

SENIOR / PRINCIPAL PLANNER

Planning Policy

We are seeking a talented and motivated planner to join our team.

We have an opportunity for Senior Planner/Principal Planner with previous relevant industry experience, to join our Leeds based team.

The ideal candidate will be a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute and have local plan and strategic policy experience, either within a consultancy, or local authority environment.

As a Senior Planner / Principal Planner promoting strategic opportunities you will provide planning inputs into high profile projects ranging from large scale commercial schemes through to urban extensions / new towns.

We are looking for someone with strong planning and analytical skills that can provide accurate and professional planning advice and services in relation to planning matters.

A Senior / Principal Planner will be expected to undertake some Business Development activities and play an active role in growing the portfolio of projects.

For the right candidate there are opportunities for excellent career progression.

Key responsibilities:

- Lead and manage projects and coordinating team members.
- Promoting sites through the Local Plan system, including engagement with key stakeholders and preparation of high quality documents such as Local Plan representations, Hearing Statements, and Advocacy Reports.
- Conducting research and undertaking planning appraisals to establish the development potential of sites.
- Analytical and data driven to explore the planning position of projects, including housing land supply, housing need and employment supply and need.

- Provide clear, concise, accurate, reasoned advice both orally and through written documents (reports, letters, emails, etc.)
- As part of a multidisciplinary team, you will play an active part in client presentations, explaining planning matters and technical inputs
- Communicating with clients, design team and stakeholders, as appropriate.
- Attending site visits, client meeting, public meetings and other events.
- Preparing fee proposals and tenders.
- Provide a positive contribution to wider elements of running the practice, including helping to prepare marketing collateral, presentation images, social media posts and website updates.

The right candidate will be able to show:

- A minimum of 4-5 years of planning experience either within a consultancy or local authority environment.
- Degree or higher in relevant subject, and ideally Chartered membership with the Royal Town Planning Institute, or be working towards RTPI membership.
- Demonstrable experience of the planning process, particularly within Local Plans.
- Strong research capability and ability to collate key information about a site/ project, including political, environmental, social, economic and spatial considerations
- Strong analytical, numeracy and report writing skills.
- Excellent time and workload management skills.
- The ability to mentor and guide junior members of the team.
- Excellent verbal and written skills to communicate planning positions and case.
- A positive and creative approach to projects.
- Ability to work positively and collaboratively as part of a dynamic team.
- Ability to develop positive working relationships with both colleagues and external consultants/ clients.
- Confidence to contribute to meetings and share ideas.
- A keenness to learn and test new ideas, help develop new products and ways of working.
- Self-motivation, proactiveness and organisation.
- A 'can-do' attitude and ability to be proactive, to use initiative and work autonomously, as well as part of a team.

Essential IT skills include:

- An excellent working knowledge of Microsoft Office.

Must have completed an undergraduate degree in a related subject, such as:

- Urban Planning
- Town Planning
- Built Environment

Other requirements include:

- Full UK driving licence plus access to a car.

October 2025