

About us...

Lincolnshire



Lincolnshire Co-op is a long-standing, community-focused organisation proud to serve the people of Lincolnshire and surrounding counties. Our Support Centre, based in Lincoln, is the operational heart of our business. It's home to a range of specialist teams who work behind the scenes to support our front-line colleagues and ensure we deliver exceptional service across all our trading areas.

Essential Information – *what you need to know*

Job purpose:

- Safeguarding the Society's technology estate by ensuring solutions delivered across Food, Pharmacy, Funerals, Travel, Property and Support Centre functions meet agreed architectural standards, frameworks and governance.
- Providing formal authority over solution design by reviewing and approving designs before build, chairing the weekly Solution Review Board and providing assurance over key delivery decisions.
- Leading senior technical governance as a standing member of the Architecture Review Board, with a planned transition to chairing the Board as the transformation is completed, while assessing systemic impact and maintaining firm architectural standards.

Your hours:

- 39 hours per week FTE.
- Hybrid working with a minimum of two days per week in the Support Centre. A flexible approach to working may be required from time to time.

You'll report to:

- Head of IT Transformation.

You're responsible for:

- Solutions Architect

Your relationships:

- Business stakeholders across Food, Pharmacy, Funerals, Travel, Property and Support Centre functions.
- Enterprise, Solution and Data Architecture colleagues.
- Project managers and delivery teams.
- Infrastructure, Data and Applications colleagues.
- Third-party suppliers, implementation partners and technology vendors.
- Senior leaders and sponsors of technology change initiatives.

What you'll bring to us:

Essential

- Significant experience in solution or application architecture, or senior application management with genuine design accountability, across a mixed estate of packaged and bespoke systems.
- A strong understanding of how business applications integrate and support day-to-day operations, with the ability to develop a detailed knowledge of the Society's technology estate.
- Demonstrable experience of architecture governance, including reviewing and approving solution designs through design authorities or architecture review boards.
- Strong judgement on integration and technical debt, with the ability to identify the long-term implications of shortcuts, bespoke customisation and point-to-point solutions.
- The confidence to challenge internal and external technical experts constructively, declining proposals where necessary while maintaining effective relationships.
- Clear and precise written and verbal communication, with the ability to explain complex technical decisions to technical and non-technical audiences.

Desirable

- Familiarity with Microsoft Azure and packaged retail, pharmacy or ERP platforms.
- Experience of working with outsourced or co-managed delivery partners.
- Experience within a multi-business or operationally complex organisation.
- A recognised architecture framework or certification, such as TOGAF.



Providing and supporting
valued services

Together we are



Helping to grow the
local economy



Caring for our
health and wellbeing



Looking after
our local environment

Your Purpose – *I will contribute to my team and the Society’s ongoing success in this role by...*

Your duties and responsibilities:

- Chairing the weekly Solution Review Board, reviewing and approving solution designs from delivery partners and internal teams before build begins and escalating matters requiring wider discussion.
- Safeguarding the application portfolio by ensuring new solutions follow agreed reference models, platforms are used as intended and new work reuses established integration routes.
- Maintaining a clear and current view of the application portfolio and its interconnections, ensuring no new solutions are built on systems scheduled for retirement.
- Contributing as a standing member of the Architecture Review Board, helping to set standards, patterns and roadmaps for the estate, with a planned progression to chairing the Board as the transformation is completed.
- Collaborating with Enterprise, Solution and Data Architecture colleagues, delivery and service teams and partner architects, holding all parties to consistent architectural standards.
- Documenting decisions in plain English, ensuring colleagues across the Society understand what has been decided, why it has been decided and any implications.
- Managing enterprise architecture documentation, application portfolio registers and the Architecture Decision Record library, keeping the estate's structure and rationale accurate and current.
- Monitoring the technology estate to identify further systems requiring review, acceptance or formal exception within the transformation programme.



Together we **THRIVE**...

- **Trustworthy** – we do what we say we'll do and trust others to deliver to the best of their ability
- **Helpful** - we support and challenge each other collaboratively, no matter the role or level.
- **Respectful** - we listen to other views and opinions with consideration and celebrate differences.
- **Inspiring** - we role model what good looks like and lead by example to be better.
- **Valued** - we recognise achievements and appreciate everyone's contributions.
- **Empowered** - we listen and encourage each other to take opportunities.

Your Approach – *how you will contribute to your team and the Society's ongoing success in this role.*

I will be trustworthy by:	- Approving solution designs only after appropriate review and scrutiny. - Maintaining accurate, current and traceable architecture records. - Applying agreed standards consistently across internal teams and partners. - Escalating architectural risks, exceptions and concerns openly and promptly.
I will be helpful by:	- Guiding colleagues towards the most appropriate platforms and integration routes. - Supporting teams to resolve design issues before delivery begins. - Sharing clear, practical architectural advice with technical and non-technical colleagues. - Collaborating closely across architecture, delivery, service and business teams.
I will be respectful by:	- Challenging proposals constructively while maintaining positive working relationships. - Listening carefully to different technical, operational and business perspectives. - Explaining architectural decisions clearly and without unnecessary technical language. - Chairing design reviews fairly, consistently and with appropriate consideration.
I will inspire others by:	- Shaping clear architectural standards, patterns and technology roadmaps. - Demonstrating how strong architecture supports better long-term business outcomes. - Encouraging joined-up thinking across projects, systems and delivery teams. - Role-modelling confident, balanced and professional technical leadership.
I will value people by:	- Recognising the expertise and experience colleagues and partners contribute. - Valuing business knowledge alongside technical and architectural capability. - Involving the right colleagues in decisions that affect their services. - Acknowledging contributions to effective design and successful delivery outcomes.
I will empower others by:	- Equipping teams with clear standards, guidance and reference models. - Enabling informed decisions within agreed architectural principles and guardrails. - Developing architectural capability and confidence across the wider team. - Encouraging colleagues to grow their technical knowledge and influence.