Swanage Railway Company

Position: Trustee Director (Operations & Health and Safety Oversight) - Role Description

Role Overview

The Trustee Director for Operations Oversight will provide strategic support and governance for Swanage Railway's operational activities, including heritage train services, facilities, engineering, and infrastructure. While not involved in daily management, this role is key in offering constructive challenge, guidance, and strategic vision to ensure safe, efficient, and high-quality railway operations. The postholder will liaise with relevant operational leads and contribute to long-term planning.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide strategic oversight of operational activity including timetabling, rolling stock, infrastructure, and maintenance planning.
- Review and support the development of long-term operations and asset management plans.
- Advise on compliance with railway regulations, heritage standards, and safety protocols.
- Monitor operational risks and support the implementation of mitigation strategies.
- Advocate for operational efficiency and effectiveness across departments.
- Liaise with staff and volunteers to understand and support operational challenges.
- Ensure operational decision-making aligns with the Trust's mission and visitor experience objectives.
- Support integration between operations, safety, and commercial priorities.
- Champion investment in infrastructure and operational resilience.

Person Specification

- Experience in transport, engineering, infrastructure, or heritage railway operations.
- Strong understanding of regulatory and safety frameworks relevant to railway operations.
- Strategic planning skills and the ability to evaluate operational performance.
- Strong communication and problem-solving abilities.
- Ability to support and constructively challenge operational leaders.

• Commitment to the ethos, safety culture, and heritage values of Swanage Railway.

Working Conditions

- This is a voluntary, non-executive Trustee role.
- The Trustee will attend regular board meetings and relevant operations subcommittees.
- Occasional visits to operational areas, workshops, and stations are encouraged.
- Trustees are expected to be proactive in understanding key operational developments and contribute constructively to decision-making.

This role offers a unique opportunity to shape the future of heritage railway operations at Swanage Railway. We welcome individuals with the experience and enthusiasm to contribute to safe, reliable, and authentic railway services.