriate throughout the organisation, influencing across the organisation to ensure their successful adoption and implementation and regularly monitor and review progress.
 14. Keep senior management up to date on technology trends, and developments and advise them on commercial implications and associated business opportunities and advise and brief other staff as appropriate.
 15. Take an active part in technology procurement exercises, considering both technical and commercial options and ensuring that potential suppliers are approved in accordance with the organisation's procedures.
 16. Oversee and measure the fulfilment of contractual obligations, for multiple contracts and suppliers. Work with partners to ensure best value for money.
 17. Identify and mitigate technology-related risks: coordinate risk assessment, manage agreed, and monitor the status of risks on an ongoing basis.
 18. Ensure that appropriate levels of emergency planning and business continuity management preparedness are in place for the service, and that your teams are appropriately briefed on their roles in an emergency.
 19. Provide mentoring opportunities for more junior staff.

Person Specification

Job Title	Technical Architect
Grade	PO8
Service/Section	Technology
Directorate	Communities and Environment

Shortlisting Criteria: Essential criteria assessed via application form should be used to shortlist.

Criteria
Knowledge
Essential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert knowledge of technical architecture as a discipline; the relevant technologies, tools and platforms, best modern practice; industry trends and risks • Deep knowledge of modern technology practices around infrastructure, hosting and platforms • Deep knowledge of and commitment to open-source technology • Deep knowledge of modern software and software development practice, including the various options around self-built, low-code and outsourced services • A deep applied knowledge of agile ways of working • Knowledge of devops practice and culture and associated practices like continuous deployment and testing, test-driven development and pair programming

Desirable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of cross-government procurement frameworks and processes • Knowledge of cross-government platforms like GOV.UK Pay and Notify • Knowledge of the environmental footprint of technology, and a commitment to lower it
Skills and Abilities
Essential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to bridge the gap between technical and non-technical outcomes, people and tools; able to turn business outcomes into technical design • Ability to communicate in plain English with people of all types and levels in the organisation • Ability to design a technical architecture to meet specific needs; ability to understand trade-offs in technical choices • Ability to make and justify complex and high-impact technical, clearly explaining reasoning. Ability to persuade sceptics of your reasoning. • Ability to strongly influence technology strategy, design patterns, policies and behaviour, role modelling each yourself. • Ability to understand and act on technology trends and movements sensibly • Ability to select appropriate technologies, including where services are not owned by us, influencing suppliers • Ability to direct technology work across multiple cross-functional teams where needed • Ability to keep commercial considerations in mind when taking actions or making decisions.
Desirable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to flex between collaborative and directive types of work
Experience
Essential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience as a technical architect in an agile software development environment • Experience delivering technical architecture designs, patterns and decisions at pace • Experience setting service and development standards • Experience building complex services in code • Experience working in a culture of continuous code release • Significant experience in understanding and balancing client, organisational, and technical needs and knowing how to balance these when setting strategy and direction. • Experience working with APIs and microservices architecture and managing the relationships between interdependent product and platform teams.
Desirable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience working in the public sector • Experience working with senior stakeholders • Experience developing services that takes account of the needs of diverse users. • Experience working between multiple teams
Equal Opportunities

- Understanding of and commitment to the Council's equal opportunities policies and ability to put into practice in the context of this post.
- Understanding of and commitment to achieving the Council's staff values and ability to put into practice in the context of this post.