

Role	Principal Planning Consultant
Location	Salford (North West)
Salary	Negotiable
Contract Type	Permanent
Annual Leave	Min. 23 days
Travel	Expectation to travel as required
Hours	37.5 hours per week, however there is a requirement to work flexibly to achieve the service requirements of the business

A career opportunity for somebody looking to play a key role in the delivery of an effective and efficient planning enforcement service for local authority clients in a successful, rapidly growing consultancy.

1. About the role

As our Principal Planning Consultant, you will be part of an ambitious, successful team providing our clients with high quality, timely and outcome based Development Management services. You will also be accountable for:

- Processing major planning applications in a timely manner, producing robust reports and recommendations to achieve desired and deliverable outcomes.
- Undertaking pre application discussions on major proposals, some under Planning Performance Agreements, being proactive and problem solving to achieve deliverable outcomes in addition to preparing and presenting evidence on appeals for external clients.
- Contributing to service improvements to achieve cost efficiency and effectiveness whilst project managing your work to ensure client KPI's are met/exceeded in terms of timeliness and quality of output, adding value wherever possible.
- Contributing to the delivery and improvement of business management systems, procedures and processes.
- Providing support and guidance to peers and more junior staff to distribute knowledge and ensure contemporary planning issues and legislation are cascaded and understood.
- Supporting the growth of the team by making a positive contribution to business development, securing repeat work and applying a commercial lens to all work undertaken and behaviours.

2. About Us

For more than 30 years Capita has been working across the public and private sectors, solving the complex challenges of our clients, increasing productivity, enhancing their use of technology and data, improving customer and public services and adding value to the UK and local economies.

Capita is committed to the local government sector and is the market leader in the delivery of Planning Resilience Services to Local Authority clients. We have worked with over 100 Local Authority clients nationwide, and have an outstanding track record of providing Development Management, Planning Policy, Minerals and Waste and Consultancy services to our clients. We are investing in our growing capability in data analytics, robotics and automation to further develop our Plan Tech offer and to deliver digital innovation to the market.

Our team comprises 210 planning professionals located across four office locations which present an unrivalled opportunity to be involved in a wide range of projects, providing scope for career advancement and a varied CV without the need to change employment. We believe our people are our strongest assets and we are committed to ensuring that we have policies and practices in place to recruit and retain the highest quality people.

3. What you will do

As our Principal Planning Consultant you will:

- Be concise and possess the ability to communicate at all levels, be well organised and efficient, have a positive attitude, be proactive and solve problems to produce well balanced outcomes.
- Provide consistently high quality professional advice on planning matters to clients, members of the public, Councillors and others as necessary.
- Negotiate with applicants and a wide range of stakeholders in order to obtain high quality outcomes within given time constraints set out in our contractual arrangements with clients.
- Provide concise, accurate, justified and timely reports and recommendations on major planning applications and pre application discussions applying current legislation and policy changes as appropriate.
- Ability to keep up to date with current and emerging policy development at a local, regional and national level so that clients are in a strong position to benefit from existing policies and potential changes.
- Support your peers and mentor more junior staff to ensure project and team targets are met and knowledge and expertise is shared whilst assisting to secure new and repeat work in the way you deliver projects.
- Be involved in service improvements and our business operations to ensure resilience competitive edge, efficiency and effectiveness going forward.
- Be willing to travel to meet our client requirements. Driving license required.
- Be agile, dynamic and have the capability to work in ever changing environments.

The above list is not meant to be an exhaustive range of tasks and responsibilities and is subject to the changing requirements of the business.

4. Your experience will include:

- Membership of the Royal Town Planning Institute.
- 5 years or more relevant experience, including acting as an expert witness at Planning Inquiries
- High level of ability to prioritise and manage a workload whilst working flexibly to meet both the commercial and contractual needs of the business.
- Demonstrable experience of working as a senior/principal planning officer or consultant in the public/private sector.
- A high level of knowledge and understanding and application of current and emerging planning legislation.
- Being ambitious to enhance the reputation of the Development Management service for innovation, quality and timeliness of delivery.

5. What's in it for you?

This is an exciting time in our development as we build on our established position as a leading provider of statutory planning services in the UK. Join us now and help shape our offer while continuing to deliver a first rate planning service to our existing clients. We will motivate you to perform at your peak, recognising your achievements and rewarding them appropriately. As well as a generous basic salary we also offer you a minimum 23 day's holiday, discretionary annual bonus, company pension scheme and access to voluntary benefit options including; child care vouchers, share save scheme, life assurance, holiday buy and many more designed to suit your own personal lifestyle.

Our business is an established and respected player in the Local Public Services markets, capable of challenging the 'status quo' and delivering outstanding client facing results.

There are strong career opportunities across the Capita group nationwide and overseas, with a strategy of secondment and resource sharing to enable maximum opportunity for individuals.

Our culture is one of promotion according to talent and impact, not time served in the business. Ambition is expected and rewarded. We invest heavily in our people, recognising that our staff are our most valuable asset. Individual training plans and accelerated schemes foster an environment of continual personal development.