

James Alistair Thompson

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior Housing Policy Officer with over 10 years of experience in urban planning and affordable housing advocacy. Proven track record in securing £25M in government grants and implementing planning reforms that increased low-income housing inventory by 15%. Expert in legislative analysis and cross-sector stakeholder management within major UK metropolitan environments.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Policy Adviser | Greater Manchester Combined Authority | Manchester, UK

May 2018 - Present

- Led the strategic redesign of the city-region Inclusionary Planning programme, resulting in a 22% increase in affordable unit production within three years.
- Managed a £14 million annual budget for community development funds, ensuring 100% compliance with statutory reporting requirements.
- Spearheaded a collaborative task force with 15 housing associations to address emergency rental assistance during market fluctuations.
- Authored five major white papers on transit-oriented development that were adopted as part of the 2030 Master Plan.
- Represented the authority in public hearings and community consultations, successfully navigating sensitive planning debates involving multiple stakeholder groups.

Housing Policy Analyst | Northern Urban Research Institute | Leeds, UK

Feb 2014 - Apr 2018

- Conducted quantitative analysis on rent burden trends for a metropolitan area of 2.5 million residents, influencing three local policy shifts.
- Developed a GIS-based mapping tool to identify underutilised municipal land suitable for affordable housing redevelopment.
- Secured £5.5 million in private trust funding for a pilot scheme focused on pathways to homeownership for low-income families.
- Prepared monthly briefing notes for the Executive Director and Board of Trustees on emerging national housing legislation.
- Collaborated with the communications team to translate complex technical findings into accessible infographics for public advocacy campaigns.

Junior Programme Coordinator | North West Planning Council | Liverpool, UK

Jun 2011 - Jan 2014

- Coordinated the administrative rollout of a regional landlord-tenant mediation programme that served 500+ participants annually.
- Assisted in the research and drafting of a 150-page report on regional housing disparities that won a national planning award.
- Managed the departmental database for housing subsidies, improving data entry accuracy by 30% through new validation protocols.
- Organised and facilitated 12 community outreach workshops to gather public input on proposed neighbourhood revitalisation projects.

EDUCATION

University of Manchester | Master of Arts (MA) | Public Policy and Urban Regeneration

Sept 2009 - Jun 2011

University of Sheffield | Bachelor of Arts (BA Hons) | Politics and Social Policy

Sept 2005 - Jun 2009

SKILLS

Legislative Research, Economic Impact Analysis, GIS Mapping, Statistical Analysis (SPSS/STATA), Grant Writing, Stakeholder Engagement, Public Speaking, Policy Briefing, Crisis Communication, Inter-agency Coordination, Housing Acts & Regulations, Section 106 Agreements, National Planning Policy Framework, Social Housing Regulation, Sustainable Development Goals

CERTIFICATIONS

Chartered Town Planner (MRTPI) | Royal Town Planning Institute (Nov 2016)

Level 5 Diploma in Housing | Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) (Mar 2019)

LANGUAGES

English (Native)

French (C1 Professional (DALF))

ACTIVITIES

Royal Town Planning Institute Member

Active participant in the Housing Network, contributing to annual policy review papers.

Volunteer Housing Adviser

Providing pro-bono policy advice to local community land trusts on tenant rights and eviction prevention.