

Senior Consultant

We are looking for great people to join our innovative and successful business, which formed in 2009 and has gone from strength to strength to become a market leader.

Our core work revolves around development viability. It includes the preparation of economic viability evidence for Local Plans, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and other strategic planning projects that require the robust evidence we provide. Other projects include the compilation and review of bespoke viability assessments for specific sites and development projects; and auditing viability assessments submitted by the development industry to our clients. We are closely involved in a range of matters related to affordable housing and s.106.

We are looking to enhance our team and service, with a position available for a Senior Consultant. The role would suit someone with a good working knowledge and understanding of viability principles and / or cost estimation / valuation and ideally experience or knowledge of areas such as affordable housing procurement and policy, viability, planning legislation, CIL Regulations, Planning Obligations and Infrastructure planning.

The role may suit current Valuers, Quantity Surveyors, Planners, Housing Strategy Managers or Local Authority CIL / S106 Officers looking for an exciting new direction with a vibrant and growing company.

Although we work well as a team and enjoy a relaxed and informal atmosphere, we expect the right candidate to be able to work on projects from inception to completion with minimal supervision. This will require tenacity and an ability to think around sometimes complex or challenging situations, and the initiative to solve problems. We are looking for someone that wants to grow with our business and would like the opportunity to influence the direction this business takes.

The role includes:

- Undertaking development appraisals and auditing those carried out by others on sometimes complex projects to agreed deadlines and instructions on a range of residential, commercial and mixed-use schemes on urban and greenfield sites across the country - for the purposes of justifying affordable housing or other planning obligations requirements.
- Liaise with other project team members and others to source information to support development appraisal analysis.

- Undertake research into costs & values in order to support analysis for valuation.
- Consider and carry out existing / alternative use valuations.
- Run strategic viability projects on behalf of our local authority clients for Local Plan / Affordable Housing / Community Infrastructure Levy policy implementation including research, development appraisal, analysis and reporting.
- Run and attend meetings with clients – typically at project inception and then for dissemination of professional advice (reporting on project progress and receiving feedback at client meetings, Member briefings, etc.)
- Provide well written, clear and concise professional advice normally via reporting to our clients – most work ends up in the public domain.
- Good communication skills - both verbally and written.
- Review and comment on representations, prepare for and attend Examination in Public / Public Inquiries – representing DSP and the client and be able to explain your work, respond to questions and defend DSP's provided evidence.

The successful candidate will be likely to:

- Have a positive approach and confident, friendly manner; used to liaising with a broad range of interests
- Have a property, valuation, planning or housing interest and background
- Be a qualified / part-qualified member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) or equivalent.
- Ideally have experience of the role of local authorities in the planning system – particularly with regard to Local Plans policy and s.106 obligations for affordable housing and other obligations, as above
- Have experience of working in or with the residential and commercial property markets



- Possess good analytical and report writing skills.
- Be able to manage their own time effectively.

In applying for this post, please also refer to the Dixon Searle Partnership Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice for Job Applicants contained on the DSP website at www.dixonsearle.co.uk.