Senior Lawyer – Property and Commercial Property (Commercial & Regeneration Team)

Ref No: 3006 - 3687


Job Type: Full time, 37 hours per week, Permanent

*DBS Disclosure at Standard level will be required prior to any offer of employment and this post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.*

At Portsmouth City Council we are all about developing our staff to build a bigger and better city - and we need the best employees to do so.

With a little over 207,000 residents and 8,000 businesses throughout the city of Portsmouth, this unitary authority's main goal is to ensure the best care and development of all who live and work here. From customer service to multi-million pound projects, our residents and business entrepreneurs are at the heart of everything we do.

**Who are we looking for?**

We are looking for an experienced senior commercial property lawyer with a background in all aspects of commercial property work. You will have a good knowledge of commercial property law together with a commercial approach to all areas of your work. A willingness to be proactive is essential. Previous local government experience is not essential but would be an advantage.

**What is the role?**

To provide quality advice and support to all departments of the Council on a wide range of matters relating to commercial property. The role will involve working closely with a range of teams within the Council leading on complex legal matters, from significant capital projects to day to day matters - within the framework of the local government legal landscape. The role will also involve some supervision of more junior members of the team.

**Who is the person?**

You need to be:

- An experienced professional who can hit the ground running in this demanding role and who has good attention to detail but a pragmatic, flexible and commercial approach to problem solving.
- An individual with a proven track record of professional achievement.
- Able to work under pressure to deadlines and deal with unexpected situations.
- An excellent communicator at all levels.
- Organised and able to prioritise a heavy caseload.
- Able to engage and develop relationships on behalf of Legal Services at meetings at Member, Chief Executive, Project Board and Director level.
- An individual with an understanding of working in a politically sensitive environment.
- A qualified solicitor, barrister or legal executive.
You will also need to demonstrate tangible evidence of your experience and successes in at least one of the following:

- Disposals including conditional agreements for sale and overage provisions.
- Site assembly and resolution of title issues.
- Grant, renewal, assignment, surrender of commercial leases.
- Development projects.
- The property aspects of academy transfers.
- Advising clients at senior level, as from time to time you may be required to represent and attend Council meetings and Committee meetings
- Working in a politically sensitive environment within local government
- Either some knowledge or interest in either procurement or charities law would be advantageous.

The successful candidate will be:

- Authoritative, proactive and persuasive in this challenging post.
- Organised with an attention to detail, as you will be dealing with a varied workload.
- Expected to work within the timeframe set by your clients.
- Responsible and accountable for the delivery of your personal tasks and outcomes.
- An excellent communicator with good influencing skills as you will be dealing with people at all levels of the organisation.
- Able to ensure your advice is understood.
- Able to supervise and assist other staff members in their professional development
- Consistent, supportive, proactive and flexible.
- Adaptable to the changing needs of the service and to support the Council’s core business priorities.
- Contribute effectively to the delivery of an effective, efficient, and excellent legal service, and engaging with internal and external stakeholders.
- An ambitious and creative individual able to bring fresh new ideas to set us apart from others.
- Committed to team success with a positive and energetic attitude.
- Take pride in your and our successes.
- Able to promote and maintain effective working practices, such as compliance with LEXCEL accreditation procedures, working within a legal case management system and GDPR.
- Committed to delivering exceptional legal services.
Additional information:
If you have any questions, or would like an informal discussion about the role, please call Anne-Louise Taft, Principal Solicitor on 02392 834 031.

Initial closing time/date: 4pm on Friday 27th March
Applications received after this may not be considered.

How to apply: Please see attached documents at the bottom of the Job page and ensure you fully read and follow the guidance so you fully demonstrate how you meet the points on the job profile. PLEASE DO NOT JUST SUBMIT A CV. Please also provide confirmation of your Practice certificate or evidence that you are qualified if applicable.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
As part of any recruitment process, Portsmouth City Council collects and processes personal data relating to job applicants. Portsmouth City Council is committed to being transparent about how it collects and uses that data and to meeting its data protection obligations under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Completing and sending an application in for a vacancy is your consent for us to process your data for the purpose of recruitment. Your data is not used in any other way and you can withdraw your consent at any point in the recruitment process and we will destroy or delete your information.

For more detailed information on what we collect, how we use, store, delete data and your rights you can access a privacy statement on our Job board.

This role is eligible for a DBS check and the DBS have published a privacy notice to ensure individuals are fully informed of the use of their personal data; their rights and that Portsmouth City Council are meeting the necessary requirements when submitting DBS checks. It is important that you read and understand this privacy policy before any application is submitted to the DBS.


Please include the below statement in your application. It is important you know your rights.

I have read the Standards/Enhanced Check Privacy Policy for applicants and I understand how the DBS will process my personal data and the options available to me when submitting an application Signed..........................................................Dated............................... 

If you have any queries, contact us on 023 9284 1191 (8:30am to 5:00pm Monday to Thursday, 8:30am to 4:00pm Friday).

You will need to demonstrate that you have the Right to Work in the UK. No post will be offered without it.