

## JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>JOB DETAILS</b>	
<b>Post title:</b>	<b>Principal Planning Officer - Development Management</b>
<b>Post grade:</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>Post number:</b>	<b>BDDC97</b>
<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Growth</b>
<b>Section:</b>	<b>Development Management</b>
<b>Reporting to:</b>	<b>Development Management Team Manager</b>
<b>Line manager:</b>	<b>Development Management Team Manager</b>
<b>Date updated:</b>	<b>September 2025</b>

### MAIN PURPOSE OF JOB

To effectively manage a caseload of high profile planning applications and appeals, including varied major and large major category cases, and related work.

To support the Development Team Managers in delivering a high-performing and customer-focused planning service that ensures compliance and supports the delivery of major and strategic development across the borough.

Provide professional advice at Committees, Planning Appeals and Enforcement cases as required. This includes making delegated decisions, presenting to committees, engaging with Councillors, colleagues and other stakeholders to ensure the right planning outcome.

To mentor and guide Assistant Planners, Planning Officers and Senior Planners, and assist in the delivery of the Development Management Continuous improvement programme, contributing to the success of the high performing planning service.

### SPECIFIC DUTIES

To assist the Development Management Team Managers in creating a positive environment for people to perform, supporting and encouraging their personal and professional development and ensuring that professional standards are met.

Provide support to all officers across the service to ensure its efficient operation, in accordance with statutory, regulatory and legislative requirements and the corporate objectives of the Council whilst promoting best practice.

Support the multi-disciplinary service in the determination of all types of planning application, with particular focus on major and strategic scale development. Promote and support the pre-application advice with particular focus on Planning Performance Agreements.

Provide specialist planning advice to all customers (both internal and external) relevant to the service area of the post holder and, where necessary, attend the relevant Inquiries, Hearings, Committees, Courts and other meetings in support of the planning service. To advise on organizational change, prepare statements and proofs of evidence, memorandum of understanding, planning obligations and other legal documents of relevance.

Mentor junior planners and apprentices, providing advice, assistance and guidance as necessary; including making recommendations on planning matters, signing off applications and enforcement cases (in

accordance with the scheme of delegation) and advise on appeal related casework up to and including dismissal.

Liaise with internal and external services, stakeholders, partners and customers in support of the aims and objectives of the Council.

To deputise for the Planning Team Managers in their absence.

To assist the Development Team Managers in the review and development of policies, practices and services in accordance with changes in legislation and customer needs. This will include supporting the design and delivery of any consultation and engagement activities for plans, policies and strategies and could result in representing the Council at public exhibitions, stakeholder workshops and meetings.

Be prepared to visit land and sites as appropriate whilst recognising the bi-lateral duty of care applicable to the post holder and the Council and cooperate in all matters relating to Health & Safety.

To contribute to the work of the Planning Policy, Conservation, Garden Towns and Property teams.

To maintain up-to-date knowledge of relevant legislation and project management approaches, keeping abreast of best practice. Attending seminars, conferences and workshops, as required to support Professional Development Plan outcomes and business needs, ensuring key learning points are shared with colleagues.

To adopt sustainable working practices in terms of the way services are delivered and in respect of the way the council consumes materials and energy.

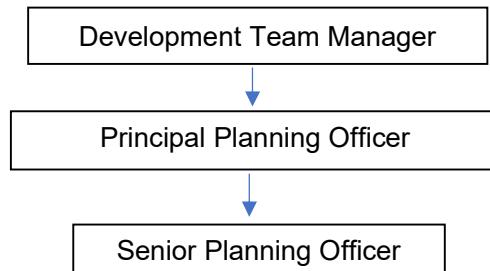
Ensure that services are delivered in compliance with existing and new health and safety legislation and the council's health and safety policy and ensuring that duties are pursued in a safe manner with due regard to the health and safety of self and others.

To adhere to all council policies and ensure all council policies are properly complied with throughout the service team; and ensure the council's responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children/adults are discharged in relation to services managed by the post holder.

To carry out any other duties which fall within the broad spirit, scope, levels and purpose of this job description.

Job descriptions will be subject to review and possible change on an annual basis subject to corporate priorities.

## ORGANISATIONAL CHART



## KEY WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

- Borough Councillors
- Development Management Team
- Planning Policy Team
- CIL Team/Manager
- Democratic services
- Gloucestershire County Council
- Parish Councils
- Applicants/Agents
- Members of the public

## RESOURCES

- No direct budget responsibilities, though there will be a requirement to negotiate financial/S.106 agreements.
- The post holder will have access to confidential information such as personal details and financial appraisals as part of planning applications. This information must be handled in accordance with GDPR requirements.

## PHYSICAL DEMANDS

- Expected to work within the office environment with some lone working from home.
- Sitting for prolonged periods of time
- Ability to carry out site visits to all areas of the Borough
- Undertaking site inspections, including walking distances and on uneven ground
- Attending internal and external meetings
- A driving licence is required. Tewkesbury Borough Council provide access to pool cars

## MENTAL DEMANDS

- Requirement to analyse problems, make decisions and recommendations on a wide range of demanding planning cases with reasoned judgement and good attention to detail
- To find mutually agreeable solutions to planning and enforcement cases through application of broad knowledge base as detailed above.
- To keep abreast of changes to government policy, planning case law and changing working practices and ensure decisions are made in compliance with such.
- To seek to improve policies and procedures in planning and admin within the DM team to contribute to continuous improvements
- Negotiating planning obligations for inclusion in S106/ CIL appropriate
- Verbal & written communication, including report writing and presenting material to a range of audiences.
- Self-motivated and able to see tasks through to a successful conclusion
- Organisation and manage own workload including meeting challenging deadlines where necessary.
- Negotiate with developers to ensure delivery of quality planning outcomes.
- Proactive and able to develop positive working relationships with colleagues, working as part of a team.
- Working flexibly and to tight deadlines.
- Maintain confidentiality in accordance with current data protection legislation.
- Customer focussed, responsive and co-operative with customers and looks for innovative ways of improving service delivery.

- Dealing with difficult customers and confrontation, on the phone, in correspondence, on site and at public meetings
- Adapting to change

## WORKING ENVIRONMENT

- The role would entail a mix of working from the office, from home and visiting sites and surrounding land at all times of the year through varying weather.
- Compliance with site visit procedures in relation to planning and enforcement to ensure safe site working, e.g. completing site visit calendars, using buddy system etc
- Attending internal and external meetings ie. Planning committee and parish councils, planning appeals away from the office

## ALL STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

To adhere to all Council Policies, in particular Equal Opportunities.

To undertake any other duties properly assigned from time to time by your line manager which are appropriate to the grade and character of the post.

To be committed to the principles of equality, diversity and the ability to treat everyone who you come in contact with dignity and respect.

Tewkesbury Borough Council is committed to the principles of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults; therefore, all employees have a responsibility and duty of care to report safeguarding issues they become aware of or witness.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Ensuring that services are delivered in compliance with existing and new Health and Safety legislation and the Council's Health and Safety Policy and ensuring that duties are pursued in a safe manner with due regard to the Health and Safety of yourself and others.

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

QUALIFICATIONS	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	ASSESSMENT METHOD
Town and Country Planning Degree or Equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form
Chartered Member of the Royal Town Planning Association, eligible or working towards membership.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form
Evidence of continuous professional development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form
Full Driving Licence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form
EXPERIENCE	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	ASSESSMENT METHOD
Experience of processing complex/major planning applications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Experience of Public Inquiries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Experience of Informal Hearings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview

<b>SKILLS</b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT METHOD</b>
Ability to work under pressure with minimum supervision and meet agreed deadlines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Self-motivation and the ability to motivate others	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Ability to work independently and as part of a team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Communicate effectively to customers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Negotiation skills to ensure the delivery of quality planning outcomes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Presentation skills, including being able to present complex material effectively to a range of audiences	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Effective writing and public speaking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Problem solving skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Ability to understand and advise on detailed policy and legal issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
IT skills including Microsoft office	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Design appreciation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
<b>BEHAVIOURS / ATTRIBUTES</b>	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT METHOD</b>
Customer focused	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Enthusiastic and highly motivated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Decision maker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Team Worker (collaborates and participates)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Excellent interpersonal skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Excellent negotiating/persuading skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Pro-active approach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Accuracy and attention to detail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Politically sensitive, tactful and diplomatic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Open to Change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Takes personal responsibility & uses resources effectively and efficiently	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview
Shows respect and consideration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form & interview