

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL



JOB PROFILE

Post No.**Post Title:** Finance Manager (Deputy S151 Officer)**Unit/Team:** Financial Services**Grade:** Grade J (plus market supplement and allowance for Deputy Section 151 responsibilities)**Service:** Finance and Performance**Reports to:** Chief Officer Finance and Performance**Issue Date:** April 2023

PURPOSE OF THE JOB

- To manage and lead the Council's Financial Services function, including managing the operation of all activities of Financial Services and leading all members of financial staff in their work and development.
- To act as Deputy Section 151 Officer under the Local Government Act 1972.
- To support the delivery of the Transformation agenda in collaboration with the Transformation lead officer.
- To assist and report to the Chief Officer Finance & Performance as Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer) in the operation and development of all financial activities of the Council.
- To provide financial advice and information to all Councillors and officers within the Council.
- To contribute towards the democratic and corporate activities of the Council.
- To lead the Council's relationship with external auditors and other external oversight of the finance function.

The post holder will champion excellent management of financial resources, promoting efficiency, high performance, probity and excellent value for money services. The post holder will play a crucial role in the delivery of service transformation, driving efficiency and productivity improvements and also the optimisation of income opportunities, to contribute towards the achievement of financial self-sufficiency.

The post holder will ensure that members and officers are provided with high quality strategic advice and direction on financial strategies, policies, standards and practices, enabling timely and well-informed decisions to be made in the knowledge of the impact of those decisions will have financially on the Council.

1. ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1.1 Manage the Financial Services' contribution to the Council's annual financial cycle in collating information and reporting to Cabinet and Council.
- 1.2 To report to the Chief Officer for Finance & Performance in the operation of financial management and control within the Council including maintaining the Council's Financial Instructions in conjunction with Corporate Assurance & Improvement Team.
- 1.3 Manage the production of all financial strategies including the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, Medium Term Financial Plan, Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy.
- 1.4 Contribute towards the implementation of a commercial approach across the Council, recommending and supporting moves into new income generating areas and advising on the most efficient company structures and other related financial matters.
- 1.5 Liaise with the Council's companies and other partnerships to ensure that financial reporting to the Council is appropriate and timely.
- 1.6 Coordinate and ensure completion of the annual closure of the Council's service accounts and manage the production of the Council's Financial Statements and Whole of Government Accounts including providing technical guidance and support to the wider team.
- 1.7 Interpret current and new legislation and ensure that the accounting processes created by these new requirements are implemented.
- 1.8 Coordination of resources to the development of relevant systems to ensure best use is being made and they are compliant with changes in legislation/regulations.
- 1.9 Ensure line managers are effective in their support for training and development of their staff.
- 1.10 Work with Leadership Team, officers and Councillors within the Council to ensure the proper conduct of the Council's financial activities.
- 1.11 Liaise with representatives of other Local Authorities, Government departments, External Audit and other professional bodies on professional issues.
- 1.12 Represent the Chief Officer as required and attend officer working parties and Council meetings to provide financial advice and assistance.
- 1.13 Work with the Chief Officer and Transformation lead to develop the Council's transformation programme which will support the delivery of the medium-term financial plan.
- 1.14 Embed the performance management framework and lead on the production of first class financial and performance information and advice to the Council's Leadership Team, Council and democratic bodies, officers, and councillors.

- 1.15 Lead in the collation and performance reporting of the team service plan.
- 1.16 Oversee the delivery of the Treasury Management function to ensure compliance and managing the strategy of the Council's cash investment and borrowing activities.
- 1.17 Be overall technical lead for the Financial Services team, ensuring technical competence is maintained and the council adheres to the CIPFA codes of practice.
- 1.18 Champion excellent management of financial resources, promoting efficiency, high performance, probity and excellent value for money services.

2. OTHER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 To represent Financial Services Team at presentations, induction seminars and any other meetings where financial advice, assistance or guidance is required.
- 2.2 Ensure financial training is prepared and delivered to officers and Councillors to increase financial awareness and assist with budget preparation and monitoring.
- 2.3 Member of organisation Management Team; Finance & Performance Management Team; and other appropriate groups/working parties as required.
- 2.4 Finance representative at meetings of Cabinet or Council.
- 2.5 Any other reasonable duties as requested by your manager, in line with your skills and knowledge.

3. SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Direct reports:

Lead Accountant – x3

Procurement and Accounts Payable lead officer x1

4. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 Significant responsibilities for Council's overall financial activities as Finance Manager (Deputy S151 Officer).
- 4.2 Budgetary responsibility for the services' administration, to authorise purchase orders and certify invoices within limits set by the Chief Officer for Finance & Performance.
- 4.3 Responsibility to authorise payment of unlimited amount including the Council's investment and borrowing transactions and counter sign large value cheques (over £50,000).
- 4.4 Responsibility to authorise grant submissions and claims and other government returns on behalf of the Council.

- 4.5 Accountable for the production of the Council's accounts, annual Financial Statements and for the production of budget monitoring reports to Cabinet, Chief Officer and budget holders.
- 4.6 To ensure adherence to the Council's financial rules and procedures as set out below:

The Council's rules and procedures for all financial activities are set out in the Council's Constitution within Contract Standing Orders (part 3f) and Financial Standing Orders (part 3g). More detailed guidance on specific financial activities is provided in a series of Financial Instructions.

All employees who carry out any financial activities must ensure that they are familiar with, and always comply with, the Council's financial rules and procedures.

5 RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSETS AND DATA

- Responsible for ensuring all systems used within the Financial Services Team including the Financial Management System and Asset Management system are fit for purpose and being maximised to their potential in line with the requirements of the services provided by the Council.
- Responsible for ensuring all sensitive data e.g., supplier data is held securely.
- Responsible for ensuring all financial records are held for the appropriate duration in accordance with the Council's policies and HMRC requirements.

6. EXTENT OF PUBLIC CONTACT

- Works with Leadership Team, officers and Councillors within the Council
- Liaises with professional members of other Local Authorities, Government departments, External Audit and members of other professional bodies on professional accountancy and financial issues
- Maintains contacts with consultants and suppliers of IT and with representatives of other services
- Responds to enquiries from members of the public and gives financial advice to Councillors when requested

7. WORKING CONDITIONS AND ENVIRONMENT

Office based or agile working. Occasionally required to attend and represent Financial Services at evening Council meetings outside normal working hours or at external meetings usually within normal working hours

8. CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITIES

All staff must act within the Council's rules and follow all reasonable management requirements. These are contained within: the Council's Standing Orders, Employment Policies, Constitution and Code of Conduct for Employees. Other documents may be introduced at times setting out rules of the Council. These will cover responsibilities and requirements for the following:

Financial Accounting
Equality and Diversity
Health and Safety
Risk Management
Anti- Fraud
Data Quality and Data Protection
Business Continuity
Major Emergency Plan
Procurement and Contract Management
Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Copies of the relevant rules and policy are available on the staff intranet or from your manager

In addition, all employees are expected to behave in line with our Values and Behaviours and challenge other employees whose behaviour is against our values.

9. KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Refer to Person Specification attached.

Signed as agreed:

Postholder

Date

PERSON SPECIFICATION



Post: Finance Manager (Deputy S151 Officer)

For effective performance of the duties of the post the postholder will be able to demonstrate that they have the skills and/or knowledge detailed in 'Essential Criteria'.

Criteria	Essential/ Desirable	Method of Assessment
Must be a fully qualified member of one of the five accountancy institutes in CCAB or CIMA, preferably CIPFA	E	A, D
Must have wide knowledge and at least five years experience in a professional finance environment preferably within the public sector	E	A, I
Understands the local government approach to financial management and planning and how this should be developed to provide value for money services	E	A, I
Understands the priorities of the Council and the political structure and environment within Local Government	E	A, I
Competent in the use of a financial management system to produce budget reporting, annual accounts and financial statements in accordance with the CIPFA Accounting Code of Practice.	E	A, I
Has sound knowledge and experience of local government accounting relating to relevant Accounting Codes of Practice, Statutory requirements and to grant regimes	E	A, I
Is aware of current legislation including that relating to Housing Revenue Account, Capital Accounting and Treasury Management	E	A, I
Has an understanding of current government policies and how these impact on local government	E	A, I
Experience in performance management and financial reporting requirements in a local government environment	E	A, I
Able to motivate, support and encourage all members of Financial Services and be experienced in leading finance staff	E	A, I, T
Able to manage priorities and monitor resources to achieve results and support the team	E	A, I, T
Has excellent communication skills in dealing with senior officers and Councillors	E	A, I
Has the ability to develop, review and initiate financial policies affecting the Council as a whole	E	A, I
Ability to manage the continuing development of the financial management system and any other system used by the service.	E	A, I
Experience of leading the completion and production of the Statement of Accounts	E	A, I

An ability to innovate and lead in the transformation of service delivery. To include project management of cross-team initiatives.	E	A, I
Proven commercial acumen and able to learn from best practice to implement new service delivery models and generate income.	E	A, I
A commitment to work within our CAN DO values	E	A, I

Application	A
Interview	I
Test (written, presentation, practical – e.g., word processing)	T
References	R
Documentary – e.g. certificates	D