

Town Planner

Employer:	East West Railway Company
Location:	Milton Keynes
Basis:	Permanent
Role Summary:	As a Town Planner here at EWR Co, you will provide advice on town planning matters to the wider team and manage suppliers to support the project
Team dimensions:	Reporting directly to the Development Consents Order (DCO) Director

A little bit about us:

East West Rail is a new direct connection, linking communities between Oxford and Cambridge, including Bicester, Milton Keynes and Bedford by rail.

Oxford, Cambridge and the communities in between are renowned for their vibrant economy, educational excellence and scientific innovation. They deliver growth and prosperity both locally and for the whole country; connecting these two cities and the communities in between is crucial to the social and economic future of the region.

East West Railway Company was set up to accelerate the delivery of the East West Rail infrastructure and passenger services, bringing faster journey times and easing pressure on local roads.

We were set up by the Secretary of State for Transport in 2017 to do things differently. We aim to innovate, positively disrupt, and challenge the status-quo, leading to quicker and more cost-effective project delivery, and an improved experience for passengers and the communities we serve.

As we build our team, we're looking for people with the right skills and mindset so that we can innovate, positively disrupt and set new industry standards. Whether you've been working on some of the world's most exciting rail and infrastructure projects or can inspire us with your ideas and expertise from other sectors, we want to hear from you.

Responsibilities and Accountabilities

The Town Planner is responsible for providing specialist support across the project. This will include but not be limited to:

- Providing advice to senior management and the wider team on town planning matters relating to the project.
- Managing provision of town planning advice by third party suppliers.
- Managing specific areas of activity as delegated by the DCO Director.
- To advise senior management and the wider team within EWR Co and its delivery partners on planning matters relating to the project including in relation to the Development Consent Order, Transport and Works Act Order, planning application processes and permitted development rights.
- To provide input to decision-making processes relating to route option and alignment recommendations.
- To prepare, write and present reports, often of a complex nature, on planning matters to, or provide input to others' reports for, various internal and external fora.
- To lead liaison with Local Planning Authorities and relevant stakeholders in relation to the project in the pre-application, examination and, if relevant, delivery phases.
- To lead on the discharge of EWR Co's functions relating to planning matters under the Development Consent Order, including through discharge of requirements, planning obligations or otherwise, supporting internal and contractor teams on the preparation of relevant materials.
- To monitor and, if necessary, respond to third party planning applications that may affect delivery of the project.
- To manage ongoing liaison with key external stakeholders.
- To support with emerging business needs – for example in design panel reviews, local engagement panels and public engagement activities.
- To manage third party suppliers and their project teams, where appropriate, including applicable budgets and deliverables, and monitor and prepare reports, ensuring the production of EWR Co deliverables.
- To take responsibility of your own and others' health and safety by adopting and working to the EWR Co Health and Safety principles.
- To co-operate with EWR Co in all matters relating to health and safety, including following safe working procedures at all times.
- To act as a role model for EWR Co's vision and values, behaving in ways that are aligned with EWR Co's Ways of Working, as well as encouraging and supporting others to do so too.
- To promote diversity in the workplace and adopt appropriate behaviour when interacting with colleagues.

Role Dimensions

Reporting to the DCO Director.

Given the early stage of the project, it is likely that the nature of the role may evolve as the project progresses. It is also possible that other ad-hoc activities and duties may be required.

Experience and skills

You should apply if you are:

- Demonstrably fair, open and honest, with a strong moral compass
- Unswerving in your attempts to seek the best value to the public purse
- A self-starter who excels in a fast-paced and changing environment
- Comfortable in a politically influenced environment where strategic change may frequently lead to a new approach and a sudden reworking of previous efforts.
- Intrinsically flexible and relaxed in a role which grows and changes as the project develops, doing whatever is necessary to deliver the desired outcomes
- Motivated by helpfully challenging your peers, and being challenged by peers, to achieve better outcomes
- A problem solver who is excited by resolving issues at pace
- Well versed in, and at ease with, all the basics of management – including the control of cost, schedule and risk
- Proficient in using your analytical skills to develop and deploy incisive mitigations
- A passionate supporter of innovation and improvement, who is always searching for better ways to deliver
- Captivated by the opportunity to lead disruptive change to the UK infrastructure sector
- Motivated to develop and grow professionally as a topic leader and/or specialist
- A strong enthusiast of a paradigm shift in information working practices, using technology to empower honesty and accuracy and drive successful delivery and productivity change
- Driven to lead a step change in how documentation is used, and how bureaucracy can be drastically cut to aid delivery certainty.

You should apply if you have:

Skills:

- Effective leadership, interpersonal and communication skills (essential)
- Confident, succinct and inspiring communication (essential)
- Ability to negotiate and procure delivery of planning consents from local planning authorities (essential).
- Ability to produce and present documents to a variety of audiences (essential)
- Ability to provide guidance on production of drawings, documents and supplemental planning information (essential)
- Adept at balancing competing needs and pressures to achieve strategic aims (essential)
- IT skills including MS Office (essential)
- At ease with, and having an appetite for, technological change (desirable)
- Chartered membership of a relevant professional body (essential)

Knowledge:

- Demonstrable experience and understanding of the planning process and associated legislation including development management (essential)
- Proven practical understanding of the complex requirements of infrastructure development projects (essential)
- Knowledge of planning legislation, policy and guidance relating to the Development Consent Order and town planning processes.

Experience:

- Experience of working with local planning and highway authorities, local enterprise partnerships within a political landscape supported by evidence of working successfully with a wide range of officials within such external stakeholder organisations (essential)
- Significant experience of demonstrable personal responsibility for managing projects of between £5m-£100m value (desirable)
- Sufficient seniority and credibility to be able to advise other members of the team on wider projects in relation to the programme (essential)

What we offer:

- Competitive base salary
- Up to 20% bonus based on individual and company performance
- Up to 12% employer's pension contribution
- 36 days holiday a year (including bank holidays) + up to 2 days to buy
- Life assurance
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Perks platform with hundreds of discounts and freebies
- On-the-spot and annual awards
- Advanced learning and development programmes
- Great work-life balance and flexible working opportunities
- Enhanced family-friendly policies
- Exceptional IT tools

Join the team!

Please send your resume and a covering letter explaining why you are interested in the role and meet the above experience requirements to: recruitment@eastwestrail.co.uk