

Benefits...

- Generous annual leave allowance, with the ability to purchase up to 12 additional days leave
- Local Government Pension Scheme with employer contribution of 16.1%
- Essential car user allowance
- Agile working practices
- Discounts at local gyms and country parks
- Health cash plan
- Cycle to work scheme
- Award scheme

My South Somerset Opportunities

Here at South Somerset District Council we have ambition; ambition for the organisation to be the best, ambition for our staff to develop and fulfil their potential, and ambition about what we can achieve to improve the communities we serve.

This is a great time to join us as we are moving at pace transforming the way we deliver services to our communities.

Why work at SSDC as a Planner (Development Management Specialist)?

“We want to be a very good local authority planning service. There are so many reasons to work at SSDC, we have a fantastic natural environment, rich built heritage and thriving business community. Allied to this are the Council’s own Commercial and Regeneration aspirations and progressive Corporate and Local Plans. This means the variety of work a planning specialist will be involved with is exciting, challenging and rewarding”.

Training...

We support your ongoing training needs and career development, whether that is via RTPI courses, further education or informal in-house CPD and mentoring, we invest in staff and realise their potential.

“I joined SSDC 6 years ago as a Planning Assistant and they supported me to undertake a post-graduate degree which I have now completed. As a result of that qualification and my ongoing performance I was promoted to Development Management Specialist and now I am involved in varied complex applications which I really enjoy. I enjoy working in a friendly team of planners and I now mentor Case Officers”

As a Council we want to celebrate successes and promote the role and importance of planning. If you want a challenge, like working as part of a team and have a passion for shaping development and seeing the results of your work then SSDC is the place for you.

We are...

The Council receives circa 2000 applications per year. Covering an area of 370 square miles South Somerset has rural areas, vibrant towns and a network of market towns. South Somerset District Council serves approximately 72,000 households across 121 parishes. Our work therefore encompasses rural and urban planning, residential, retail, commercial and agricultural development.

A Development Management Specialist performs the role most identifiable historically as a Planning Officer. However the role now has a greater relationship and synergy with Case Officers who support all casework. Emerging technology and digital systems will remove administrative processes meaning a Development Management Specialist can concentrate on the things they enjoy most and are most skilled in.

Regeneration Projects...

The Council is undertaking ambitious Regeneration projects in our larger settlements of Yeovil, Chard and Wincanton. A Development Management Specialist works as part of a multidisciplinary team to shape the development, providing key professional input, assuming the role of critical friend and promoting the very best in design and sustainability.



A new beginning

South Somerset is one of the largest and most fascinating local authorities in the country. It enjoys a thriving diverse economy and is home to world leading, high tech aerospace, engineering and manufacturing businesses. A strong agricultural sector drives world renowned food and drink production and tourism.

South Somerset District Council is undergoing a significant transformation project which is changing our approach, staffing structure and even office space.



Role Description

Role Title: Specialist Development Management

Location: Yeovil / Agile

Grades: 6

Main purpose

Provide customer focused specialist planning advice within the Council and externally, promoting the work of the Council and its reputation.

To provide specialist planning knowledge and expertise in delivery of service to external customers and within the organisation.

Key tasks

Grade 6

- To provide a specialist, professional service with high standards of advice and support and resolving cases of varying complexity as they arise.
- Deliver customer focused specialist advice and services, keeping up to date with current and emerging legislation, best practice and policy to ensure continuous development and improvement in services.
- Being accountable for complex or contentious applications, cases and inspections, ensuring satisfactory resolution and liaising with external agencies and partners including courts, tribunal services, Inquiries appeals and other formal processes.
- Support, guide and advise the case services team and the customer focused team.
- Prepare and present reports to council committees and other internal and external meetings.
- Ensure personal, professional development is maintained to the required standards.
- Contribute to reduced demand by building prevention and enabling into daily work and providing specialist advice to the rest of the organisation.
- Act as a champion for a subject /specialism providing expertise and knowledge to other area(s) of the organisation - advising, educating, acting as a buddy, and supporting knowledge transfer to enable the organisation to maximise performance.
- Promote equality of opportunity in all aspects of the role in line with corporate policies, training and procedures.
- Promote a culture that is supportive of the Council's purpose, aims and values, and to take all reasonable steps to maintain good employee relations.
- Staff are encouraged to participate fully in promoting a safety culture to protect the safety and health of themselves, colleagues and other people affected by the Council's activities.

Personal Specification

Professional and educational qualifications

	Qualification	Experience
Development Management	Qualification: accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institution (RTPI) (or equivalent) or similar relevant qualification or qualified by strong relevant professional experience	Experience in Planning development management or related discipline

Desirable

- Membership of relevant professional body

Experience

Essential	Desirable
Professional competence / expertise and proven experience in Planning	Experience of working for a local authority
Assisting in planning and delivering projects / programmes	Partnership working
Preparation and presentation of reports	Planning and delivering projects / programmes
Experience in dealing with service users and stakeholders	Working in a matrix environment where cross team and corporate working are essential

Key Skills

Essential	Desirable
Proactive with commitment to provision of excellent customer service	Project and / or change management
Ability to prioritise, meet deadlines and work effectively under pressure	Able to exploit the use of new technology
Good communication skills both written and verbal to include report writing, presentation	Investigative skills
Verbal reasoning	Negotiation



Decision making and problem solving	Able to work with teams across an organisation to improve services
Committed to high standards of performance and quality	Project and / or change management
Team working	
Microsoft Office	
Flexible and resourceful	
Proficient in relevant IT applications	

Knowledge

Essential	Desirable
A good knowledge of the working practices and methodologies of at least one of the relevant specialist services	Good knowledge of terminology and acronyms used by service areas
Good working knowledge of legislation and developments within the specialism	Contracts and procurement methods and practices
Equalities policy and procedures	Project and/or change management
	Broad knowledge of the Council systems and services