WILTS & BERKS CANAL TRUST

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

Restoring 70 miles of canal and towpath
for the benefit of local communities, wildlife and leisure

Council Funding Lead

Reports to: Programme Steering Group Chair

Background

The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust is the longest canal restoration in the UK and has recently developed its 25-year vision and five-year business plan. This is an exciting time to join the Trust and contribute to the nine communities along the route.

The Trust has significant opportunities to secure funding from local authorities through Section 106, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and other council-managed funding.

We're looking for two or three Leads to develop relationships with councils, identify suitable funding opportunities and work with the Trust's Priority Programme Teams to prepare and progress proposals. The role requires good relationship-building and proposal-writing skills although AI can do much of this work. Existing contacts and networks within local authorities would be particularly helpful.

Key tasks and activities

Council engagement

- Establish relationships with relevant council officers responsible for CIL, Section 106 and infrastructure funding.
- Identify existing and future funding opportunities.
- Represent the Trust's profile as a credible partner for delivery of infrastructure projects.

Funding proposals

- Identify Section 106, CIL and other council funding that could support canal projects.
- Prepare and coordinate funding proposals and supporting information based on the four priority programmes.
- Work with councils to progress opportunities through their approval processes.
- Maintain a simple pipeline of opportunities, applications and potential funding.

Programme support

- Work closely with the Trust's four priority programme teams to understand programme timing and cash flow.
- Help teams present projects in ways that align with council priorities including regeneration, active travel, recreation, biodiversity and community infrastructure.

Organisational

- Work closely with the Funding Director and Finance team.
- Coordinate information needed for applications, including project costs and financial information.
- Provide regular updates on opportunities, applications, and progress.
- The two or three Leads will divide responsibility for councils and geographical areas between them but in the main, they will be organised by council to ensure the council has a nominated person.

Skills and resources required

- Experience of writing business cases or funding proposals.
- Communication and relationship-building skills.
- Experience of working with local authorities or similar organisations would be helpful, but not essential.
- Knowledge of Section 106 and CIL would be helpful, but is not essential.

Time commitment

About eight hours per week for the first three months, then reducing to around four hours per week.

This is an unpaid volunteer position with prompt reimbursement of legitimate expenses. There are no stipulations as to hours of working or holiday entitlement.

Interested? Please contact Patricia Clements, Head of Administration, at patricia.clements@wbct.org.uk