



Job Description:

Job	Senior Place Planner
Hours per week	35
Service	Place
Team	Communities & Place Planning
Job location	Headquarters
Line Manager	Communities & Place Planning Manager
Band	D – with additional 5% responsibility allowance

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Key purpose

This is a pivotal role helping shape the future of the National Park as a protected area where people, nature and place are closely interconnected. Working within a unique planning context, you will help support thriving rural communities and rural economic development alongside the delivery of ambitious climate and nature objectives.

You will have a key role in coordinating the preparation and delivery of the Local Development and Land Use Plan and associated local policy framework, translating national policy, evidence and community aspirations into a clear and deliverable spatial strategy. Working collaboratively across teams and with partners, you will ensure that planning policy supports high-quality place-making, informs development decisions, and drives positive, place-based change across the National Park.

Key accountabilities

Local Development and Land Use Plan: Preparation and Delivery

- Work with Senior Managers in the Place Directorate to coordinate and manage the process to prepare the National Park Local Development and Land Use Plan and associated Delivery Programme, in line with statutory requirements and national policy.

- Contribute to the development of clear, place-based local planning policies, spatial strategies and supporting guidance that respond to the opportunities and challenges facing the National Park.
- Coordinate and contribute to the preparation of masterplans, development frameworks, briefs and other place-based planning tools.

Evidence, Data and Research

- Lead on the gathering, analysis and application of data, research and spatial intelligence to inform planning policy and decision-making.
- Translate evidence and community insight into deliverable strategy and policy responses that support sustainable development and place-making.
- Monitor and report on plan performance, outcomes and delivery, ensuring alignment with agreed targets and corporate priorities.

Partnership Working and Engagement

- Work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders and partners to shape and deliver the Local Development and Land Use Plan.
- Support meaningful engagement, consultation and participation processes, empowering communities and stakeholders to influence planning outcomes.
- Represent the National Park Authority within external partnerships, working groups and forums, helping promote understanding of planning issues and the role of high-quality planning within the National Park.
- Support alignment between Local Place Plans and the Local Development and Land Use Plan, ensuring community aspirations are embedded within the spatial strategy.

Mentoring, Leadership and Service Improvement

- Act as a senior member of the Place Planning team, providing day-to-day leadership, mentoring and professional guidance to planners and contributing to the wider management and continuous improvement of the planning service.
- Identify opportunities for service innovation and support the development and delivery of improved digital content, planning advice and customer-focused services, including contributions to e-planning and strategic place-based projects.
- Provide policy advice to support Development Management decision-making, including the preparation of reports and recommendations for Planning and Access Committee and Board.

Other Duties

- Undertake any other duties appropriate to the grade as required, supporting delivery of corporate priorities including climate action, biodiversity enhancement and sustainable community development.

Person specification

Assessment Areas	Essential Criteria	Desirable Criteria
<i>Relevant Experience</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of preparing Local Development Plans through all plan making stages from initiation through to adoption, implementation and monitoring. • Demonstrable experience of working collaboratively with stakeholders, communities and partner organisations. • Up-to-date knowledge of the Scottish planning system, including National Planning Framework 4 and local development planning guidance published by the Scottish Government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of leading projects, mentoring staff or coordinating work programmes. • Strong understanding of rural planning and land use issues.
<i>Specific Skills, Abilities and Qualities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent written, analytical and report-writing skills, with the ability to translate complex evidence into bespoke strategy. • Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to influence and build relationships with a wide range of stakeholders. • Ability to think strategically while also delivering detailed technical work. • High level of professionalism, initiative and self-motivation. • Experience presenting to committees or senior decision-makers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong digital and IT skills, including use of planning and GIS mapping systems. • Ability to lead innovation and drive service improvement. • Ability to manage competing priorities and deliver high-quality outcomes to deadlines.

<i>Required Qualifications</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree or equivalent in Planning or a related discipline. • Chartered membership of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI). 	
<i>Any Additional Job-Related Requirements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Full UK Driving Licence. • Flexible approach to working hours, including occasional evening and weekend working. 	