

CASE STUDY



Apprenticeships

National Apprenticeship Week
7th to 13th February 2022

Owen Stringer, Chartered Town Planning Apprenticeship, Basildon Borough Council

My name is Owen Stringer and I am a Basildon Borough Council Higher Apprentice in Planning, I joined the council in September 2018 straight from leaving school and have been here ever since.

What made you apply for an apprenticeship role?

I applied for the apprenticeship following the apprenticeship workshop in the Town gate. The reason I applied for an apprenticeship was because I was unsure as to what career path to take, I knew that I did not want to go to college or sixth form and, so, I thought an apprenticeship would be the best suited place for me.



How have you found the experience of being an apprentice in local government?

I have enjoyed my time at the council, I have seen myself grow from a 16 year old boy to a mature 19 year old. Along the way I have made lots of new friends for life and gained key skills and experiences in the work place.

How do you balance working and studying at the same time?

At the moment I am currently studying a University degree in Town Planning. I think it is key to plan your week ahead, as it allows you to meet your own individual targets you set yourself and ensures that you keep on top of both your work and study. Also, on my study days I like to be completely unavailable to be contacted through skype and Microsoft teams as it allows me to keep my study days separate from my working days.

What does your typical day look like?

A typical day for me starts by making myself a cup of tea, then I start working through the TPO enquiries in the mailbox. After, I prepare some site visits and go out on site with my colleagues to assess potential breaches of Planning control. After my site visits, I come back to the office, write up my site notes on the uniform case and attach photos from my camera. I then make relevant phone calls or emails to the occupiers of the properties I have visited to clarify my findings during my inspection and ascertain the next steps. I then fill in my workbook and that usually takes me to the end of my working day.

On reflection, what do you think are the benefits of an apprenticeship route?

I think everyone should consider going for the apprenticeship route as it allows you to gain work place experience as well as studying, which is something that colleges and sixth form cannot compare to. Since being an apprentice in local government I have achieved so much, for instance getting top marks in both my level 2 and 3 Business Administration qualifications and now starting uni. I feel as though an apprenticeship is certainly a stepping stone to kickstart a great career and I couldn't speak highly enough of it.