

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Planning Technician		
Service	Planning		
Reporting to	Team Manager – Planning Technical Teams		
Grade	12		
Evaluation ref:	SCG1314	Job Family ref:	
Role Purpose			
The Planning Technician operates as a multi-skilled case officer responsible for the evaluation, validation and processing of a wide range of planning applications and service requests. The role provides technical and administrative support across the planning function, ensuring compliance with relevant legislation, policies and procedures. Acting as a key point of contact for customers, the postholder delivers accurate advice and guidance to members of the public, businesses and internal colleagues, ensuring that all enquiries and cases are managed efficiently, within statutory requirements and agreed service standards. The role contributes to the effective delivery of Planning services through a broad range of operational, technical and administrative activities, including system administration, data management, consultation processes and report generation. The postholder applies sound judgement to resolve technical queries, supports continuous service improvement, and maintains high-quality information systems and processes. A strong focus on customer service underpins all activity, ensuring that services are delivered to a consistently high standard while supporting organisational values, collaboration and the achievement of service objectives.			
Accountabilities			
Case Management			
To evaluate planning applications, plans and reports to ensure they meet the requirement of various areas of legislation prior to validating applications. To be the first point of contact for all service requests including the processing of a wide variety of applications and act as case officer, in line with defined procedures ensuring the customer is at the centre of everything we do. This involves responsibility for case investigation work, problem solving and responding/ conclusion of case investigation, within the statutory requirements and service standards or ensuring response from others.			
Operational Duties			
Deliver a broad range of activities e.g. system administration, validation assessments, consultation strategies and processing, purchasing and procurement administration, invoicing, debt management, data collation, web maintenance, meeting organisation, minute taking, report generation - both statutory and ad hoc, responding to Freedom of Information Requests.			

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Statutory/Legal Duties

To develop and maintain sufficient service expertise, up to date knowledge of legislation, policy and procedure to provide advice and practical help, as well as proactive information to both internal and external customers.

In rare cases produce witness statements and attend court if requested.

Problem Solving

The post holder is required to identify the most appropriate methodology to process many types of applications and resolve a wide range of technical service requests. To achieve this, they may negotiate with members of the public, businesses and partners but will know when to seek advice from more senior officers when appropriate.

Excellent organisational skills as this is a multi-skilled role and will require daily reprioritisation of workloads.

Handle and resolve where possible, customer and external stakeholder complaints.

Technical Duties

To use their experience and technical knowledge to case manage and resolve a wide range of service requests supported by current legislation and operating procedures, maintaining some freedom for discretion as long as within policy guidance.

Manage the Uniform Computer System for the Council, which requires management of the infrastructure of the system, regular maintenance and required changes as relevant legislation dictates.

Project Work

The post holder will be required to co-ordinate projects such as system changes and changes in legislation.

Administrative Duties

Accurately update and maintain all relevant information systems and be responsible for ensuring staff input data correctly by assisting with training and support as required.

Knowledge / Experience / Skills

	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge		
Knowledge of planning legislation.	X	

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Knowledge of Access Reporting and Database Administration.	X	
Experience		
Previous work experience that demonstrates the required knowledge and skills.	X	
Experience of dealing with members of the public.	X	
Experience of case managing planning applications.	X	
Experience of working with a variety of databases and generating reports for performance management and audit purposes.	X	
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Qualifications / Registrations / Certifications		
Educated to A-level standard or equivalent experience.	X	
GCSE in English and Mathematics or equivalent experience.	X	
Business Administration/IT Level 3 Qualification.		X
ECDL.		X
Skills		
Excellent customer service skills.	X	
Excellent organisational skills.	X	
Works well within a team.	X	
To be an excellent IT user familiar with database, financial and stock ordering systems and able work at speed accurately.	X	
Ability to follow operating procedures accurately and contribute to their development.	X	
Good communication skills.	X	

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Has the ability to manage difficult situations Deal sympathetically and be empathetic with members of the public.	X	
Support good working relationships with colleagues, partners and business representatives.	X	
Flexible, able to cope with a variety of tasks and an ability to prioritise competing demands.	X	
To contribute positively and innovatively to service review and development.	X	
To demonstrate a flexible and innovative approach to problem solving under supervision of the Team Manager – Planning Technical Teams or other specialist officers.	X	
Recognise when issues need to be referred to more experienced officers.	X	

Working Conditions

This post is predominantly an office/home hybrid role. It is unlikely that they will be required to work alone but should this be the case the post holder must adhere to solo working procedures.

The post holder will be expected to cover Council operating hours in a Duty Officer Rota along with colleagues as this is a front facing service. Flexible working will be encouraged at other times.

Dimensions of the role

No reporting but may support/mentor other staff from time to time.

No budgetary responsibility.

Within a team that processes over 2,000 service requests and 2,000 planning applications a year.

Working Arrangements

On occasions there will be an expectation to work outside normal office hours to assist at meetings or at events.

Corporate Accountabilities

Understand, uphold, and promote the aims of the council's equality, diversity, and inclusion policies; health, safety and wellbeing of self and others; and Organisational values in everything you do. Equality and Diversity practice covers both interaction with staff, service users and communities and includes challenging discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity for all.

Date: