

JOB DESCRIPTION

Role Title: Senior Urban Designer / Architect

Grade: 5

Salary: tbc

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

Responsible to: Amandeep Kalra, Associate Director

Key Contacts (e.g. Members of the SMT, Managers and members of staff): Jacob Willson

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 build 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 to and working closely with the Design Team Associate Director and Head of Design.

The Senior Urban Designer / Architect will bring a passion for creating high quality and durable masterplans, design frameworks and public realm strategies. You will be working across the Planning, Development and Construction teams to help implement these.

The role will involve working on and managing strategic visions, masterplans, design codes and feasibility studies within the borough, ensuring high quality and ambitious proposals are embedded into Be First projects. As well as leading and contributing to early stage design work, the responsibilities will include acting as design guardian for Be First projects. This involves writing project briefs, attending design team meetings and reviewing drawing packages.

The Senior Urban Designer / Architect should have experience of working at varying scales across RIBA work stages. This should include site analysis, design visions, site layouts and masterplans. Part of the role will include reviewing planning applications made in the borough.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Key responsibilities for the position include the following:

Strategy

- Support the team's work with Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DfMA) principles, providing updates to design guidance and briefing tools and monitoring its use across Be First projects

Design

- Lead the development of feasibility studies for Be First sites that support the creation of project briefs
- Manage project teams to develop neighbourhood visions, distilling complex socio-economic, physical and environmental data to generate attractive, legible and accessible material
- Manage project teams to develop masterplans on complex sites ranging in scale from small infill schemes to large masterplans for several thousand new homes
- Manage the delivery of design codes working closely with the planning teams to create robust and legible codes.

Guardianship

- Attend Design Team Meetings, design workshops and planning meetings to ensure Be First projects are delivering to the project brief, design guidance and ERs
- Review planning and QRP material as well as detailed drawing packages
- Work with the Clerk of Works to monitor the delivery of Be First projects
- Review third party planning applications

Skills and competencies

- Architecture, Urban Design or Landscape qualification is essential
- Demonstrates a clear passion for urban design, masterplanning, housing delivery and placemaking
- Demonstrates an understanding of and passion for public sector led housing delivery and placemaking
- An enthusiasm and flair for high quality and sustainable urban design
- Experience of working on complex projects in multi-disciplinary teams to deliver innovative and sustainable outputs
- Demonstrable development experience across RIBA stages 1-3
- Outstanding design skills and proficiency in Autocad, sketchup and Adobe design suite. Revit skills are highly advantageous
- Good freehand sketching and excellent graphics skills
- Excellent communication, including fluent spoken and written English
- Have strong design skills and be comfortable visualising, illustrating and presenting ideas
- A knowledge of DFMA is advantageous

Benefits



1. Flexible working arrangements
2. 30 days annual leave
3. Generous pension with ethical pension provider Nest
4. Opportunities for career progression + training
5. Cycle to work scheme
6. Company bonus

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