

GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR THE EAST OF ENGLAND

Development and Infrastructure Directorate

Team Leader, Regional Planning

Vacancy ref.	GOE 2008 - 037
Job Title	Team Leader, Regional Planning, Regional Planning and Strategy Team
Grade	G7
Salary	£42,879 - £53,868 + £450 recruitment and retention allowance
Terms	Permanent and voluntary
Closing date	19 December 2008
Location	Government Office for the East of England, Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8DF.
Interview Date	19 January 2009

Background The East of England has a population of some 5.6m. and covers the counties of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Suffolk & Norfolk. With significant parts of three growth areas - London Stansted Cambridge Peterborough, Milton Keynes South Midlands, and Thames Gateway - and four new growth points – Haven Gateway, Kings Lynn, Norwich & Thetford, it is the fastest growing region outside London.

The Government Office for the East of England (GO-East) delivers national policies and programmes in the region on behalf of Ministers, and in turn provides a regional input to Government policy delivery. The Development and Infrastructure Division is responsible for delivering the Government's agenda for housing, planning and transport in the region.

We are strengthening and restructuring the Regional Planning & Strategies Team under head of Regional Planning, Michael Hargreaves. The expanded team will consist of three elements:

- Regional Planning (led by this newly created G7 post) supported by a Senior Planning Officer, SEO and EO;
- Regional Housing, led by the Division's G7 Housing Champion, who leads on housing issues at the strategic and regional level and manages and supports the local housing delivery work done by staff in the Division's three geographic delivery teams; and
- Regional Transport, where in parallel with recruiting to this post we are recruiting to fill the Division's G7 Transport Champion vacancy. The Transport Champion, supported by an HPTO, will lead on transport issues at the strategic and regional level and manage and support the local transport work in the geographic teams.

Role

The post holder will be responsible for driving the Government Office's role in shaping the strategic spatial planning of the region and the evidential base underpinning it. This will require close and effective partnership working with a range of agencies in the region, particularly the East of England Regional Assembly and Development Agency, a strong and effective working relationship with CLG policy sections and to Ministers and developing strong inter regional links, particularly with regional planners in the other GOs. Work with the Regional Assembly and Regional Development Agency will need to be taken forward against the context of the Sub National Review and managing the transition to the RDA becoming the Regional Planning Body.

The post holder will prioritise, monitor and review the work on regional planning, provide line management to senior staff, and contribute to the wider corporate management of the Division and Government Office.

While not necessarily a professional planner, you will need to work closely with planners and hit the ground running in regard to developing spatial planning policy and Regional Spatial Strategy process, together with the implications for RSS of the European Habitats and the Environmental assessment directive.

Main Duties

- Leading GO-East work on Regional Spatial Strategy through managing staff under your responsibility and coordinating RSS work across the GO.
- Contribute to the wider management of the Division and corporate Government Office activity.
- Supporting the East of England Regional Assembly in developing the monitoring and evidential base, including through steering consultants studies, to support the early focussed review of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England. The main focus of the review will be rolling the strategy forward to cover the 2021-2031 period, testing the implications of the National Housing & Planning Advisory Unit's housing provision range. This requires working with the Assembly, local authorities and other partners to formulate and appraise spatial options for achieving higher growth. In addition the review will address a number of policy gaps, such as hazardous waste and renewable energy targets.
- EERA is currently consulting on the project plan and statement on public participation for the review. Your main responsibility will be to work with the Assembly to keep the project to timetable with submission by the end of 2009 and an examination in public and finalising the review by the end of 2010.
- Completing the single issue review of the Regional Spatial Strategy on site provision for Gypsies and Travellers – the examination in public is in October.
- Working with the East of England Regional Assembly to carry out a single issue review of the Regional Spatial Strategy focussed on the future of Thurrock Lakeside Regional Shopping Centre.
- Supporting work associated with the legal challenge to the RSS review finalised in May 2008 – the expectation is that the challenges will be heard in the courts in early 2009.

ESSENTIAL COMPETENCIES

Leadership and people management

- Creates a culture in which learning and effective career development, knowledge sharing, continuous improvement and effective change management are the norm.
- Earns a reputation for being a source of expertise and utilises this to assist stakeholders.

Programme and project management

- Effectively manages issues, conflicts, priorities, communications and personnel across projects.

Communication

- Uses relationships to gather intelligence and analyse how policies are working in practice. Uses this intelligence to give sharp, evidence-based policy advice.

Delivering results

- Identifies and develops/facilitates relationships with key stakeholders, both internally and externally.

Strategic thinking

- Demonstrates an understanding of relevant local, regional and national issues, and ensures that processes and policies are integrated.

DESIRABLE COMPETENCIES

Analysis and use of evidence

- Analyses and uses information to plan and inform longer-term strategy.

Professional knowledge and experience

- It is desirable that you are a member of a professional body concerned with planning or transport, and have significant knowledge and experience of these areas.

Additional information

Each candidate will be asked to give a five minute presentation on:

“What do you see as the implications of the credit crunch for the GO’s role in driving the development and delivery of strategies for growth and regeneration?”

Please note that there will be no PowerPoint equipment available, but candidates may if they wish bring handouts.

In giving this presentation it is expected that candidates will demonstrate their ability in relation to the essential competency of strategic thinking.

Application forms available from and to be sent to:

Lynette Watson, Government Office for the East of England, Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8DF. Tel. 01223 372766 lynette.watson@goeast.gsi.gov.uk

For Further Information contact:

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The GO Network values the diverse skills of all staff. Promotion and selection is determined on ability and without regard to colour, race, sex, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, working patterns, religion, or age.

GO VACANCY PROCEDURES APPLY