

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Role Title: Senior Urban Designer**

**Grade: 5**

**Salary: TBC**

**Status of role (e.g. permanent, fixed term, part-time): Permanent**

**Responsible to: Jacob Willson**

**Key Contacts (e.g. Members of the SMT, Managers and members of staff): Pat Hayes**

**Location:** Maritime House, Barking

Be First is a pioneering **URBAN REGENERATION COMPANY** wholly owned by, but operating independently from, the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Council. Our mission is to accelerate growth and capitalise on the borough's position as London's best investment and development opportunity.

We are a property developer, including commercial agency, construction and planning consultancy, and undertake statutory planning and building control services on behalf of the Council. We utilise council and commercial investment resources to acquire sites, secure planning permission and built out new residential and commercial developments. We deliver a socially-responsible model of urban regeneration that creates new homes and jobs for Barking and Dagenham's current and future communities, ensuring that no-one is left behind.

This is an important position within Be First's Design Team reporting into and working closely with the Head of Design and company Directors. You will play a central role in developing Be First's in-house design programme with responsibilities for developing capacity studies, urban design frameworks and masterplans at initial project stages to understand placemaking and investment opportunities in the borough.

As well as leading on in-house design work, the role will include the management of external design teams and contractors to deliver our capital new build programme. This will involve working with exceptional design and technical teams to deliver innovative and well designed housing that meets Be First's design guidance and quality aspirations.

### **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The overall purpose of the role is to ensure high quality architecture, urban design and placemaking across Be First's programme that meets the organisation's design guidelines and cost parameters. The role will be based at Maritime House in Barking and will involve:

- Advocate and develop the Design Team's design ambitions to stakeholders and across Be First's programme of work to ensure excellent design standards and outcomes
- Work with the Head of Design to develop and lead Be First's in-house design team that will work on early design stages of our new build housing programme, masterplans and frameworks

- Develop responsive urban design and architectural concept designs for a range of sites in Barking and Dagenham that meet Be First's design and development ambitions
- Lead on urban Design, masterplanning and architectural designs that include site option appraisals and feasibility studies
- Assume responsibility for and the management of project briefs, the selection of design and architectural teams and the ongoing design management of design teams to deliver to the brief and Be First's design ambitions
- Manage the design elements of procuring a contractor through the Be First framework and managing the design development through detailed design and construction phases
- Work closely with colleagues in the Construction Team to explore construction strategies including the use of modern methods of construction
- Monitor technical compliance across Be First's new build programme

### **Skills and competencies**

- Outstanding design skills including strong graphic skills for communicating urban design and architectural proposals
- Hold a recognised professional qualification such as architect, urban designer or landscape architect with extensive senior level experience of designing urban design, housing layouts and architectural projects
- Excellent understanding of technical, regulatory, environmental and political issues impacting on the successful delivery of local authority housing and mixed-use developments
- Familiarity with relevant legislation and practices around financial and resource planning, to deliver against demanding performance and quality standards
- Excellent leadership skills and comfortable leading projects as part of a multi-disciplinary team
- Understanding of DfMA and MMC processes within residential design and construction
- Knowledge of BIM and BIM processes is advantageous
- Able to self-manage and work with the minimum of supervision
- At ease in the presence of company directors, senior client representatives and able to command a sense of personal professional gravitas without being overbearing
- Have a corporate approach to managing her/his areas of responsibility, seeing the bigger picture, supporting the SMT and managers in the organisation to achieve their objectives
- Able to work under pressure, organise and prioritise own work and that of others, ensuring agreed programmes and project requirements are met and customer demands accommodated
- Demonstrates an understanding of equality and diversity and shows experience of embedding a fair and ethical approach within a team and wider organisation

### **Salary**

Competitive salary plus company benefits including pension and eligibility for Performance Related Bonus