

## **New Graduate programme**

A new graduate programme launched this month has attracted strong interest from Auckland's tertiary institutions and students eager to work at Auckland Council. It is part of the Career Pathways programme run by Human Resource department's Organisation Development (OD) team, which aims to build and sustain high performing teams. The programme will develop our people, attract new talent, and help meet our social responsibilities to Auckland's youth.

The pilot graduate programme is the first cab off the rank, with 17 positions across Information Services, Building Control, Planning, Community Development Arts and Culture and Human Resources. The Building Control team is taking on six graduates as well as four cadets. With the building market ramping up, the need for a continuous pipeline of talent will help us meet industry demand.

### **Building officials do some or all of the following:**

- enforce building rules set out in the Building Act 2004, the Building Code, council by-laws and regulations
- receive and process building consent applications
- inspect building work at regular intervals to ensure compliance with the New Zealand Building Code
- issue notices to fix building work that does not comply with regulations
- give advice on building regulations
- discuss building work with relevant people such as builders, architects and owners
- issue Code Compliance Certificates when building projects are completed

### **Building officials need to have:**

- up-to-date knowledge of the Building Act 2004, Building Code and other related building and plumbing regulations and standards, local by-laws and town planning regulations
- knowledge of building and plumbing methods and materials
- skill in interpreting drawings, architectural plans and diagrams
- good maths skills for making calculations, such as working out floor areas for buildings

### **Working conditions**

- usually work regular business hours, but may need to work evenings or weekends to access building sites
- work in offices and on construction sites
- may have to travel to isolated construction sites
- may work in areas that are dirty, dusty and hazardous

### **What is 'building control'?**

Building projects in New Zealand have to follow certain rules and meet certain standards set by Government. Building officials make sure these rules and standards are followed. They make sure people's homes and other buildings are safe and healthy to live and work in.

The rules are administered by building consent authorities who employ building officials to ensure they are followed. Most building officials work for accredited city or district council building consent authorities. There are also some working in the private sector.

**What makes a good building official?**

- an analytical and investigative thinker who can take a systematic approach and focus on the risks
- a practical person who picks things up quickly
- wanting to learn about building design, construction processes, products and materials
- able to apply the law and building requirements, and communicate these to others
- able to work with people from different backgrounds
- well-organised, paying attention to detail and able to work well under pressure
- a good communicator, in speaking and writing
- a responsible person who makes good judgements
- a genuine passion for protecting people's health and safety in buildings