

Consultant/Senior Consultant – Spring 2025

Role:	Consultant/Senior Consultant Play a key role in constructing, reporting and supporting DSP's consultancy work provided to Local Authorities in the context of both Plan Making and Decision Making, all related to 'Viability in Planning'.
Context: Experience/Focus Areas/Interests	Local Plans. Development Policies and Management. Affordable Housing. Planning obligations and CIL. Local authority experience ideal.
Position:	Full time (Part time considered).
Salary range:	Competitive professional salary level, dependent on experience and role specifics. (Guide up to circa £50k)
Location:	Hybrid working. Attractive rural business park located office with on-site café at Elstead, Surrey. No cost parking.
Working with DSP:	Friendly, supportive and attractive working environment – be a key part of our great small team. Flexible working around core hours. Professional fees paid. Training provided and CPD supported. Generous company events and extras.

About Us:

Dixon Searle Partnership Ltd (DSP) is a leading consultancy specialising in undertaking assessments for local authorities across the UK focussing on 'viability in planning'. Having just celebrated 15 years in business, we have gone from strength to strength to become established as a leading adviser and 'go to' resource in our sector.

DSP's team is known for its professional and collaborative approach, delivering high-quality analysis and reports to support our clients in their plan making and decision making functions.

Role Context:

We are looking for a talented and enthusiastic planning, housing or surveying professional to join our team and help increase work flow capacity, enhance DSP's strong reputation and develop our work both in scope and technically.

The successful candidate will work on a range of projects including preparing viability assessments and reviewing the submissions of planning applicants or Local Plan/Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) stakeholders, policy reviews, financial

contributions/review mechanisms and other evidence-based studies that inform planning policy and development management decisions.

Primarily, the focus will be leading on or supporting our strategic level viability assessments (for Local Plans, CIL, DPDs, SPDs) at what is an ever-evolving time for plan making and associated areas. An interesting and potentially pivotal point for this.

We also expect that new colleagues will need to (and will benefit significantly from) contributing to our site-specific viability review caseload. This, along with the other varied duties in a small company set up is likely to enhance the experience gained, personal development and the progression of opportunities at DSP.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn with us and/or develop existing expertise within a key area bringing together planning, infrastructure and affordable housing considerations. A centrally relevant and interesting scope of daily work, contributing to projects that help shape the built environment, housing offer and other elements.

The Role – Core Elements:

- Information review, presentation and analysis – both written and numerical data
- Building or reviewing assumptions – reflecting data and policies to be tested
- Preparing/reviewing development appraisals
- Report writing and review
- Day to day correspondence and verbal communication
- Summarising, explaining and supporting DSP's LA clients in the use of our work.
- Attending meetings at all levels (both in person and online), including representation at planning appeal and examination hearings, and similar.
- Leading on/contributing to negotiations.
- Training provision to local authority officers, councillors; and to others.

About You:

- Desire to work on own initiative as well as with others in DSP's small team.
- Driven in our areas of work and the backdrop to these – planning, property markets, housing, development and its economics, climate change response, green infrastructure and Biodiversity, development standards, etc.
- Key strengths in report writing and an analytical approach
- Confident with numbers and calculations, data interpretation and overview
- An eye for detail in all aspects of work experience in planning/planning policy, development viability, affordable housing enabling or financial modelling (preferably within a local authority setting).
- Likely degree in Planning, Real Estate, Economics, or a related field.
- Relevant professional qualification (ideally) or working towards that.

Further Information and to Apply:

To apply, please send your CV and a covering letter outlining your suitability for the role to rob@dixonsearle.co.uk or richard@dixonsearle.co.uk.

More about DSP is available on the website: www.dixonsearle.co.uk – or on request.
For any further information or an informal exploratory discussion please contact initially Directors Richard and / or Rob as above.