
Projects and Policy Manager (Osborn Fellow) (maternity cover)

Information for applicants
April 2024

1 About the TCPA

The Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) challenges, inspires and supports people to create healthy, sustainable and resilient places that are fair for everyone. To this end we aim to improve the art and science of planning in the UK and abroad and work to secure fresh perspectives on major issues, including planning policy, housing, regeneration and climate change.

For more information see the 'About the TCPA' pages of our website. Our current strategy, which was launched in January 2021 and runs until December 2025, can be found [here](#). For information about current projects see the 'Our work' section of the website.

The TCPA embeds social justice in all its activities and promotes diversity, inclusion and representation within the Association. The TCPA is aware that discrimination based on sex, race, age, sexual orientation or other characteristics can consciously or subconsciously be replicated in its undertakings, and is working to eliminate discrimination in its activities, including its recruitment processes. The TCPA's *Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity strategy* can be found [here](#). This is implemented through policies in the staff handbook and an internal diversity and inclusion working group that meets regularly to review and improve the TCPA's ways of working.

The TCPA's central London office is in a listed building that, unfortunately, is not accessible by wheelchair. The TCPA will make reasonable adjustments to accommodate applicants who use wheelchairs.

2 Job description

We are seeking a Projects and Policy Manager with an interest in Garden Cities and New Towns on a one-year fixed term contract to cover the maternity leave of one of our existing staff members. **This role will also be the Osborn Fellow, which acts as an advocate for the Garden Cities and New Towns** and is a position funded by the Lady Margaret Paterson Osborn Trust.

The successful candidate will need to have excellent organisational skills to lead on and deliver a range of projects and policy work within our small but highly motivated team. Our current

priorities include campaigns on climate change, improving the quality of new homes through our Healthy Homes campaign, the reuniting of planning and health, securing a stronger voice for people in planning and to secure the homes we need in new and renewed places. We do all of this underpinned by Garden City Principles, which aim to achieve a socially just and sustainable society.

This role has a particular focus on advocating the Garden City model and its relevance to development at all scales and the revitalisation of existing places. This includes drawing on the lessons from the past and present, including the New Towns programme and the TCPA's New Communities Group. The purpose of this role is, therefore, to drive forward this strand of work through delivering and developing projects and policy initiatives that support the delivery of the TCPA's strategic priorities. The Projects and Policy Manager will also work with colleagues to help make connections across different workstreams and to collaborate on cross-organisational project management and workload planning.

This role will require some travel and occasional work outside office hours. Staff are able to liaise with their line manager about working flexibly but are encouraged to work in the office at least two days a week.

The Osborn Fellow will be supported by the Osborn Research Assistant.

2.1 Principal responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of this role include:

- a. Providing project management oversight on, and supporting the delivery of, a number of specific projects relating to the Garden City movement, the New Towns and efforts to secure new and revitalise existing communities. This will include providing management and administration of project and event work and managing relationships with key partners and funders, to ensure successful delivery, on time and on budget.
- b. In liaison with relevant colleagues, working to raise awareness of, and articulate the TCPA's Garden Cities and New Towns heritage and its relevance and importance to current challenges. This will include disseminating and advocating the findings from projects and policy work to relevant organisations, decision makers and the media.
- c. Researching, drafting and promoting reports and publications that help further the TCPA's projects and campaigns.
- d. Developing new ideas and preparing and submitting proposals to funding bodies for innovative and practical projects that would help support sustainable communities, particularly in relation to the planning system, via high quality research, policy and project work.
- e. Line managing and supporting one other members of staff.

Other duties as may be required to implement the TCPA work programme, including working with other staff, Trustees and the Policy Council.

3 Person specification

3.1 Essential

- A significant interest in the work of the TCPA including the Garden Cities movement and knowledge of planning, housing and environmental policy.
- Demonstrable project management experience including the ability to prepare, develop and implement project proposals. Taking responsibility for project fundraising, delivery and budget management.
- Confident public speaker with experience of chairing discussions, events and seminars.
- Excellent written English and attention to detail and accuracy is vital, with the ability to write project reports, persuasive bids, webcopy, presentations and articles.
- A willingness to sometimes work outside normal office hours.
- Experience of organising both in person and virtual events, meetings and workshops.
- Proficient in Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
- Self-motivated and well organised, with the ability to work to tight deadlines under minimal supervision.
- Good team working skills.
- Sympathy with the TCPA's aims and objectives.

3.2 Desirable

- Knowledge and understanding of the post War New Towns programme.
- Knowledge of the technical elements of delivering large scale development including, but not limited to, long term stewardship.
- Public affairs experience.
- Experience of working as part of a small organisation.
- Demonstrable experience of writing and managing budgets.

The TCPA recognises that skills gained outside work (eg through volunteering or caring responsibilities) can be valuable and encourages candidates to mention these in the application where they are relevant.

4 Contract, pay and benefits

This role is full time although we would consider applicants wishing to work part time on a four day a week basis. The role is a fixed term contract of one year. The TCPA aims to support its staff to have a good work / life balance and will consider requests for flexible working where it is possible given the requirements of the role. Consideration would also be given to applicants looking to undertake on secondment.

The annual salary for this role will be between £40,000 and £45,000 depending on experience.

The TCPA operates a defined benefit pension scheme run by NEST and, in line with government policy, new employees are automatically enrolled but can choose to opt out. Employees' payments into their pensions are matched by the TCPA up to a maximum of 6% of salary. This is paid directly into the NEST pension scheme, or another personal pension scheme nominated by the employee.

The TCPA offers holiday entitlement of 25 days paid holiday a year (pro rata for part-time roles) in addition to public holidays. For every complete year of employment, staff gain an additional day's leave (again pro rata for part time roles) up to a maximum of 30 days.

Ideally, we would like the successful candidate to be available to start the role on or around Monday 1 July 2024.

5 How to apply

Our aim is to make the application process as easy and as fair as possible.

To avoid unconscious bias, the application form is in two parts: part one is for personal information; part two for details of your experience and why you want the role. Please complete both parts. Please also complete a diversity and inclusion monitoring questionnaire. This will not be seen by the people involved in shortlisting or interviewing.

We ask that **applications are submitted as Word documents** rather than as PDFs. Please email all the **THREE** completed Word documents (two parts of the application form plus the D&I questionnaire) to: recruitment@tcpa.org.uk

Applicants will be emailed to confirm that their application has been received.

References will be requested prior to an appointment being made.

6 Deadline for applications

The deadline for applications is **midday on Friday 3 May**.

We are aiming to hold interviews for shortlisted candidates virtually on Monday 13 May. If your availability on these days is limited please include this as a note in the first part of your application form.

If requested, the TCPA will provide feedback to unsuccessful shortlisted candidates following the interview.

7 Further information

For further information about this role or the application process, please email recruitment@tcpa.org.uk and a member of staff will respond as quickly as possible.
