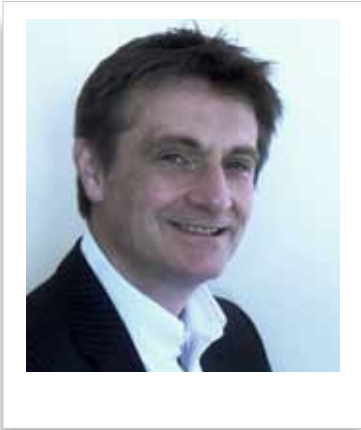


Richard Allen joins FMW Consultancy



Richard Allen has joined FMW Consultancy, bringing with him over 21 years of experience in infrastructure engineering. Richard has a proven ability to provide cost effective and deliverable infrastructure solutions. His key skills lie in the areas of flooding, drainage, highway design and utilities, complimenting FMW's established reputation for high quality transportation services.

Richard explains: 'FMW are a successful and dynamic company with ambitions to grow and respond to an increasing demand for specialist development advice. Following recent high profile natural events, and concerns over climate change, flooding and drainage issues have moved up the planning agenda to the point where they are often the major planning constraint on development sites. It is a very exciting prospect to join FMW where my main responsibility will be to continue to add value to development opportunities, particularly at feasibility and planning application stages'.

Since the arrival of flood related planning guidance, Richard's work has successfully supported nearly 70 planning applications where drainage or flooding were material considerations. Despite the fact that water was a significant constraint on many of these projects, none of these applications were refused on grounds of flood risk. 'Planning consent is critically important, but it is also vital that conditions attached to that consent are reasonable and economically deliverable. I never lose sight of this when negotiating with the key stakeholders'.

During his career, Richard has worked for major national developers, and as a result he appreciates the wide range of difficult challenges that confront development and the delivery of enabling infrastructure. 'Whilst the majority of my career has been in consultancy, I was fortunate to work within the in-house design teams for 2 developers, and this experience really helped me understand the particular pressures faced by developers. In recent times, developers have cut their in house technical departments, and young engineers have fewer opportunities to gain key skills. At FMW I hope to build a new team and I'm really looking forward to mentoring the next generation of talented infrastructure engineers.'

**From 18th April 2011, Richard will be based at FMW's Cardiff office at:
Sophia House, 28 Cathedral Road, Cardiff**

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