Recruitment Information Pack

Job Title	Procurement Officer
Reference No	510.18
Location	West Lothian Civic Centre
Hours	36 hours
Salary	£41,050 - £44,955
Status	Permanent

Thank you for your interest in this post, if you have any questions in relation to the recruitment process or if you are disabled and require any adjustment to the recruitment process please contact our recruitment team on 01506 28 22 22 or email recruitment@westlothian.gov.uk.

Privacy Notice – HR Services - Recruitment

Information held about you.

West Lothian Council will hold the following personal information:

- Full name
- Home address
- Email address
- Employment history
- Training/qualifications
- Registration with professional bodies
- Equal opportunities monitoring information (gender, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religion and disability)
- Criminal convictions (if applicable)
- Pre-employment checks (health screening, references and PVG check if applicable)

Who is processing my information?

All personal information is held and processed by West Lothian Council in accordance with data protection law.

How will we use information we hold about you?

Personal information held by West Lothian Council will be used in the following ways:

- To assess the suitability of applicants for the job they have applied for
- Equal opportunities monitoring information will be used to monitor the councils compliance with equality legislation
- To populate the HR Payroll system for successful candidates (see privacy notices on performance of contract of employment for further details)

Who we will share your information with?

We will not share your information with any external bodies.

How long do we keep your records?

If your application is successful we will keep your information for a period of 6 years after you leave employment with the council. Information stored on the Myjobscotland website will be retained for 7 years from the date of your application.

If your application is unsuccessful, all information will be kept for a period of 6 months, following which it will be securely destroyed. Information stored on the Myjobscotland webstie will be retained for 5 years from the date of your application.

Your rights

You have a number of rights under data protection law, including the right to request your information and to request that the information be amended or, in some circumstances, erased if incorrect.

To request your records, you will need to put your request in writing to HR Services, West Lothian Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 6FF

Email – hrsupport@westlothian.gov.uk

You also have a right to make a complaint about our handling of your personal information to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Further information

If you have any questions or concerns about how your information is used, please contact Data Protection Officer, West Lothian Council, West Lothian Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 6FF or email DataProtectionOfficer@westlothian.gov.uk

More information about data protection and how it applies to you is available from the Information Commissioner's Office.

About Corporate Services

Corporate Services plays a key role as a provider of professional advice and support to the council and to other services within the council on all aspects of Legal, IT, Human Resources including Health and Safety, Corporate Communications, Procurement and Performance and Improvement issues.

The Service also provides administrative support to elected members and services located within the Civic Centre and to a number of front line services.

Legal Services

Legal Services provides support and advice on conveyancing, litigation, tribunals and inquiries, local government law, and employment, social work, education, procurement, contract and planning law. The Service is also responsible for the administration of Liquor Licensing, hire car and miscellaneous licensing processes and Committee Administration, including clerking of the council's committees.

IT Services

IT Services provides a wide range of information and communications technology services, support and advice to all of the council's services. The majority of the Service is based and delivered centrally within West Lothian Civic Centre. The Service also provides onsite support at schools and office locations across the council and is responsible for the development and maintenance of the ICT Strategy in support of other key council strategies.

HR Services

HR Services provides support, advice and guidance on all aspects of employee relations, organisational change, pay structures, equal pay, contractual change, recruitment and selection, organisational development, advertising and recruitment, and performance review and development in support of the council's corporate and service business objectives. The Service also provides a full payroll service for all council employees and is also responsible for the management of support services to elected members.

The Civic Centre Central Admin Team are also part of HR and provide a wide range of administrative and support functions to the Executive Management Team, Heads of Services and Services located within the Civic Centre. The team also provides all reception and mail services on behalf of the Civic Centre partners.

Health and Safety

The Health and safety team work closely with services to provide advice, guidance and support service in relation to the requirements of health and safety legislation. They perform a wide range of duties across services which aim to protect health, safety and well-being.

Corporate Communications

The Corporate Communications team provides a comprehensive and co-ordinated communications service, designed to ensure the council's business and achievements are promoted and the council's reputation is enhanced and safeguarded. The team provides a wide range of services which help the council communicate with customers. The services include: media, marketing, branding, social media, photography, event management and design and creative services. The team also has responsibility for maintaining and developing the council's website and intranet site.

Corporate Procurement Unit

The Corporate Procurement unit provides a professional procurement service whose principal aim is to procure goods, services and works on behalf of all council services and to obtain the most economically advantageous terms and conditions possible.

Performance and Improvement Service

The Performance and Improvement Service brings together the disciplines of business improvement, corporate performance, the administration and monitoring of the West Lothian Assessment Model (WLAM), Customer Service Excellence (CSE) and the administration and monitoring of the council's corporate Customer Relations Management system (CRM). The Performance and Improvement Service also administers Covalent, the council's performance management recording and reporting system.

Council Strategies

Corporate Services has responsibility for the development and implementation of the council's ICT Strategy, Information Strategy, People Strategy, Improvement Strategy and Procurement Strategy.

Equality and Diversity

Equality is relevant to us all. Addressing discrimination and promoting equality are everyone's core business.

We want a West Lothian in which all people and communities have a say in their future and an equal opportunity for health, safety, education, fulfilling work, and a high quality of life. West Lothian Council has published equality outcomes, equality information on our workforce and our progress on mainstreaming equality. This reflects our commitment to promoting equality and eliminating discrimination as well as fulfilling our statutory duties under legislation.

The council recognises and values the diverse range of talents, skills, experience and perspectives that exist within society and believes that those qualities and attributes should also be reflected within the composition of its workforce, its employment practices and in the planning and delivery of its services.

Central to the council's Equality and Diversity agenda, is the prevention of discrimination, victimisation and harassment against service users and employees on any grounds, but particularly in relation to the following protected characteristics:

- age;
- disability;
- sex (gender)
- gender reassignment;
- marriage and civil partnership;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sexual orientation

In addition, prevention of discrimination, victimisation and harassment in relation to gender identity, gender expression, non-binary identities, language, social origin, employment status, political belief, trade union membership or activity, or responsibility for dependants is key to ensuring we have a diverse and inclusive workforce that reflects the communities we serve

West Lothian Council is a Stonewall Diversity Champion and is committed to advancing LGBT equality and this is reflective in all our policies which are inclusive of all protected characteristics.

How to apply

Our preferred method of receiving applications is on line.

ll applications must be received by the closing date stated on the advert and any late applications will not be accepted. Where there have been a high number of applications for a post, we may decide to close the post early.

We do not keep copies of application forms on file for any future similar vacancies and therefore you will need to complete a separate application form for each post that you apply for. However, when applying on line the system will remember your core details.

If you apply for a post on line we will contact you using the email address you have provided. If you do not have an email address you can sign up for a free account through internet providers such as Yahoo, Hotmail or Googlemail.

The information you provide in your application is used to determine whether or not you should be shortlisted for interview. It is therefore in your interest to complete the form fully and carefully. Your application form should contain sufficient information to demonstrate that you have the skills and experience required for the post.

What happens next?

Following consideration of your application you will be notified as to whether or not you have been selected for interview.

If you are selected for interview you will receive an email from us confirming this and asking you to log in to the Myjobscotland website and select a suitable interview time. If you are not selected for interview you will receive an email confirming this.

Successful Candidate

The successful candidate will receive a conditional offer of employment, pending completion of the following checks, as appropriate.

- Pre employment health check
- References
- PVG
- Eligibility to work in the UK

A formal offer of employment will be issued only when all checks have been satisfactorily completed.

If you have any questions please email recruitment@westlothian.gov.uk

Terms and Conditions of Employment for Employees

Conditions of Service	Conditions of Service are those of the Scottish Joint Council for Local Government employees as adopted and amended by West Lothian Council
Hours of Work	Hours of work for a full time post are 36 hours per week. The standard working hours are Monday – Thursday 8.30 – 5.00, Friday 8.30 – 4.00. School based staff are employed on sessional contracts of either 38, 39 or 40 weeks.
Pay	Employees are paid by bank transfer on the last Thursday of the month. Where appropriate you will receive an annual increment on the 1st April each year, until you reach the top of the grade.
Annual Leave	Depending on length of service you will be entitled to either 26 (187.2 hours) or 31 (223.2 hours) days annual leave, this will be pro-rated for part time employees. The leave year is 1st January to 31st December. School based sessional staff will receive additional pay, depending on their length of service, to reflect their annual leave entitlement.
Public Holidays	There are 7 paid public holidays. Part time employees will be given a pro -rated entitlement to reflect their particular working arrangements.
Sickness Absence	Your entitlement to sickness allowance will be in accordance with the Scheme of Sickness Absence set out within the National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service for Scottish Local Government employees.
Pension	You are legally required to make provision for your pension. Employees with permanent contracts, or temporary contracts for 3 months or more, will automatically become members of the Local Government Pension Fund, unless they apply to opt out. Pension contributions are based on your salary.
Appraisal Development Review	All employees are entitled to an annual review with their manager, to identify any development needs and set objectives for the coming year.

Employee Benefits	The council has negotiated discounts for employees with over 90 local businesses and over 1,000 businesses nationally. Childcare vouchers are offered and employees can take advantage of 20% off membership and free joining fees with West Lothian Leisure. As part of its commitment to having a healthy workforce the council offers physiotherapy, counselling and an Employee Assistance Programme
Pool Cars	The council provides access to pool cars for employees who need to drive as part of their job.
Trade Union	The council supports collective bargaining and you have the right to join a trade union and take part in its activities and are encouraged to do so.
Health and Safety	The council is committed to ensuring a healthy and safe working environment for all employees. Health and safety responsibilities are set out in the Occupational Health and Safety Supplementary Policy and Safety Arrangements booklet for your workplace.

West Lothian Council

Job Description

Job Title	Procurement Officer
Reports to:	Procurement Business Partner
Location:	West Lothian Civic Centre

Purpose of the Job

To support West Lothian Council in the achievement of its strategic and operational objectives through the provision of professional procurement expertise and the effective delivery of procurement activity across the procurement lifecycle.

Working in partnership with the Procurement Business Partner(s) and service stakeholders, Procurement Officers will contribute to the delivery of the Procurement Workplan by developing compliant, efficient and sustainable procurement solutions that achieve best value, support community wealth building ambitions and deliver positive outcomes for the people and communities of West Lothian.

Job Scope

Support the Procurement Business Partner(s) in the development, implementation and delivery of procurement plans.

Provide expert support, advice and guidance to suppliers, internal client departments, colleagues and external stakeholders, delivering a high-quality, customer-focused service.

Develop, lead and deliver procurement projects across the procurement lifecycle, including market engagement, supplier and spend analysis, options appraisal, tender development and evaluation, negotiation, and contract award activities.

Ensure procurement activity is undertaken in compliance with the council's governance; Standing Orders for the Regulation of Contracts and Corporate Procurement Procedures, Scottish, UK and Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) legislation governing Public Sector procurement.

Build, maintain and develop effective working relationships with internal stakeholders and customers through regular engagement, communication and partnership working.

Lead procurement-related negotiations with suppliers to secure best value, deliver efficiencies and achieve positive commercial outcomes.

Contribute to the delivery of sustainable procurement, community wealth building and wider corporate objectives through the development and implementation of procurement strategies and solutions.

Support the monitoring, management and reporting requirements of procurement activity.

Principal Accountabilities/Key Tasks

- Support the Corporate Procurement Service Manager and Procurement Business Partner(s) in the delivery of the Corporate Procurement Strategy and associated objectives.

- Support the Procurement Business Partner(s) in the delivery of the Procurement Workplan by working with service stakeholders to identify, prioritise and deliver procurement activity that contributes to the council's strategic and operational objectives.

- Plan, develop and deliver compliant procurement projects across the procurement lifecycle, including market engagement, supplier and spend analysis, options appraisal, tender development, evaluation, negotiation, contract award and post-award activities.

- Ensure procurement activity is undertaken in compliance with the council's governance framework, Standing Orders for the Regulation of Contracts, Corporate Procurement Procedures, and all applicable Scottish, UK and international legislation governing public sector procurement.

- Work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop procurement solutions that meet service requirements, achieve best value and support the effective delivery of council services, whilst reducing non-contract spend.

- Provide professional procurement advice, guidance, support and training to internal client departments, suppliers, colleagues and external stakeholders, encouraging compliance and ensuring a high-quality, customer-focused service is delivered at all times.

- Promote contract compliance and best procurement practice through stakeholder engagement, training and guidance, encouraging the effective use of contracted arrangements and collaborative procurement solutions.

- Support contract and supplier performance activities to secure commercial benefits, drive continuous improvement and achieve positive procurement outcomes in line with the Corporate Contract and Supplier Management Framework.

- Contribute to sustainable procurement and community wealth building objectives through the development and implementation of procurement approaches that support social, economic and environmental outcomes.

- Support the implementation of the Sustainable Procurement Duty and climate change objectives, ensuring opportunities to reduce inequality, improve wellbeing and contribute to Scotland's sustainability ambitions are considered within regulated procurement activity.

- Monitor and report on procurement performance and outcomes, preparing reports, management information and recommendations for customers, stakeholders, senior officers and elected members as required.

- Maintain effective working relationships with internal and external stakeholders, acting as a trusted procurement adviser and promoting the objectives and reputation of the Corporate Procurement Unit internally and externally.

- Maintain professional knowledge and expertise by keeping abreast of procurement legislation, policy developments, market trends and best practice, and undertaking continuing professional development, including progression towards relevant qualifications where required.

- Deputise for the Senior Procurement Officer / Procurement Business Partner(s) representing the Corporate Procurement Unit at internal and external meetings and undertaking delegated responsibilities as required.

- Undertake ad-hoc procurement projects and perform any other duties commensurate with the grade and responsibilities of the post as reasonably required by the Procurement Business Partner(s) or the Corporate Procurement Service Manager.

Competencies – Essential

- Sound knowledge and understanding of Scottish, UK and, where appropriate, international public sector procurement legislation, together with an understanding of local authority governance arrangements.

- Relevant experience and ability in delivering procurement activity across the procurement lifecycle, including market engagement, tender development, evaluation, contract award, post-award and contract management activities.

- Experience of electronic procurement systems and associated digital procurement tools.

- Ability to analyse spend, supplier and market information to develop procurement solutions that support service requirements and deliver best value.

- Excellent written and oral communication skills, with the ability to prepare reports, present information clearly and provide professional advice to a range of stakeholders.

- Effective stakeholder management and influencing skills, with the confidence to challenge existing practice constructively and recommend alternative best practice approaches where appropriate.

- Ability to negotiate effectively with suppliers and stakeholders to secure value for money, manage risk, resolve issues and support the achievement of procurement and organisational objectives.

- Ability to plan, prioritise and manage a varied workload, adapting effectively to changing priorities and service demands to deliver outcomes within agreed timescales.

- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills, with the ability to identify risks and opportunities, evaluate options and recommend appropriate solutions.

- Ability to build and maintain effective working relationships with colleagues, customers, internal and external stakeholders and work collaboratively across service and organisational boundaries.

- Competent IT skills including the ability to use Microsoft Office applications.

Competencies – Desirable

- Achieved, studying towards or have a willingness to study towards relevant CIPS qualification.

- Experience of working at Procurement Officer level, or equivalent, within a procurement / supply chain function.

- Understanding of sustainable procurement principles, Community Wealth Building and the role of public procurement in delivering social, economic and environmental outcomes.

- Understanding of the council's Standing Orders and Procurement Procedures, and the ability to apply these in a practical procurement environment.

- Experience of electronic procurement solutions e.g. Public Contracts Scotland, Public Contracts Scotland – Tender and PECOS.