



Job description			
Job title	Principal Engineer (Drainage) (LLFA Officer)		
Grade	L (SCP 32-33)		
Directorate	Regeneration & Economic Development		
Service/team	Highways and Capital Delivery (Network Management) Highways Development Control		
Accountable to	Team Leader – Highways Development Control		
Responsible for	Technical Assistant, Graduate Engineer, Highways Apprentice		
JE Reference	K002754	Date Reviewed	September 2025

### Purpose of the Job

Knowsley Council's Highways Development Control Team is a proactive, solution-focused service supporting the delivery of major housing, transport, and economic development schemes across the borough. The team provides dedicated support to developers and investors, ensuring infrastructure delivery aligns with the Council's strategic growth ambitions.

The Highways and Capital Delivery Service, part of the Development and Infrastructure arm within Regeneration and Economic Development, leads on all highways-related matters and is a key mechanism for delivering infrastructure projects under the Council's Major Development and Investment Programme.

This role requires a forward-thinking problem solver with the ability to identify innovative solutions to drainage and flooding challenges. The successful candidate will help facilitate new development, support economic growth, and maintain the borough's highway drainage network.

As the Council's Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) representative, the post holder will engage with third-party organisations, neighbouring authorities, and regional bodies such as the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. They will provide technical advice on drainage infrastructure, flooding incidents, and mitigation strategies, and will lead on the delivery of sustainable drainage improvements and flood risk reduction projects.



The post holder will also work closely with the Asset Management Team to identify and resolve areas of repetitive flooding, contributing to a proactive and resilient approach to highway drainage management.

## **Duties and Responsibilities**

### Development Control & Planning Support

- Safeguard the interests of the Highway Authority throughout the development management process, from pre-application to planning consent and delivery of drainage infrastructure.
- Provide technical advice on drainage and flooding aspects of development proposals, including pre-application enquiries, planning applications, and local development documents.
- Negotiate and secure drainage improvements and developer contributions via legal agreements (e.g. S104 Water Industry Act, S38/S278 Highways Act, S106 Planning Act).
- Advise developers on the design, implementation, and adoption of new and improved highway drainage infrastructure.
- Attend Planning Committee and public inquiries to present and defend the Council's position on drainage and flooding matters.

### SuDS Strategy & Technical Leadership

- Develop and promote best practice for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) across Knowsley.
- Evaluate SuDS proposals, including maintenance costs and compliance with national guidance and Council policy.
- Act as technical advisor to the SuDS Approval Body (SAB), supporting the assessment and adoption of schemes.
- Contribute to the development of SuDS policies, drainage design standards, and guidance documents.

### Flood Risk Management & LLFA Duties

- Act as the Council's Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) representative, engaging with external partners including the Merseyside Flood &



Coastal Erosion Risk Management Partnership, Environment Agency, and water authorities.

- Investigate flooding incidents in line with the Flood and Water Management Act, compile reports, and identify responsible bodies and mitigation actions.
- Collaborate with the Asset Management Team to identify and resolve areas of recurring flooding.
- Oversee the delivery of flood mitigation schemes and drainage improvement projects, ensuring compliance with technical standards.

#### Infrastructure Maintenance & Delivery

- Assess the condition of highway drainage assets and recommend future works.
- Prepare maintenance bids and provide engineering support for drainage infrastructure upkeep.
- Ensure new infrastructure is designed and delivered to adoptable standards and supports the borough's development needs.

#### Stakeholder Engagement & Representation

- Liaise with developers, elected Members, Parish Councils, contractors, emergency services, and the public in line with the Council's customer care policies.
- Represent the Council at meetings, forums, and public events, demonstrating professionalism and technical expertise.
- Provide specialist advice to internal teams, senior management, and Councillors on drainage and flooding issues.

#### Service Support & Leadership

- Support the wider Highways & Transportation service in delivering its functions and objectives.
- Deputise for the Team Manager when required, including attending public meetings and representing the Council externally.
- Contribute to service management at a level appropriate to the Principal Officer grade.



- Provide training and guidance to colleagues, and ensure policies and procedures remain up to date and compliant with legislation.

#### Corporate Responsibilities

- Promote and uphold the Council's values of integrity, accountability, communication, and respect.
- Ensure compliance with health and safety legislation and Council policy.
- Observe equal opportunities and diversity policies.
- Maintain information security and data protection standards.
- Undertake other duties consistent with the role and grade as required.

#### **Knowsley Better Together – Staff Qualities**



#### **Health and Safety**

- To ensure suitable and sufficient risk assessments are carried out taking into account employees capabilities
- To use equipment as instructed and trained
- To inform management of any health and safety issues which could place individuals in danger



- Ensure proposed works affecting highway drainage are undertaken in a safe manner having regard to highway network conditions within the Borough.



## **Data Protection and Information Security**

- Implement and act in accordance with the Information Security Acceptable Use Policy, Data Protection Policy and GDPR.
- Protect the Council's information assets from unauthorised access, disclosure, modification, destruction or interference.
- Report actual or potential security incidents.