

Conservation, Design, Trees and Ecology Team Leader – Grade 14

The Conservation, Design, Ecology and Trees Section is responsible for Conservation & Design, Environmental inputs to the planning and wider functions of the Council and the protection of trees and hedges. Kirklees has a rich and varied historic environment with over 4,500 Listed Buildings and about 60 Conservation Areas, and the value of the heritage environment is a recognised and important part of the planning process. Likewise, the natural environment is an important asset to the citizens of Kirklees and the long-term attractiveness of the area. At Kirklees we are expecting big changes. Our adopted Local Plan sets ambitious housing and employment targets which we are excited to achieve. We know we need to deliver new homes and jobs to create the communities of the future and cement our position in the Leeds City Region. We want our buildings and spaces to be of high quality and are looking to take the opportunities to improve design whenever they present themselves. We are preparing for a bright future which is why we need to strengthen our Development Management team with this high-profile team leader role. At Kirklees we want to be innovative and creative in the way we work to deliver our services to our communities, so we are always looking for better and smarter ways to work. This is why the Development Management part of the service needs forward thinking and driven individuals to take us forward on our new journey.

This role is based within [Economy and Infrastructure](#). Find out more about [working for Kirklees](#).

The Job

Alongside the Development Management Team Leaders, you will be responsible for conservation and design matters including projects and programmes concerning heritage assets, and maintenance of the heritage database. An important part of the role is the provision of comprehensive, appropriate and timely advice on matters relating to conservation and design and guidance on planning policy and applications to internal and external customers, including developers, development management case workers and elected members. For example, advice on development proposals including formal consultations on planning applications and pre-application enquiries, advice on the demolition, alteration and repair of Listed Buildings, and development in conservation areas.

You will identify and keep under review any land or buildings suitable for formal designation as part of the heritage asset (e.g. conservation area designations and appraisals, national and local listed buildings etc) and prepare strategies for dealing with buildings at risk.

The postholder will manage the provision of conservation and design guidance and publications to encourage customers to prepare suitable development proposals, and to encourage Development Management caseworkers and members to understand and appreciate conservation and design issues including those which relate to all tree and high hedges as well as natural environmental matters in particular bio-diversity and ecology issues.

If you are looking for the next step in your career, we can offer fantastic experience and the challenges.

Job Checklist

- Provide effective leadership, management and direction of the Conservation, Design, Trees and Ecology Team and ensure performance targets are met.
- Support other senior managers within Development Management to deliver an effective, high quality, efficient and value for money service.
- Maintain effective relationships with internal and external stakeholders to ensure the protection and enhancement of the heritage asset and good practice in conservation and design.
- Forward thinking, proactive and customer led handling of advice, enquiries and public consultation
- Maintain the reputation of the service in delivering sustainable development within Kirklees.
- Co-ordinate the Authority's response to matters of Heritage and Planning related ecology and trees issues
- To act as the champion for Conservation and Design within Development Management
- Delivery of projects and programmes to agreed specifications, timescales and budget
- Act as lead officer at Public Inquiries or Public meetings for Enforcement related activities.
- Create close and productive working relationships with elected Members; communities, the development industry, consultees and colleagues across the Council and outside, including Historic England and local Civic Societies.
- Please see your responsibilities related to [safeguarding](#).

The Person

We need our employees to be driven to achieve the best, to be hard working, respectful and thoughtful to each other and our customers and to be creative, wherever they work.

You will promote innovation and flexibility, particularly in the way we deal with large applications and you will also be able to recognise the diversities and complexities in the district that you work.

You will be expected to think strategically and creatively to achieve the challenges ahead. But, will have strong understanding of the local political environment.

You will be focused on creating positive outcomes but ensure we perform well by meeting our local and national targets.

You will be expected to encourage dialogue between the service, members and communities to achieve these aims.

The right behaviours and attitudes are as important to us as the skills you bring to the job. We expect all our employees to demonstrate the following behaviours:

- Positive
- Honesty
- Respectful
- Flexible
- Communicative
- Supportive

We also expect you to promote and role model the Council's Expectations of a New Council manager within the organisation.

This role is at level 2. The Council's [Behaviours and Expectations](#) will be tested throughout the selection process.

Person Checklist

- Have a relevant professional qualification – MRTPI, RIBA, IHBC memberships are desirable.
- Have extensive experience in development management particularly in connection with Conservation, Design, Ecology and Trees
- Have extensive knowledge and experience of supervising and managing teams.
- Have in depth and extensive knowledge in the latest national planning policy, guidance and procedures.
- Have in depth experience of complex development proposals; their management and how to negotiate key outcomes on behalf of the Council with developers and/or key stakeholders
- Be experienced at working in a sensitive political environment.
- Have substantial knowledge and experience of preparing and presenting evidence at public inquiry and Court proceedings.

This Role Profile is intended to provide an understanding and appreciation of the responsibilities of this particular job. It is not possible to specify every detail and we expect you to work flexibly within your skills, knowledge, experience and grade of this job.

For Recruitment Purposes: *In order to be shortlisted for this job please demonstrate in your application how you meet the Person Checklist.*