

focus on

a career in
planning

local government talent: careers



What is planning?

Planning is all about making the best possible use of land, whilst also taking into account environmental conservation. It is a process required by law, which covers the management and development of the built and natural environment.

What kind of work would I be doing?

Planning can be very varied and depends on the location and type of council for which you work. Strategic planning work involves setting out the main policies for the future conservation, development and improvement of a local area. For example giving consideration to future housing needs and the position of new shopping developments, or thinking about the protection of historic monuments. More detailed local planning work is based on the policies in the strategic plan, but takes into account the effects of land use on individual properties.

Most types of building work and changes to the use of buildings require planning permission. As a planner you would deal with requests for all sorts of development ranging from small household extensions, through to huge construction projects such as airport expansions and city centre redevelopments.

Where can I find out more?

local government careers information,
job vacancies and talent pool:
www.LGtalent.com

national graduate development programme:
www.ngdp.co.uk

RTPI careers information:
www.rtpi.org.uk/education_and_careers

Insider view: 'I really like the variety of the job – each day is different. I am constantly learning new things and facing new challenges. The job often involves working outside the office, attending meetings, public events and courses, which adds interest and provides practical experience. I work with a great team and it's a comfortable, innovative learning environment. I've also had the opportunity to liaise with other teams in the council's environment department, broadening my skills and experience.'

What kind of jobs are there?

Here are some examples of planning related job roles:

- building control officer
- development control officer
- enforcement officer
- planner
- planning technician
- policy officer
- transport planner
- urban design and conservation officer.

What qualifications do I need?

To become a qualified chartered town planner you need an honours degree, postgraduate degree or diploma accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), some of which are available via distance learning. Planning support staff may work towards relevant NVQs.

What skills do I need?

You need to be:

- an excellent communicator,
- a good negotiator,
- accurate, with a good eye for detail,
- interested in the environment,
- a good organiser,
- good at analysing complicated data.

How much would I get paid?

Salaries vary around the country, but qualified planners may earn £22-32,000 per year.

Are there any other benefits?

Working for a local council can offer a lot of additional benefits, not least, the great feeling of being able to help people in your own community and do something worthwhile and rewarding.

Local councils may also offer some or all of the following: generous annual leave, flexible working hours, pension scheme membership, reduced price public transport, gym membership, crèche facilities, employee guidance and support groups.

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