

I AM A TOWN PLANNER



WHAT IS A TOWN PLANNER?

Town planners help to shape the way in which towns and cities are developed. They balance the demands on the land with the needs of the community. They will consult local people on development proposals and present plans and reports to explain and justify planning decisions.

WHAT SKILLS DOES A TOWN PLANNER NEED?

A town planner needs urban planning knowledge such as understanding how towns and cities are designed, developed and managed. Analytical and problem solving skills are extremely important as are strong communication and collaboration abilities. Many town planners work in large teams, liaising with various professionals across a range of projects.

Undoubtedly, town planners need an awareness of planning laws and policies and ensure they keep up to date with any changes in the law too.

WHERE DOES A TOWN PLANNER WORK?

Town planners mix working in an office with working from home, with working on site and out in the field.

Application A

Application A is for a new housing development for 1,000 people. A proportion of these homes will only be available to retired people over the age of 65.

The surrounding city is growing rapidly with increased migration from neighbouring towns and cities. It's current population is 150,000 people. The land use is largely residential and commercial. There is a growing transport infrastructure with a bus and train network operating out of the city. In addition, there are some green spaces with a public footpath and cycle path running along a canal. The city can become congested at certain times of the day with lots of cars. This has created some problems for the local air quality. The site the housing development is proposed to be built on is a brownfield site. This is undeveloped land which has been cleared for the purposes of redevelopment. It might be the site of an old factory or abandoned office building.



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Application B

Application B is to develop a new council area with mixed land use; primarily residential but also commercial and recreational.

The nearby city region is made up of six council areas. The region's mayor wants to develop another council area to expand the city region. The application site is rural and approximately 7 miles inland from the coast. The city region is becoming crowded as it is facing rapid **population growth**. Young people are facing difficulties with affording to live in the city region, and find suitable jobs. There is a growing **transport infrastructure** as the city's port has recently been redeveloped to allow for increased marine traffic. The new council area is to be built on a **greenfield site**. This is a site that has not been previously developed, like farmland or woodland.



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Application A

Application A is for a commercial centre for 100 units.

These are primarily for retail, some of which are independent, small businesses run by local people.

Due to rising **migration** from other towns and cities, the surrounding city is expanding quickly. There are currently 95,000 people living there. With a bus and train network operating out of the city, the transport infrastructure is expanding too. For example, there are new cycle routes connecting green spaces and a new park and ride bus route into the centre. The majority of the property is used for **residential** and **commercial** purposes. There is a lot of interest from developers to expand the commercial land use in the city.



Application B

Application B is to develop a road network to link three of the local towns. Currently the roads are narrow, single track whereas this application proposes a dual carriageway.

The nearby towns to this site are expanding; the populations are increasing and development is also on the rise. **Tourism** is the main source of income for the towns, being situated in a National Park. Having said this, tourism is also threatening the local towns. **Overcrowding** during peak seasons is causing traffic congestion and is damaging to the local **biodiversity**. The local, permanent residents have formed a conservation group to promote sustainable tourism. The new council area is to be built on a greenfield site. This is a site that has not been previously developed, like farmland or woodland.



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What could be an environmental risk associated with Application A?

What could be a risk to the local community associated with Application A?

What could be a risk to the local community associated with Application B?

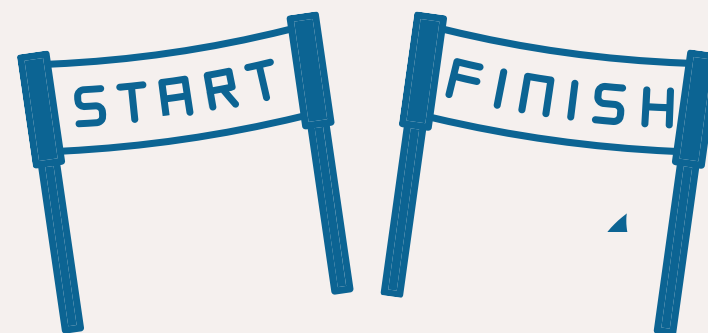
What could be a risk to the transport network associated with Application A?

What could be a risk to the transport network associated with Application B?

What could be an environmental risk associated with Application B?

Decision discussion

Name 5 skills a town planner needs when considering these applicaitons.



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How to play

Where to begin...

Read the I am a town planner information card to find out everything you need to know about being a town planner

Next...

Read Application A and Application B before using the 'Decision Discussion' board to stimulate a conversation around the viability of each application. The 'Decision Discussion' board requires each person to have a dice and counter to move around the board. If you land on a double blue spot, you can have an extra go!

There are two rounds to play.