



Internship Programme 2024

Placement information:

Directorate: Planning and Growth
Team: Planning Development
Duration: 12 weeks

Description of directorate:

The Planning and Growth Directorate includes both planning application decisions and the Strategic Planning team who make the policies by which planning applications are determined. The directorate also includes the Economic Development team supporting business growth and skills in the district. In addition, the directorate includes a Strategic Housing team who provide a strategy for housing provision within the district and in particular facilitate much needed affordable housing within the area to meet the district's needs.

What does the team do?

The Development Management Service area provides the following services:

- Dealing with planning applications, works to protected trees, listed buildings and conservation areas.
- Planning Enforcement deals with breaches of planning control and unauthorised development
- The Building Control team ensures that new development complies with the Building Regulations to ensure buildings are structurally sound and meeting environmental standards.

The team seeks to ensure that new development in the district is proactively and positively encouraged whilst protecting valued environments such as the countryside, historic and natural resources.

What is the team currently working on and potential areas of work for the intern?

The team deal with a myriad of proposals from simple domestic extensions to strategic sites for major housing and employment development. We are currently awaiting a Government decision on a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project for one of the largest solar farm proposals in the country. We also have a proposal for a new hospital in Bury St Edmunds. No two days in the department are ever the same.

The service has regular involvement with elected Members with a Development Control Committee where the most controversial and complex applications are determined by the Committee. The team is also involved in the preparation of

Development Briefs and Master Plans which set out the vision for future development on major sites allocated through the Local Plan process. The team are also helping to support the current review of the Local Plan for the district.

What is the role of the Intern within the team?

The successful intern would be given an opportunity to be involved in the day-to-day work of the whole team with lots of opportunities for shadowing officers on site visits/inspections and meetings with developers. The intern would also be given a specific project to help improve an element of the service and may also be given an opportunity to become involved in some of the day-to-day work of the department.

What areas of study, skills or interests are relevant to this role? Are there any specific requirements?

If you have an interest in geography, history, the environment you will be well suited to this role. Many planning officers start off their career as geography graduate – although this isn't a pre-requisite for involvement in planning as a career. If you have a keen interest in how environmental, social, and economic sustainability can transform a site and can ensure high quality place making you will enjoy working in the planning team.

Other key skills for the planning team relate to good customer service, excellent time management and prioritisation and communication skills.