



Planning resilience

Supporting local authorities with
planning resource and expertise

**Creating excellence in
the built environment**

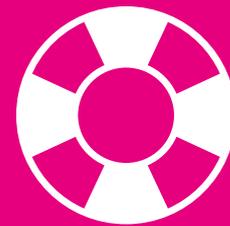


Supporting local authorities with planning resource and expertise

At Urban Vision we understand that local authorities are increasingly facing financial pressures which has inevitably had a knock on effect on their available resources and expertise across council services.

Local authority planning departments are specifically coming under more and more strain as planning case loads are increasing and internal planning resource and expertise is diminishingly significantly.

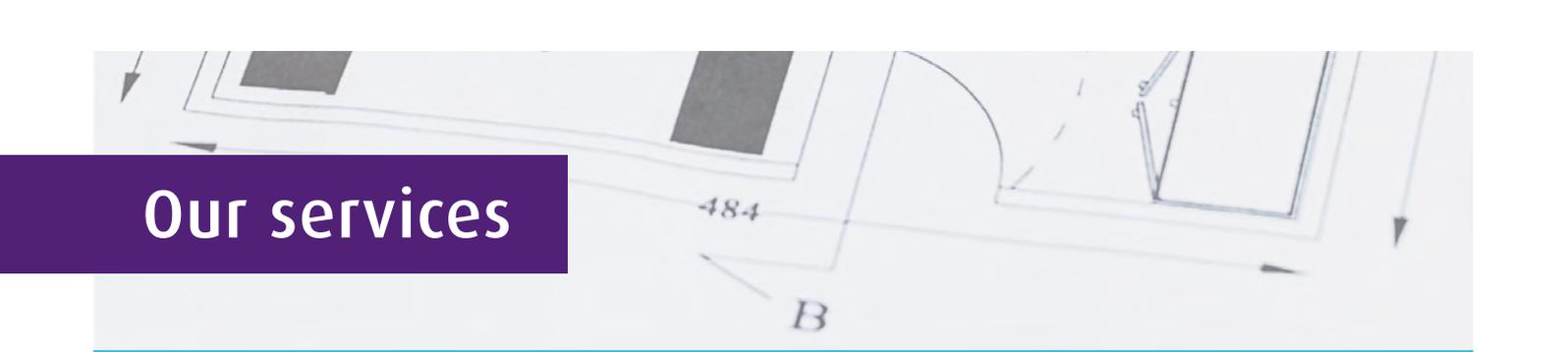
As a result, many local authorities are struggling and in some cases failing to meet their planning statutory requirements and government targets, resulting in financial penalties, reduced income to the Council from planning application fees and delays in planning application decisions, slowing down the rate of development in an area.



How can we help?

We can provide immediate planning resilience support to local authorities who need immediate solutions and a flexible service which can be switched on and off as required. More specifically, we can assist local authorities who:

- > Do not have the in-house capacity to meet their service demands
- > Do not have the in-house capacity and expertise to deal with certain planning requirements



Our services

We can provide resilience support across the full range of planning services as listed below:

Planning Policy

Planning Policy is concerned with preparing and implementing plans that help local authorities decide where and when development takes place.

Our planning resilience service can provide a council with additional capacity in all aspects of the planning policy service from project management to delivering the full range of planning policy documents including:

- > Local plans
 - > Supplementary planning documents
 - > Community infrastructure levy charging schedules
 - > Local development schemes
 - > Annual monitoring reports
 - > Statements of community involvement
 - > Supporting evidence and studies
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Development Management

Development management is the end to end management of planning and related applications in a positive way to foster the delivery of sustainable development. It's about looking for solutions rather than problems and working proactively with applicants to secure development that improve economic, social and environmental conditions of the area.

Our planning resilience service can provide a council with additional capacity in planning development management including:

- > A full development management service – dealing with pre-application enquiries and all types of planning applications and related developments (receipt through to recommendation)
 - > A bespoke pre-application service to meet specific client needs
 - > Service diagnostics – ongoing service improvement and resource evaluation
 - > Validation and registration of planning and related applications – completing all related applications and publicity requirements
 - > A full planning enforcement service – from investigations to making recommendations on breaches of planning control
 - > A full appeals service- from administration to provision of expert witness advice and support
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How does it work?

Urban Vision can offer 3 delivery options:



Remote service delivery

Remote service delivery is the provision of resources from one of our planning shared service centres. The benefit of this approach is that resources do not have to travel on site and we have retained responsibility for service delivery to an agreed specification (service level agreement).

This option is suitable for local authorities who are dealing with a backlog of applications, having already undertaken a proportion of the work on the applications, including the site visits, with only tasks which can be completed remotely left to complete.



Local service delivery

Local delivery is the provision of resources from one of our planning shared service centre. The support would form the basis of a secondment type arrangement, with a significant proportion of the officers time spend in your office, under your direct supervision.

This option is suitable for local authorities who want to retain a high level of control over the resources.



Blended service delivery

Blended service delivery is the provision of resources out of our planning hubs with limited amount of time spent on site to complete essential tasks such as site visits and meetings and then return to the hub to process all types of planning applications.

This option is suitable for local authorities which are seeking to maximise productivity (compared to a local delivery solution).

Our experience



Warrington Borough Council

Due to a resourcing gap within Warrington Borough Council's planning department, we provided development management support to help the Council process high volumes of incoming planning applications.

Our team provided a remote working solution, which involved us visiting the Council office for meetings to discuss cases in detail but complete all background works remotely at our planning hub which involved the uploading of completed reports into the Council's back office system.

“ The sheer volume of planning applications dealt with has been very impressive and helped us immensely during a period when our planning section was under severe pressure

Richard Evans,
Principal Planner,
Warrington Borough Council



“ One of the best elements of the service was how well the Urban Vision planner integrated into the Council's team. He became a team member, was well respected and liked and he was able to provide key advice to more junior members of staff at the Council.

Lyndsay Hayes,
Interim Head of Development Management,
Wyre Borough Council



Wyre Council

Due to reduced resource capacity at Wyre Council, Urban Vision were commissioned to support the council process some of their key major planning applications and helped to maintain the council's performance against government targets on major developments.

The council required a local arrangement which involved Urban Vision seconding one of our highly experienced planners into the Council for an agreed period to work alongside the existing Council planning team.

Carlisle City Council

Due to the recent pressures exerted by the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework, Urban Vision's planning team were employed by Carlisle City Council to help drive forward their local development plan.

Urban Vision led a team of multi-disciplinary council officers and provided a comprehensive work programme to progress the Local Plan.

Our team ensured elected Members were engaged with from the start, which helped to obtain Member buy in on the processes involved in moving forward the local plan.

“ Urban Vision has brought a calming influence to the team and have made a great impression with Members, whilst driving the preferred options document forward.

Jane Meek,
Head of Economic Development,
Carlisle City Council



Did you know?



We already have the experience of providing **14,000 hours of planning resilience expertise** to Councils **every month** over a variety of planning services.



We tailor services around the needs of our client and offer an **on demand** service which can be used as long or as short as required.



We **employ over 150** highly qualified and experienced Planning Officers.



Over 50 local authorities have rebalanced their services through our **flexible** and **cost effective** resilience solutions.



We can work **anywhere** in the UK.



We have **unrivalled experience** of delivering development management in a local government environment, including the understanding of the **unique relationship** between applicants, developers, Councillors and the local community.

We have an excellent service performance record. Please see some examples of our service performance in the below table.

Local authority	% of major applications completed on time	% of minor applications completed on time	% of other applications completed on time
North Tyneside Council	100% (37 applications received)	99% (152 applications received)	100% (703 applications received)
London Borough of Barnet	89% (72 applications received)	78% (1190 applications received)	86% (2397 applications received)
Salford City Council	82% (92 applications received)	79% (285 applications received)	84% (596 applications received)

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