

Providing planning capacity to Rochdale Council

Due to some short term resource gap at Rochdale Council, it left their planning team with reduced capacity to support with the planning requirements of the borough whilst they were in the process of recruiting for permanent members of staff.

What we did

Our officers worked alongside the Council's planning team based at their offices in Rochdale and processed a range of major and minor planning applications and pre planning applications for a period of 3 months. Once the Council successfully recruited for their permanent members of staff they were able to easily turn off the required support from Capita and stand down our support team.

What specific services did we provide?

Our team provided the following Development Management Services on behalf of the Council:

- > Familiarisation with the proposal, planning history, planning policy framework
- > Site visits
- > Assessment of consultee and third party consultation responses
- > Negotiation with applicants to add value to proposals
- > Preparation of delegated / committee reports with recommendations and list of planning conditions
- > Preparation of S106 heads of terms and liaison with legal teams
- > Attendance at Planning Committee
- > Supervising, guiding and advising more junior members of staff

The outcome

- > By maintaining capacity and expertise, Rochdale Council were able to ensure the high volumes of planning applications were processed and that government targets were met.
- > We were able to offer a quick and flexible service solution for the Council at short notice

