

<b>Post title:</b>	Principal Urban Design Officer
<b>Grade:</b>	Grade L
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Environment & Design Manager
<b>Staff managed:</b>	None
<b>Directorate:</b>	Community Development
<b>Service:</b>	Planning
<b>Job family:</b>	<b>P&amp;T - Professional &amp; Technical</b>
<b>Date of issue:</b>	December 2023

### Job context

The Council's Planning Service plays a fundamental role in managing the natural and built environment ensuring that any future development needs of North Yorkshire can be accommodated to make it a better place in which to live and work.

The Principal Urban Design Officer will influence the delivery of high quality and sustainable design of buildings, spaces and landscapes across the County and will be integral to delivering the Council's place-shaping agenda.

You will provide specialist urban design advice, ensuring statutory requirements and council objectives are met and have a key role in supporting and shaping the preparation of the council's Local Plan and other plans and strategies as well as providing advice and influencing the quality of development proposals.

You will also lead the preparation of masterplans, design codes and design guidance to support the council's proactive role in facilitating quality place-making – including taking into account the council ambitions to tackle climate change and create a healthier North Yorkshire.

The Principal Urban Design Officer is part of a multi-disciplinary team and sits alongside other specialist officers including Archaeologists, Ecologists, Landscape and Conservation Officers.

In carrying out your role you will work with colleagues to build relationships and understanding across the service as well as developing close working relationships with colleagues within other Directorates.

**Job Purpose:**

- Promote quality design - integral to the Council's growth and place making agenda.
- Carrying out proactive masterplanning of sites and projects in order to influence the quality of place-making across North Yorkshire
- Provide specialist urban design advice to ensure statutory requirements and council objectives are met, including supporting the preparation of the council's Local Plan
- Provide advice on the impact of development proposals to secure high quality design
- Play a proactive role in delivering the shared 'one team' vision

**Operational Management:**

- Take a lead role in a range of urban design related projects, from the earliest planning stages through to completion.
- Support the preparation, implementation and review of the statutory development plans by inputting to the formulation policies and assessing the impact of site allocations.
- Prepare and update design codes, masterplans and design guidance and other advisory material for agents, developers, property owners, and the general public.
- Encourage and support high standards of design in new development
- Prepare and present evidence at public examinations and local inquiries in so far as it relates to design.
- Respond to pre-application enquiries, planning applications and enforcement cases where a proposal will have significant impact.
- Provide input to design/development briefs and provide design advice in respect of Council owned assets
- Advise on mitigation associated with new development
- Provide design related training and briefings to develop in service capacity; equipping others to become more self-reliant when considering the impact of development and opportunities to negotiate better outcomes
- Prepare illustrative and written material including urban design frameworks, 3D modelling, briefs, reports and other relevant documentation to support high quality sustainable development.
- Provide design advice and support to other groups, organisations and individuals in line with the Council's commercial agenda.
- Interpret data to inform decision making.
- Communicate and negotiate effectively with colleagues, clients and stakeholders.
- Respond quickly to changes in market conditions, client requirements and government policies.
- Take responsibility for own work, performance, development and behaviours; using own initiative to ensure that expectations are met for the benefit of the Council, our customers and our colleagues.

**Resource management:**

- Demonstrate commercial awareness and seek opportunities to maximise commercial opportunities within the service
- Commission additional external support and provide oversight for the work of the consultants

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to the team performance and progress, towards achieving agreed goals and objectives.</li> </ul>
<b>Partnerships:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build effective relationships with partner organisations to promote quality design that protects and enhances the County's natural and built environment</li> <li>• Build and develop strong working relationships across the service, and the wider council, to embed urban design considerations into the Council's growth and place making agenda.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to the delivery of a proactive and customer-focused service in line with our shared 'one team' vision</li> <li>• Contribute to service transformation and improvement work and look for opportunities to continuously improve own performance.</li> <li>• Contribute to the development of practice and policy within the team and across the service.</li> </ul>
<b>Communications:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate effectively with other practitioners and professionals, senior officers, elected Members and members of the public to ensure required outcomes are achieved.</li> <li>• Represent the Council at external meetings and forums as required.</li> </ul>
<b>Systems and information:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operate all service systems in accordance with relevant adopted policies and procedures for their use and ensure that accurate records are maintained.</li> </ul>

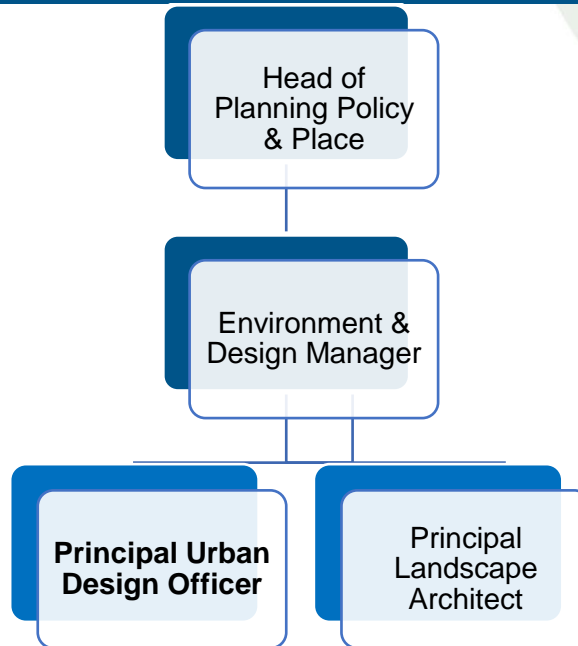
<b>Person Specification:</b>	
<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
<p><b>Knowledge and Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant post qualification experience in urban design</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding of all aspects of urban design, including relevant legislation and guidance.</li> <li>• A good working knowledge of the town and country planning system (both plan making and development management)</li> <li>• Experience of negotiating with a range of bodies and individuals</li> <li>• Experience of effective communication using a variety of methods tailored to a broad range of stakeholders and customers, including experience of presenting evidence at examinations/inquiries and or reports to Members</li> <li>• Working across organisational boundaries, developing effective relationships in order to deliver Service projects and priorities.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Occupational Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to effectively communicate with others, building and maintaining productive relationships with staff, members, customers and stakeholders</li> <li>• Good analytical skills and the ability to interpret information and make balanced judgements/recommendations and to take action.</li> <li>• Ability to manage and prioritise own workload to meet deadlines and targets</li> <li>• Ability to write complex reports</li> <li>• Inspiring, motivated team player with an engaging and positive "can do" attitude.</li> <li>• Effective customer care skills, including how to understand, deliver and manage customer expectations</li> <li>• Leads by example and proactively demonstrates the Council's standards of behaviour.</li> <li>• An effective communicator who is determined, positive and approachable.</li> <li>• Highly self-motivated and driven to achieve challenging objectives; able to use own initiative under minimal supervision</li> <li>• Strong team player and ability to encourage, support and provide challenge to others as appropriate</li> <li>• Ability to manage and prioritise a wide and varied workload.</li> <li>• Strong IT literacy skills with working knowledge of Microsoft applications and planning related IT systems.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Behaviours</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to demonstrate and work in accordance with the Council's values and behaviours.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Link</a></p>	
<p><b>Professional Qualifications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree and relevant professional qualification in urban design or similar.</li> <li>• Evidence of continuous professional and personal development.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Other Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will be required to attend site visits across the Council area.</li> <li>• Will be required to work outside normal working hours on occasions.</li> </ul>	

- Able to undertake travel in connection with the post.

### Career progression:

- At NYC we value our employees, and as part of this we can provide wider opportunities to progress in your career. Through discussion with your manager identify areas of interest and consider avenues to progress to them, e.g. apprenticeships and work shadowing/coaching.
- As a large council we have a range of roles, across our services, and can provide a wealth of career and development opportunities to help our employees find fulfilling career development opportunities.

### Structure



NB – Assessment criteria for recruitment will be notified separately.

Optional - Statement for recruitment purposes: You should use this information to make the best of your application by identifying some specific pieces of work you may have undertaken in any of these areas. You will be tested in some or all of the skill specific areas over the course of the selection process.