Senior 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 the 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 Senior Engagement Consultant at Ardent, you will lead small teams or components of larger projects, particularly within the renewables and utilities sectors. Your role will involve developing and implementing effective stakeholder engagement strategies, managing client relationships, and ensuring that all project components align with the overall objectives. You will work closely with clients, community groups, and internal teams to drive successful project outcomes.

This role requires a combination of leadership, communication, and project management skills. You will be responsible for fostering a collaborative team environment, supporting innovation, and ensuring that all team members feel motivated and valued. Your ability to navigate complex regulatory environments and contribute to the continuous improvement of our engagement processes will be key to your success.

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

* Leadership in Project Delivery: Lead small teams or components of larger projects, particularly in the renewables and utilities sectors. Ensure that all project components are delivered on time, within budget, and to the required quality standards.
* Client Relationship Management: Manage client relationships for larger project components, anticipating client needs and proactively resolving issues. Build and maintain strong, trust-based relationships that support long-term client satisfaction and loyalty.
* Stakeholder Engagement Strategy: Develop and implement stakeholder engagement strategies that align with project goals and community needs. Work closely with clients and community groups to ensure that all voices are heard and integrated into project planning and delivery.
* Communication & Influence: Enhance team and client communications by demonstrating strong verbal and written skills. Take a leadership role in influencing decisions and project directions through effective knowledge sharing.
* Innovation & Continuous Improvement: Identify opportunities for innovation within your work area, leading initiatives or pilot projects to test new approaches. Actively explore and implement AI and software enhancements to improve processes and outcomes.
* Health & Safety Management: Manage health and safety aspects for project components, conducting thorough risk assessments and implementing safety plans. Lead safety initiatives to maintain a safe working environment and uphold Ardent's commitment to health and safety standards.
* Regulatory Compliance: Apply your knowledge of regulatory requirements to ensure that projects comply with relevant laws and regulations. Navigate complex compliance issues and support the smooth execution of projects.
* Commercial & Contract Management: Develop insights into contract reviews, terms and conditions, and participate in financial reporting. Ensure that project financials align with commercial objectives and support effective contract management.
* Work Winning & Business Development: Play a key role in cultivating existing client relationships and pursuing new opportunities. Coordinate bid components and inputs to ensure alignment with client requirements and enhance the quality of proposals.

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

* Sector Experience: Extensive experience in 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.
* Leadership Skills: Significant experience in leading teams or project components, with a focus on fostering a collaborative, innovative, and high-performing work environment.
* Communication & Influence: Exceptional communication skills, with the ability to influence and engage with a diverse range of stakeholders, including clients, community groups, and government bodies.
* Regulatory Knowledge: In-depth knowledge of UK and Irish planning regimes, particularly as they pertain to NSIPs and large-scale infrastructure projects.
* Innovation & Digital Literacy: Familiarity with digital engagement tools and platforms, including AI tools. A proactive approach to exploring and implementing innovative practices.
* Client Focus: An understanding of client needs and the ability to build and maintain strong client relationships. Experience in managing client communications and ensuring client satisfaction is crucial

**Why This Role?**

As a Senior Engagement Consultant at Ardent, you will be at the forefront of some of the most critical infrastructure projects driving the UK and Ireland's transition to a Net Zero future. This role offers you the chance to lead teams, influence project outcomes, and make a significant impact on the communities we serve. If you are passionate about renewable energy, utilities, and making a real difference through stakeholder engagement, this is the perfect opportunity for you.

**Why Now?**

Ardent is a fast-growing company at a pivotal point in its journey, with an increasing portfolio of projects across the renewables, utilities, transport, and regeneration sectors. There has never been a more exciting time to join our team. As we continue to expand our operations, we are looking for passionate and driven individuals who are ready to grow with us.

Ardent is a fast-growing company with an ever-expanding portfolio of projects particularly in the renewables and utilities sectors. The demand for innovative and effective stakeholder engagement is higher than ever, and we need leaders like you to help us meet these challenges. By joining us now, you will be part of a dynamic team that is setting new standards in the industry and driving positive change.

**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