

Job Description: Senior Adviser – Council Housebuilding Support

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Reports to: | Head of Programme – Council Housebuilding Support |
| Directorate/team: | Partnerships & Improvement Directorate – Council Housebuilding Support |
| Grade: | Grade 7 |
| Position: | 1-year Fixed Term |
| Location: | Home based |

Background:

The government is committed to delivering 1.5m homes in this parliament and local authorities have a pivotal role to play in contributing to these ambitions. However, with a decline in council housebuilding in recent years, councils need targeted support to accelerate delivery of new council homes.

To address this the government is committed to restoring capacity in councils to deliver new homes, and is working closely with the Local Government Association and other partners to develop a comprehensive support package. This initiative aims to restore councils management capabilities, enhance skills, and build long-term capacity to sustain a robust pipeline of council housebuilding.

Job Purpose:

Reporting to the Head of Programme – Council Housebuilding Support, the Senior Adviser post is responsible for leading the delivery of the council housebuilding support activity with councils across England. This includes ensuring effective engagement with councils to understand support needs, and promoting tools, resources and other support offers to help councils develop council housebuilding capacity. This post will ensure appropriate support and advice is delivered, and councils needs are met, and identify councils' future needs and opportunities related to council housebuilding. This post will work with councils and other sector stakeholders to shape and deliver support activity through a co-design approach with the sector.

The Senior Adviser is the key liaison between the programme team and the sector, responsible for ensuring effective relationships. The post will also work with internal LGA stakeholders as well as relevant external bodies such as Homes England.

Core Accountabilities:

1. Lead the delivery of the agreed programme of work to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and ensure that it is focused on helping enhance council housebuilding capacity, and helping councils to meet their challenges and priorities.
2. Lead or participate in projects that support the delivery of the council housebuilding support work programme.
3. Lead and maintain relationships with councils on behalf of the LGA and maintain a positive reputation for the LGA with local authorities, central government, partners and stakeholders.
4. Maintain an overview of the political and policy context that impacts on local councils.
5. Develop and maintain strong external networks and partnerships that are relevant to the council housebuilding agenda and of value to the LGA and our funders.
6. Model the LGA's values and behaviours, and work in accordance with health and safety, equal opportunities and environmental policies.
7. Undertake any other duties and responsibilities appropriate to the post

Specific Accountabilities:

8. Responsible for promoting and delivering council housebuilding support activity (e.g. direct support; event series, training, Peer Reviews etc), advising councils to help them understand their capacity and capability needs and to access appropriate support.
9. Responsible for strategic relationship engagement and management: to lead engagement with senior leaders in local authorities (up to and including Chief Executive level) to understand specific barriers and support needs; and to support councils to engage with the programme and support options on offer.
10. Identify and support councils' needs, particularly capacity and capability. Arrange suitably qualified technical support (property/valuation/planning/legal) where appropriate. Assist councils to tender for specialist advice, appoint advisers, and where necessary assist in their management.
11. Provide support, challenge and advice to local authorities to develop pipelines, develop delivery options (including HRA), deliver current projects and progress new opportunities by identifying obstacles, devising strategies to unblock issues, advising on risk management, brokering relationships and sharing best practice.
12. To develop innovative new support products and services in line with the council housebuilding support programme objectives, for the benefit of local councils.
13. To contribute to the wider debates on capacity and capability building, improvement, dissemination of best practice and the training and development needs of the Local Government Sector in relation to place activity.
14. Ensure best practice and innovative approaches are shared, and contribute to the continuous improvement of the programme's approach, and to future policy and fund design. Interrogate both good practice and complex issues to improve understanding of effective intervention.
15. To build positive working relationships with councils, within the LGA, Local Partnerships, Homes England and organisations, including the third and private sector, where this champions local government and the objectives of the council housebuilding agenda.

16. Contribute to programme-wide communications, including events and case studies; and draft reports for LGA Boards, provide briefings for LGA members, press releases and so forth.
17. Represent the LGA as the membership body for English local government, and the interests of its constituent members.

Relevant Contacts:

Local Authorities

Members

Chief Executives, Directors, Heads of Service

LGA

Members

Principal Advisors and their regional teams

Programme Heads, PGO's, Policy and Communications teams

Local Partnerships

MHCLG

Homes England

Others

Professional bodies, regulatory bodies, senior figures in the private and voluntary sectors

Person Specification: Senior Adviser – Council Housebuilding Support

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Qualifications | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant degree, professional qualification or able to demonstrate equivalent• Desirable - a professional qualification and/or membership of a professional body relevant to the housing agenda (for example housing, planning, surveying, property law) |
| Knowledge and experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good understanding of local government, its role, structures and relationships.• Experience of social housing and/or housing delivery• Experience of delivering activity with an emphasis on housing/capital projects – this may be around service transformation, housing development, regeneration, other land and property initiatives, or similar• Experience of supporting capacity and/or capability development – embedding learnings, knowledge retention, sharing learnings across partners, and/or similar• Understanding of the typical processes and stages required to develop and deliver a public sector infrastructure and/or housing project |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of key government policy objectives regarding land and housing • Record of achievement in complex political environments, preferably in local or central government. • Understanding of local government policy, the improvement agenda, and the role of local government in terms of social housing provision • Experience of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ building and maintaining effective relationships ○ contributing to the development of place-related strategies, interventions and innovative solutions to complex issues ○ project management, demonstrating the ability to meet targets and milestones in respect of deadlines and resources. |
| Skills and abilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political awareness and sensitivity to ensure credibility with politicians, senior managers, key stakeholders and staff. • High level analytical skills including the ability to interpret evidence and identify trends and solutions • High level interpersonal skills, with the ability to influence and negotiate with a wide range of stakeholders effectively • A team player, willing to work flexibly to meet changing priorities • Able to deliver under pressure, prioritising work against competing demands to meet deadlines. • Highly developed written and oral communication skills, including the ability to speak confidently in public and to present complex ideas in a clear and comprehensible way. • Self-motivated and self-supporting • Intellectually agile and innovative, capable of translating ideas into policy and practice • Personal drive and commitment to social housing objectives • Commitment to personal and professional development. |