Principal Stakeholder Engagement & Public Consultation Consultant

Location: Nationwide with travel as required (we offer Hybrid working supported by a Smart Working Policy)

Full Time or Part Time: Full Time

Directorate: Planning & Engagement

Salary: Negotiable DOE

**Company Overview:**

Ardent is the UK’s leading provider of land, consent management, and stakeholder engagement services, supporting major infrastructure and regeneration projects from concept to delivery. With a presence across the UK and Ireland, our dynamic and fast-growing company has supported over 90 Development Consent Orders (DCOs), Transport and Works Act Orders (TWAOs), and their equivalents in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland.

Established in 1992, Ardent has become a trusted partner for clients in transport, renewables, utilities, and regeneration sectors. We are passionate about delivering life-improving change for communities and future generations, playing a key role in facilitating and delivering the UK and Ireland’s net zero agenda, improving connectivity, enabling the repurposing of high streets and town centres, and delivering new homes for those who need them most.

Our in-house digital solutions team, composed of software developers and AI engineers, and our proprietary platform, Atlas Engage, set us apart in the industry by providing cutting-edge tools and applications that enhance the stakeholder engagement process. We pride ourselves on our community-first approach, ensuring that our projects reflect the needs and voices of all stakeholders, particularly those from seldom-heard groups.

**Role Overview:**

As a Principal Stakeholder Engagement & Public Consultation Consultant at Ardent, you will play a pivotal role in shaping and delivering stakeholder engagement strategies for some of the UK and Ireland’s most significant infrastructure projects. Although you will have the opportunity to work across various sectors, including renewables, utilities, transport, and regeneration, we are particularly interested in candidates with experience in the renewables or utilities sectors, which are our fastest-growing areas.

This senior role involves leading complex consultation processes, managing client relationships, mentoring junior team members, and contributing to the strategic growth of our business. You will be part of the Engagement Service Line within our Planning and Engagement Directorate, working closely with our in-house digital solutions team and leveraging our Atlas Engage platform to deliver industry-leading engagement services.

**The candidate will be expected to fulfill the following responsibilities**

* Leadership in Engagement Strategy Development: Lead the development and execution of communication, consultation, and engagement strategies for large-scale renewable energy projects and other significant infrastructure initiatives.
* Pre-Application Consultation Management: Oversee pre-application consultation processes for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), including the preparation of the Statement of Community Consultation and managing inputs from multidisciplinary teams.
* Client and Stakeholder Management: Serve as the primary point of contact for clients, ensuring effective coordination between Ardent’s engagement team, strategic partners, and wider project teams to achieve project goals.
* Consultation Feedback Analysis: Lead the analysis and management of consultation feedback, ensuring it informs project decision-making and contributes to the preparation of statutory Consultation Reports for DCO applications.
* Innovation and Digital Solutions: Champion the use of digital solutions and drive innovation within the Engagement Service Line, helping to create new tools and offerings that are fit for the 21st century. Ensure that Ardent and our Engagement team remain industry leaders by continuously integrating cutting-edge technology and innovative practices into our services.
* Team Leadership and Development: Mentor and develop junior team members, fostering a culture of continuous learning, innovation, and high performance within the Engagement Service Line.
* Business Development and Growth: Actively contribute to business development activities, including prospect mapping, bid leadership, client relationship management, and supporting the wider work-winning process.

**Technical Knowledge, Skills & Experience Required:**

* Sector Experience: Extensive experience in leading stakeholder engagement and public consultation for renewable energy projects, particularly wind and solar, or within the utilities sector.
* Project Management: Proven track record in managing complex consultation processes for major infrastructure projects, with strong capabilities in project management and resource coordination.
* Strategic Thinking: Strong strategic thinking abilities, with a demonstrated passion for renewable energy, utilities, and infrastructure development.
* Communication and Influence: Exceptional communication skills, with the ability to influence and engage with a diverse range of stakeholders, including clients, community groups, and government bodies.
* Leadership: Significant experience in leading and mentoring teams, with a focus on fostering a collaborative, innovative, and high-performing work environment.
* Digital Literacy: Familiarity with digital engagement tools and platforms including artificial intelligence tools.

**Why This Role?**

As a Principal Stakeholder Engagement & Public Consultation Consultant at Ardent, you will be at the forefront of the most critical infrastructure projects driving the UK and Ireland's transition to a Net Zero future. Our Engagement team is leading the way in the renewables and utilities sectors, working on a diverse portfolio that spans wind, solar, electricity distribution and transmission, water, carbon capture and storage, hydrogen, gas, and beyond. By joining us, you’ll have the unique opportunity to shape the success of these transformative projects, ensuring they not only meet regulatory requirements but also align with the needs and aspirations of the communities they impact.

**Why Now?**

Ardent is a fast-growing company with an equally fast-growing Engagement team. This is not just a job; it's a career-defining opportunity. Ask yourself, where do you want to be in five years? At Ardent, we provide the pathway to make that vision a reality. Our dynamic environment offers ample room for professional growth, learning, and development. We are committed to supporting and encouraging our team members to reach their full potential. Now is the perfect time to join a team that is not only expanding rapidly but is also at the cutting edge of the infrastructure sector.

Ardent's reach and impact are growing, and so can yours. If you are ready to be part of a team that is helping to shape the future of energy and infrastructure, while making a tangible difference in the journey towards a sustainable future, there’s no better place to be than Ardent.

**Behavioural Skills Required (Based on our Values) :**

* **Thirst for Knowledge** *(We embrace opportunities to learn and improve for personal and professional growth) -* Demonstrate a strong commitment to the development of yourself, and your people, for your role in a growth company and future role. Coach and mentor others (or actively engage with your Coach) to have a deep understanding of their knowledge and experience. Actively supporting with areas of development and career goals, extending beyond a technical remit and actively developing your business knowledge on an on-going basis.
* **Own It** *(We do what we say we will. We own our individual actions, are accountable for them and take pride in adding value)* - Act like it matters, take pride and caring about the outcome of people in your team, or who you work with, and your clients objectives.
* **Be the Difference** *(Focus energy to make things happen. Be beyond process. Stand up, Stand out)* - Be confident in your decisions and implementing them, taking into account the wider structure and *objectives of the business, working with or alongside peers across the business. Be more than any other competent person in your role.*
* **Enjoy the Journey** *(Have fun, be engaged and be proud to be Ardent) -* Translatinggoals and visions of the business into meaningful objectives for your team in a positive and engaging manner (delivering excellence in your own objectives), demonstrating your commitment to Ardent and the wellbeing and development of your team and colleagues. Understand the needs of your people and colleagues to have, purpose/fulfilment, personal growth, engagement, team culture and fair pay.
* **Adapt** *(We drive change and innovation to deliver growth and new opportunities in an ever-changing world)* - As a growth company Ardent is all about change. You must be a change maker. Demonstrate ability to drive and/or implement change to enable Ardent to continue to excel. Listen to your team and people you work with to actively search for opportunities to create change. Exhibit a resilient attitude, communicate key information in a clear and engaging way to influence others**.**

*Ardent is an equal opportunities employer that is committed to inclusion and diversity. We positively encourage applications from suitably qualified and eligible candidates regardless of race, colour, religion or belief, age, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability status or other legally protected characteristics.*

With people at the core of our business, we offer employees an unrivalled career opportunity rather than simply a job. In a fast growing organisation, we train, develop and support our staff to grow and achieve their career goals. This is supported by a number of initiatives to look after the wellbeing of our employees whilst allowing employees to work flexibility and maintain a positive work life balance.

We offer an attractive benefits package to include :-

* Hybrid working
* Smart Working Policy
* Medical health plan
* Career progression
* Coaching
* Cycle to Work
* Electric Car Scheme
* Enhanced maternity and paternity pay

For more information, please see our services page on our website at [www.ardent-management.com](http://www.ardent-management.com)

Interested? Get in touch!

Should you be interested in hearing more about the position or wish to send your cv in to people@ardent-management.com or contact Stuart Thomas stuartthomas@ardent-management.com