



Planning Enforcement Team Leader Candidate Pack



DARTFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

About the role



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Department – B/S` ` [Y EVh[UW

Grade – J

Salary £46,043 PA increasing to £48,424 PA following 12 months satisfactory performance

Hours - 37 hours per week – Monday – Friday

Flexi-time and Hybrid Working Available

About the role

Dartford is one of the fastest growing districts in the country. We are now planning to 2037 and our focus is on Dartford Town Centre; securing large mixed use residential-led redevelopment in and around the town as well as public realm and transport-related improvements. Complementing the growth in the urban area, the Council is keen to protect the significant area of Green Belt in the Borough and the areas of value within it: including ancient woodland, river valleys, areas of ecological value, marshland, and agricultural land. With significant pressure for development in the Borough, and as a place where commercial operators seek to locate, Planning Enforcement in Dartford can be very varied.

You will join a friendly team of hard-working planning enforcement officers, currently supported by a highly experienced planning enforcement solicitor. You will be expected to tackle the most complex planning enforcement cases with a case-load of your own, liaising with other agencies, both internal and external and representing the Council at appeal where necessary. We are looking for someone who thrives on getting the right outcome and is not afraid to step outside of their comfort zone.

This is a high profile role, which generates a lot of interest from Councillors and residents. You will need to be diplomatic but firm, exercise strong judgement and have good people skills. You will also have a knack for investigation, be well-organised and determined to see things through to a conclusion. In managing the Planning Enforcement Team, you will need to motivate and support your team to achieve positive outcomes.

This post is considered by DBC to be a customer-facing position. The Council therefore has a statutory duty under Part 7 of the Immigration Act (2016) to ensure that post holders have a command of spoken English sufficient for the effective performance of the job requirements.

Skills, Knowledge and Experience:

This role would require you to lead a small but experienced planning enforcement team with a dedicated administration officer. Working within a wider Planning Services team and a sociable Development Management section, you will have the opportunity to gain management experience, make this role your own, raise the profile of planning enforcement within the Council, and ensure that unplanned development does not undermine the objectives of the Local Plan or the quality of the environment in this area of rapid change. Reporting directly to the Development Manager, this role is ideally suited to an ambitious experienced planning enforcement officer who is looking to progress in their career and take on line management responsibilities.

We are looking for a planning enforcement officer who has a number of years of experience dealing with a wide range of planning enforcement matters, who is confident at dealing with challenging people and situations and is passionate about protecting the built and natural environment. You should be able to provide planning enforcement advice to the enforcement team and lead them in the management of caseloads.

If you want to be part of a Planning Services team that considers the “big picture” but delivers on detail we are keen to hear from you.

A driving licence and use of a car is essential. You should have experience in dealing with and resolving a wide range of complex planning enforcement cases

If you would like to speak to someone about this post please contact: Emma Eisinger, Development Manager, tel. no: 01322 343600.



DARTFORD
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Disability Confident Committed

DBC is Disability Confident Committed and welcomes applications from candidates with a disability.

We operate a Guaranteed Interview to any candidate with a disability who meets the minimum criteria for the role. If you have a disability and are applying for a particular role, please ensure that you indicate this on your application form, and advise us of any reasonable adjustments which you may require.

A disability under the Equality Act 2010 is defined as a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day to day activities.



Care Leavers

We will offer an interview to care leavers who meet the minimum criteria for the post. If you are a care leaver, you must inform us of your care leaver status at the time of your application.

Armed Forces

As part of the Council's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant and to ensure that ex-armed forces personnel are not disadvantaged as a result of their service, veterans of the armed forces and/or their spouses/civil partners, applying for a job at the Council will be guaranteed the offer of an interview, provided that:

- They or their spouse/civil partner are currently serving in the armed forces and are within 12 weeks of their discharge date
- They or their spouse/civil partner were in long-term employment with the armed forces within the last five years
- They meet the essential criteria for the advertised role
- They confirm that they wish any application for a post at the Council to be considered under the guaranteed interview scheme.

How to apply

Please apply via:

<https://www.dartford.gov.uk/by-category/jobs-and-careers/job-vacancies-at-the-council>

Do not send your CV – only fully completed application forms via the link above will be accepted

We reserve the right to close this vacancy before the advertised closing date. Please apply early to avoid disappointment.

Shortlisted?

Shortlisting and selection will be based on the job profile and experience required. You will need to address these requirements in your application drawing on any experience you have gained at work or in a voluntary capacity. You should give examples of how you meet the criteria outlined in the job profile and the Council's Core Behaviours. If you are unable to explain how you meet the requirements of the role, we may not be able to shortlist you.

Closing date:

23:59 6th November 2023

Interview date:

TBC



DARTFORD
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About the Council



Why Dartford

'Dartford is a place of quality, choice and safety. A place where great communities, concern for the environment and a successful economy support people who want to live, work and enjoy leisure time.'

Dartford Borough Council is one of the most exciting places to work in the region. Not only are we working on some special projects to improve life in the borough but we also have one of the most accessible offices in the country.

Our Commitment to Equality and Diversity

Dartford Borough Council is committed to equal opportunities policies and action to ensure that the best candidates for any post are appointed irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation. We operate a name-blind recruitment process and remove candidates' personal information to ensure that people will be shortlisted for interview on merit.

Our aim is to remove barriers to employment, promotion and development so that all employees have equal access to these on the basis of ability and the requirements of the job.

We are committed to challenging inequality, discrimination and disadvantage and to achieving the highest standard of employment practice. Equality of opportunity for all sections of the community and workforce is an integral part of this commitment, and we welcome applications from all sectors of the community.

The Council has signed up to the Disability Confident Scheme. Through Disability Confident, we are working to ensure that disabled people and those with long term health conditions have the opportunities to fulfil their potential and realise their aspirations. We are committed to interviewing all disabled candidates who meet the minimum criteria for the role. In addition the Council will where possible make reasonable adjustments to ensure the interview process is accessible to disabled candidates.



DARTFORD
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Getting to us

Civic Centre
Home Gardens
Dartford
Kent DA1 1DR

By car...

The Civic Centre can be accessed via A206 to the north, A282/M25/M20 to the east and the A2 to the south. The A226 Dartford Road links Bexley to Dartford Town Centre. The Council offers free car parking for staff.

By train...

Dartford Civic Centre is situated opposite Dartford station. Dartford is part of the TfL Oystercard area and there are regular and frequent services from Central London (Charing Cross, Victoria and London Bridge). In the opposite direction there are regular services to Gravesend and the Medway Towns with connections to Canterbury and the Kent Coast.

By bus...

Good bus services serve Dartford town centre, including TfL buses, and the Fastrack rapid transit system. Bus stops in Home Gardens, two minutes walk to the Civic Centre, are served by:

- TfL bus routes 96, 428 and 492
- Fastrack bus routes A, B & C
- Arriva Sapphire bus services routes 480 & 490 between Dartford Town Centre and Gravesend.

By bike...

Dartford Town Centre lies on strategic cycle routes. View the routes on the Explore Dartford Maps:

https://explorekent.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/EK-DARTFORD_PRINT.pdf

[Link to map and more info](#)

Dartford Borough Council Civic Centre



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Core Behaviours

Values are a key component of a healthy workplace culture because they clarify how the Council and its staff should behave and help to ensure that everybody is working towards the same goals. They provide the framework within which employees can test decisions, accomplish tasks, and interact with others.

The Council's core behaviours reflect the special qualities that attract, engage and retain the talent that we want; and will be used to shape our culture by influencing the work we do, and how we do it. These behaviours focus the way we expect employees to approach daily business practices, conduct communications and interact with one another.

The Council has five core behaviours that guide the way we think and act as an organisation, and each member of staff is responsible for incorporating them into their day to day roles.



Core Behaviours

Communication

Demonstrated by:

- Actively listening to customers and colleagues and asking questions to provide clarity
- Seeking to understand customer and colleague needs and proactively looking for ways to exceed expectations
- Being clear, concise and courteous
- Providing regular and timely feedback
- Leaving a positive impression of the Council

Respect

Demonstrated by:

- Creating trusted relationships with customers, colleagues and communities to achieve mutual goals
- Treating customers and colleagues with respect and dignity and valuing others as individuals
- Learning from others and valuing differences
- Being thoughtful, tactful and considerate
- Acting with integrity, loyalty and trust

Accountability

Demonstrated by:

- Taking the initiative and ownership of our decision, actions, performance and behaviour
- Learning from our mistakes and seeking out opportunities to improve
- Delivering on promises to customers and colleagues
- Being proud of what we do

Adaptability/Flexibility

Demonstrated by:

- Displaying a 'can do' attitude and being innovative
- Embracing change
- Getting out of our comfort zones and creating our own opportunities
- Looking for the positive in every situation
- Challenging negativity and bad behaviour

Collaboration

Demonstrated by:

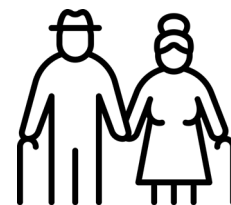
- Sharing ideas and challenges with our colleagues and actively seek out their opinion
- Working together beyond departmental boundaries to achieve superior results
- Ensuring everyone has an equal opportunity to share and contribute ideas
- Being part of the solution



Total Reward Package

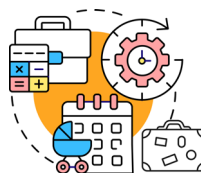
Pension

We are part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). There is a 50/50 section which enables a member to pay half rate contributions for half the benefits. The LGPS is a career averaged revalued scheme (CARE), which means your benefits are based on your salary for each year you are in the scheme. Your contribution rate, based on your salary, is 6.8%



Holiday Entitlement

You will be given a generous holiday entitlement of 222 hours (equivalent of 30 days) and a bank holiday entitlement per annum. These amounts are pro-rated for part-time hours.



Car Parking

Free car parking for work



Private Medical Insurance

Subsidised private medical insurance for employees on Grade H and above on application



Shared Cost AVC's

LGPS members have access to our Shared Cost Additional Voluntary Contribution (Shared Cost AVC) scheme, which offers you a cost-efficient way to invest in your financial future.



Professional Membership Fees

The cost of one membership a year to a professional organisation that you require for your job



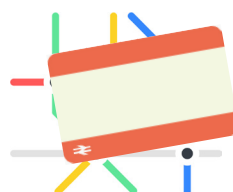
Car Loan

A loan to assist you with buying a car, subject to certain criteria being met



Season Ticket Loan

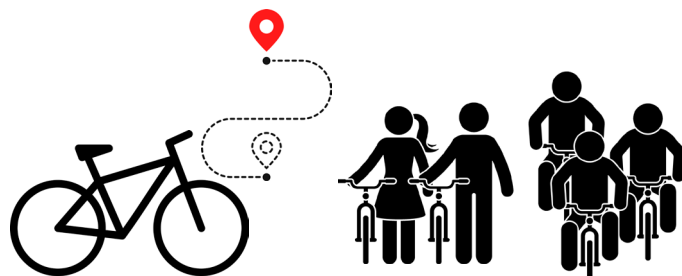
An interest free loan to assist with the purchase of a season ticket to travel to and from work



Total Reward Package

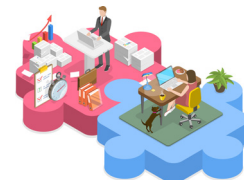
Cycle to Work

A salary sacrifice arrangement which allows employees to purchase a bicycle for travel to work. The scheme allows the cost to be spread over a monthly deductions and also reduces the employee's tax and national insurance costs.



Hybrid Working

A Hybrid Working Policy which allows you to work part of your week remotely (depending on role and in agreement with your line manager)



Flexi-Time Working

A flexi-time working scheme (in agreement with your line manager)



Wellbeing Activities

We have achieved the Kent & Medway Workplace Wellbeing Gold Award and offer various work/life balance and wellbeing activities through the year including health checks



Employee Assistance Programme

Access to a free and confidential Employee Assistance Programme which offers support for a wide range of issues including telephone and face to face counselling



Occupational Healthcare

An occupational health service to support employees in the management of health issues.



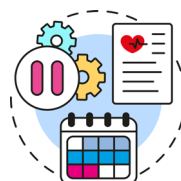
Financial Wellbeing

Free financial health checks, financial planning and access to financial wellbeing educational content through Schroders Personal Wealth.



Occupational Sickness Pay

Generous sick pay based on length of service



Total Reward Package

Flu Vaccinations

Free flu vaccinations on an annual basis



Eye Care

Assistance with the cost of an eye test and glasses or contact lenses for working with computer screens



Fairfield Leisure Centre Discount

20% discount on Premium Membership



Employee Benefits Portal

A host of benefits, deals and offers via our online benefits portal including, but not limited to, shopping, travel and activities



Family Friendly Policies

An enhanced package of Maternity, Adoption, Paternity, Parental, Shared Parental and Parental Bereavement Leave



Compassionate Leave

Up to 10 days paid leave following the death of a close relative



Cadet and Reserve Armed Forces Leave

Up to 10 days paid leave per year to take part in duties or training.



Public Duty Leave

Additional leave for members of certain public bodies to undertake duties



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Job Profile

Job Title: Planning Enforcement Team Leader

Grade: J

Reporting to: Development Manager

Responsible for: Senior Planning Enforcement Officer,
Planning Enforcement Officer

Experience:

- Experience of dealing with and resolving a wide range of complex enforcement cases
- Experience of planning enforcement appeals and legal challenges
- Knowledge and understanding of the key legislation relevant to the role, and best practice.
- Experience of supervising staff desirable.

Specialist Knowledge:

- Planning Enforcement related legislation and case law.
- IT literate – knowledge of Uniform, Enterprise and IDOX desirable

Qualifications:

Membership of or eligibility for the Royal Town Planning Institute desirable

Special Circumstances:

- Driving licence required and the use of a car.
- Attendance at meetings and site visits outside normal office hours and/or away from the Civic Centre may be required
- Occasional weekend working may be required



This, together with the competency levels is a description of the job as it is at present constituted. It is the practice of this Council to periodically review and update them to ensure that they relate to the job as then being performed, or to incorporate whatever changes are being proposed. You will be expected to participate fully in any discussions and, in connection with them, to re-write your job profile to bring it up-to-date if this is considered necessary or desirable, and to discuss it with your immediate superior. It is the Council's aim to reach agreement on reasonable changes, but if agreement is not possible the Council reserves the right to insist on changes to your job description after consultation with you. As a term of your employment you can be required to undertake such other duties commensurate with your grade, and/or hours of work, as may reasonably be required of you. All aspects of the post are to be carried out in compliance with the Council's overall Policies and Procedures, and all post holders will frequently have access to confidential information and will maintain such confidentiality as required by the Council.

Key activities:

- To lead a team responsible for planning enforcement in the Borough.
- To lead the Council's response to breaches of Planning Control, to actively participate in and co-ordinate the work of the Planning Enforcement Team for the Authority.
- To work in partnership with the Council's Community Safety Unit
- To engage with officers of other sections of the Authority and with external organisations including Kent Police, Environment Agency, Kent County Council and others to effectively deliver a coordinated approach to enforcement across the Borough.
- To manage the Senior Planning Enforcement Officer, Planning Enforcement Officer and Planning Technical Officer (Enforcement)
- To effectively manage the Planning Enforcement team and deliver results in line with key performance indicators.
- To provide planning advice on enforcement matters in the Borough in liaison with the Development Manager, Major Projects Team Leader and Principal Planner.
- To close some minor planning enforcement cases where, following investigation, no action is required or can be taken.
- To serve formal notices and pursue legal action in relation to planning enforcement, including enforcement of the Community Infrastructure Levy, in accordance with legislation and in liaison with the Development Manager and the Council's legal section.
- To deal with planning appeals on enforcement matters, prepare the Council's case and represent the Council at enforcement-related hearings, Planning Inquiries and Court cases.
- To ensure that all relevant Acts and Regulations are complied with.
- To ensure that the policies within the Local Plan are adhered to, unless there are clear reasons to depart from these policies and the national policy guidance is adhered to.
- To provide advice to the public on planning enforcement matters.
- To provide advice to Council Members and to attend committee meetings where necessary.



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