

Principal Planning Officer Development Management

Job Description

Directorate:	Place		
Service:	Environment and Regulatory		
Location:	Hybrid/County Hall		
Salary range:	£46,142 - £51,356	Grade: 10	
Reports to:	Development Management Manager	Staff responsible for:	0

Job purpose and scope

Lancashire County Council is recruiting a full time Principal Planner to act as one of the main technical leads on Development Management matters. Managing a caseload of planning applications for minerals and waste applications and planning applications for the county council's own development. The role will involve working with the Development Management Manager to undertake all aspects of the development management process.

The role will assist the DM Manager and Strategic Planning Lead in managing and building a high performing team as part of the wider strategic planning service which is responsive to the needs of its customers. Working within a politically sensitive environment the role will require liaison with developers/applicants, councillors, other council services, partner agencies, stakeholders and the community.

Performance Indicators

- Thorough knowledge and understanding of planning legislation, policy and procedures.
- Experience of large scale EIA planning applications
- Understanding and use of development management IT systems, tools and templates.
- Planning, organising and managing demanding workloads to meet strict deadlines, performance targets and service priorities.
- Presentational, communication, engagement and negotiation skills
- Quality of advice and service against legal and best practice standards
- Ability to work in a political environment

The Lancashire Mindset

Principal Planning Officer Development Management



Here at Lancashire County Council, we are helping to make Lancashire the best place to live, work, visit, and prosper. To help us achieve this, we have introduced the Lancashire Mindset: Growth, Ownership, Optimism, and Positive Impact. Adopting this mindset across the entire organisation not only brings our values to life but also emphasises the collective commitment to delivering the best for the people of Lancashire.

The Lancashire Mindset serves as a guiding force for a culture rooted in growth, ownership, optimism, and the commitment to making a meaningful positive impact.



Accountabilities/Responsibilities

Amongst other duties, the officer would be responsible for

- Acting as a main technical lead on the processing of all aspects of minerals and waste planning applications and planning applications for the county council's own development proposals.
- Providing pre- application advice and preparing screening and scoping opinions and assessment of environmental statements
- Preparing committee reports, attending committee meetings and presenting planning applications and other planning related matters to elected members of the Council
- Providing advice and assisting councillors at committee, site visits and other public meetings.
- Liaising with other services including Legal Services to minimise risks of legal challenge and inputting into legal agreements to ensure the provisions are comprehensive and effective
- Undertaking planning appeals and presenting evidence at hearings, inquiries and in court.
- Addressing complaints and supporting site and permissions monitoring to identify breaches of planning control and take appropriate action.
- Supporting the Development Management Manager and Strategic Planning Lead with key updates, information and advice as required.
- Meeting DM performance management targets and wider strategic planning service and council requirements.
- Working collaboratively across the Strategic Planning Service to support the delivery of an effective and proactive service.

Other

[DATE]

Principal Planning Officer Development Management

- **Equal Opportunities**

We are committed to achieving equal opportunities in the way we deliver services to the community and in our employment arrangements. We expect all employees to understand and promote this policy in their work.

- **Health and safety**

All employees have a responsibility for their own health and safety and that of others when carrying out their duties and must help us to apply our general statement of health and safety policy.

- **Customer Focused**

We put our customers' needs and expectations at the heart of all that we do. We expect our employees to have a full understanding of those needs and expectations so that we can provide high quality, appropriate services at all times.

- **Safeguarding Commitment**

We are committed to protecting and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

- **Skills Pledge**

We are committed to developing the skills of our workforce. All employees will be supported to work towards a level 2 qualification in literacy and numeracy if they do not have one already.

Our Values

We expect all our employees to demonstrate and promote our values:

- **Supportive**

We are supportive of our customers and colleagues, recognising their contributions and making the best of their strengths to enable our communities to flourish.

- **Innovative**

We deliver the best services we possibly can, always looking for creative ways to do things better, putting the customer at the heart of our thinking, and being ambitious and focused on how we can deliver the best services now and in the future.

- **Respectful**

We treat colleagues, customers and partners with respect, listening to their views, empathising and valuing their diverse needs and perspectives, to be fair, open and honest in all that we do.

- **Collaborative**

We listen to, engage with, learn from and work with colleagues, partners and customers to help achieve the best outcomes for everyone.

Principal Planning Officer Development Management

Person Specification

All the following requirements are essential unless otherwise indicated by *

Your ability to meet the job requirements will initially be assessed by the information provided on your application but further assessment will be undertaken at interview and, in some cases, by using other types of assessment(s).

Qualifications

- Degree or equivalent in a relevant subject
- Substantial experience in a planning organisation

Experience

- Demonstrative experience at a senior level of processing planning applications including large scale and EIA applications.
- Experience of appeals and enforcement procedures.
- Experience of minerals and waste applications (desirable).
- Experience at a senior level of presenting at planning committees and other meetings.
- Experience of communicating with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Experience of managing demanding caseloads.
- Ability to demonstrate strong analytical skills in resolving complex issues and managing conflicting priorities.

Essential knowledge, skills & abilities

- Thorough knowledge of planning law and procedures
- Strong communication and presentational skills
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to use DM IT systems, tools and templates.
- Ability to work to challenging deadlines and deliver key priorities
- In addition to the skills knowledge and experience described above, you may be required to undertake lower graded duties, as appropriate.

Other essential requirements

- Commitment to equality and diversity.
- Commitment to health and safety.
- Display the LCC values and behaviours at all times and actively promote them in others.

Principal Planning Officer Development Management

- This is an essential car user post*
You will be required to provide a car for use in connection with the duties of this post and must be insured for business use. In certain circumstances consideration may be given to applicants who, as a consequence of a disability, are unable to drive