

Job Profile - Principal Planning Officer

Job Title: Principal planning officer

Job Grade: Level 4 Zone 2

About Camden

'Camden is building somewhere everyone can thrive, by making our borough the best place to live, work, study and visit. Because, we're not just home to UK's fast-growing economy. We're home to the most important conversations happening today. And we're making radical social change a reality, so that nobody gets left behind. Here's where you can help decide a better future for us all.

About the role

To ensure the provision of a responsive, high performing and high quality Development Management Service with direct responsibility for the mentoring and supervising of planners at senior, planning officer and technician levels, to deputise for the Development Management Team Manager and Deputy Team Manager as necessary, and to take personal lead on the management of major scale, complex, high risk and politically sensitive planning applications or enforcement investigation/projects and appeals as required.

Example outcomes or objectives that this role will deliver:

- Development Management is a high performing service where data underpins performance management and service improvement priorities, and is used to drive up productivity of the service.
- A modernised Development Management service which makes use of digital solutions to ensure the provision of efficient customer focused services.
- Improved approach to customer and resident engagement from the Development Management service which puts feedback from our customers at the approach to improvement.
- Delivery of a value for money pre-application service, which generates income to support the ongoing delivery of development management functions.
- Dynamic planning teams, a team of empowered officers who are equipped with the skills and confidence required to navigate Camden's planning governance structures.

- Effective negotiation, stakeholder involvement and conflict resolution (and breach resolution) to ensure the delivery of high quality and innovative outcomes that reflect Council wide priorities and policies.
- Maximising social value including financial and other community benefits through legal agreements to be invested in the borough's built environment and infrastructure.
- Development Management decisions and enforcement action which comply with relevant legislation, statutory and other Council plans, policies and guidelines that can be robustly defended in planning appeals as necessary.
- Reports, correspondence, written and telephone enquiries and complaints dealt with within target response times and of a quality and content that meet required standards
- Support and manage staff within the team, ensuring that they maintain a good level of performance and are supported in their career development.

About you

- Excellence in customer care and understanding of the role of local government in supporting residents through high quality services
- Degree level qualification and a diploma or post graduate qualification in Town Planning with eligibility for Membership of the Royal Town Planning Institute.
- Have a number of years' experience of working within Development Management in a local authority environment.
- Diagnostic complex problem solving skills
- Ability to take responsibility for a defined service area or outcome and to deliver it in a high quality effective manner
- Experience of working on complex issues in a role focussed on the physical environment; Thorough understanding of the nature and financial effects of the planning process and its effects on people and the environment in which they live.
- Thorough awareness of current and draft planning legislation at local, London regional and national levels.

Work Environment:

Predominantly office based with external meetings and site visits. Willingness to work outside normal office hours essential.

People Management Responsibilities:

Direct responsibility for mentoring more junior members of staff and help with their professional development

Relationships:

Reports to an area Development Management team manager and Head of Development Management Service. Partnership working with other regulatory services within the council and elsewhere eg pollution control, transport planners, private sector housing, street environment services, major land owners, developers and applicants; with residents/amenity groups and elected members.

Over to you

We're ready to welcome your ideas, your views, and your rebellious spirit. Help us redefine how we're supporting people, and we'll redefine what a career can be. If that sounds good to you, we'd love to talk

Is this role Politically Restricted?

Some posts at Camden are politically restricted, which means individuals holding these posts cannot have active political role. For a list of all politically restricted roles at Camden [click here](#).

Diversity & Inclusion

At Camden, we value and celebrate difference and encourage diversity in all respects. Our diverse workforce ensures we represent our communities to the best of our ability and enables us to make better decisions. Because of this, we particularly welcome applications from Black, Asian and other ethnic groups, those who identify as LGBT+, neurodiverse and disabled people. Click [Diversity and Inclusion](#) for more information on our commitment.

Agile working

At Camden we view work as an activity, not a place. We focus on performance, not presenteeism. We create trusting relationships, we embrace innovation rather than bureaucracy and we value people. Collaboration is the Camden way, silo working isn't.

At Camden we are proud to be one of Hire Me My Way's inaugural campaign supporters. Hire Me My Way is a national campaign led by Timewise, designed to increase the volume of good quality jobs that can be worked flexibly in the UK (www.HireMeMyWay.org.uk). Hire Me My Way aims to treble the number of available good quality flexible jobs to 1 million by 2020.

Asking for Adjustments

Camden is committed to making our recruitment practices barrier-free and as accessible as possible for everyone. This includes making adjustments or changes for disabled people, neurodiverse people or people with long-term health conditions. If you would like us to do anything differently during the application, interview or assessment process, including providing information in an

alternative format, please contact us on 020 7974 6655, at resourcing@camden.gov.uk or post to 5 Pancras Square, London, N1C 4AG,