

Job Title	Finance Manager
Grade	SMRa
Location	Newham

Accountable to	The post holder will report to a Head of Finance Other key relationships for the post holder will be: • Section 151 Officer • Deputy Director of Finance and Transformation • Corporate Director of relevant department /Head of Service/Budget Manager • Departmental Management Team
Responsibility for	Oversight of departmental budgets, facilitating production and delivery of Medium Term Financial Strategy proposals and revenue monitoring. Provision of expert financial and accounting advice, oversight over Director and Head of Service level budgets (and groups thereof) ranging from £20m - £100m Will have overall day to day responsibility for managing and leading departmental staff up to 35 FTE. This will include a mixture of directly managed and project (matrix managed staff) at any point in time. Direct responsibility of up to 5 FTE.
Job Purpose:	• As a finance manager the postholder is expected to be a professional lead within their respective area of finance, provide expertise and high quality financial services to senior stakeholders, proactively contribute to the achievement of the finance service's vision, and contribute towards an innovative, high performance and continuous improvement culture. • This role will lead by example, modelling and embedding the council's values and behaviours through working collaboratively with peers, service colleagues, partners and stakeholders. A finance manager is expected to make a significant contribution towards building a sustainable, highly effective service that delivers exceptional value for its residents through leadership on financial stewardship, insight and innovation. • The post holder's primary activity is to deliver some strategic but largely operational financial services to the Council directly as well as through leading and managing a group of assistant finance managers and accounting officers • Within their respective area of finance, the post holder will support the head of finance to deliver financial advisory on behalf of the Corporate Director of Resources • The postholder is expected to make a significant contribution towards service transformation and ensuring excellent joint working with senior and junior officers and other stakeholders across the Council. • The postholder must support the Council's leading officers and assist the head of finance to develop a strategic and workable response to the financial challenges the council faces. The post holder will need both technical and managerial skills to operate successfully in this role as well as a very strong customer focus. The post holder will have a body of relevant theoretical and practical knowledge with a CCAB or CIMA qualification and some post qualification experience.

Specific Responsibilities	Strategic Advisory • Inform a strategic vision for the service that enables the council to meet its future challenges, fostering a culture of innovation and continuous improvement. • Contribute towards the development and implementation of the Council's financial strategy, fundamentally ensuring sustainability over the medium term • Work closely with all stakeholders to ensure best use of limited financial resources, providing the strategic financial advice, insight, intelligence and support needed • Continually review, update and report on financial risks and opportunities, advising how the risks can be mitigated and the opportunities exploited • Proactively identify trends and changes in the operating environment (e.g. legislation, technology, policy, etc.) that could financially impact service delivery; provide advice and collaborate on potential solutions Financial Management • Draw on knowledge of Council services and the related financial complexities, to ensure the provision of systems and procedures that enable effective budgetary control; ensure that variations and emerging financial pressures are drawn to the attention of budget managers, with options and plans for their resolution • Advise head of finance officers on funding, financial management and accounting requirements • Promote a culture which empowers budget holders and supports the delivery of value for money services and knowledge of key cost drivers • Support the development of outcome-based commissioning models to better ensure strong price competition and transfer of risks through contracts with third parties • Assist the head of finance in managing performance indicators and relationships within service contracts towards continued service improvement, value for money and generating social value • Prepare and present informative, high quality reports to senior stakeholders that aid in informed service and corporate decision making • Advise on investment and funding strategies including investment risk and performance • Support the Head of Finance with the financial management of the council's capital programme, ensuring that all proposals are evaluated robustly, projects are effectively monitored and that all the necessary financial information is made available to relevant stakeholders Financial Planning and Budgeting • Establish longer-term council-wide financial position and develop financial strategies with stakeholders • Develop appropriate financial models and analytics to determine financial impact of future service demands, changes in legislation and other factors affecting resource requirements • Support the production of the medium-term financial plan, undertaking all necessary resourcing forecasts and determining required savings to achieve a balanced budget over the period • Support and contribute to the development and attainment of alternative sources of funding that contribute towards identified funding gaps • Support the Head of Finance to provide leadership and guidance on the financial implications of policy framework changes, identify options to mitigate their effect Financial Reporting • To make a significant contribution towards the closure of the Council's and Pension Fund's Accounts in consultation with the Head of Finance
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- To coordinate and provide quality assurance over other corporate reports including statutory returns
- To support the Head of Finance in their responsibility for the interpretation of the accounting standards, incorporating professional codes of practice, IFRS, the accounts and audit regulations, the accounting code of practice, the best value code and any other relevant regulations
- To manage and determine technical treatment of complex accounting rules including determination of capital financing strategy
- Act as principal adviser for accounting for tax liabilities
- Make a significant contribution towards the development and maintenance of the financial systems supporting the chart of accounts and the integrity of the general ledger
- Develop appropriate financial models and analytics to determine and communicate the impact of changes to technical accounting requirements

Customer Focus

- Act as a key financial advisor and service delivery partner, providing strategic support and constructive challenge through negotiation and influencing skills
- Make a significant contribution towards the delivery of a high performing, customer focused finance service that is proactive and creative, looking for ways to shape and influence service decisions and taking joint responsibility for the outcomes achieved
- Engage, communicate and influence within the council, across partners and with the wider local and central government community towards a unified public service approach
- Foster the development of social value and community-based organisations to reduce demand and help communities more independently support themselves
- Deliver training to members of the team, directors and budget holders on the relevant aspects of financial management training required to be effective in their roles, including awareness of Financial Regulations and financial approval requirements prior to taking decisions

Compliance

- Ensure that all activities within the service comply with the council's constitution, Standing Orders, financial regulations, health and safety and safeguarding responsibilities and that effective systems operate within the service to manage performance and risk.
- Interpret and implement legislative and regulatory requirements relating to the CIPFA codes of practice, Treasury Guidance, and relevant financial legislation
- Make a significant contribution towards the closure of accounts, support the external audit opinion and the delivery of appropriate financial returns
- Support and enforce the delivery of an effective system of financial controls across the organisation
- Enforce control of the Councils funding position across capital and all revenue funds, ensuring spend is approved through due process including the use of capital funding, corporate reserves and balances
- Identify and report on financial reporting and other financial and business risks

Leadership and Management

- Provide leadership that encourages staff to recognise their contribution to the strategic objectives the council has set
- Foster a high-performance culture including carrying out internal service reviews to improve value for money and efficiency
- Lead and effectively motivate staff by providing coaching, mentoring, training, professional development opportunities, and appropriate performance management

- Develop credible and responsive assistant finance managers and finance officers who are respected for their knowledge base, expertise and customer focus
- Deputise for a Head of Finance as required
- Enable and encourage a flexible working environment
- Actively promote seamless integrated working across all aspects of finance
- Deliver on projects within the department and follow appropriate governance processes in order to achieve their intended benefits and goals

Change and Improvement:

- Assist in the development, implementation and review of change management programmes to deliver continuous improvement
- Proactively seek and identify commercial opportunities that generate income and provide innovative solutions to service delivery challenges
- Proactively seek and take responsibility for implementing internal process improvements, demonstrating the business case for change and benefits achieved
- Support opportunities for council-wide transformation and alternative service delivery models
- Contribute to the creation of a new digital culture within the service by embracing technology in every-day activities and actively seeking digital improvement opportunities in support of a service-wide digital strategy

Example outcomes or objectives that this role will deliver:

- 1) Balanced service budgets and development of MTFS requirements indicating financial sustainability over the medium to long term
- 2) Senior stakeholder reports that reflect engagement with stakeholders, an understanding of key financial implications both current and future and the delivery of financial objectives
- 3) Enforcement of the financial controls across the organisation
- 4) A robust, clearly defined and well monitored capital programme with financial risks effectively managed
- 5) The timely delivery of technical and statutory reports that accurately reflect the Council's financial position, financing requirements and the financial implications of service delivery in compliance with relevant standards and regulations
- 6) A high performing, motivated and supported group of assistant finance managers and accounting officers who understand the contribution their roles make to the delivery of the Council and service business plans
- 7) The delivery of continuous improvement projects within the service and across the Council
- 8) Significant contribution to the development of commercial opportunities, income generation or alternative sources of funding
- 9) Significant contribution towards the development of a prioritised team Business Plan showing how both business-as-usual and specific projects, programmes and transformations will be delivered for the Council along with the identification of any associated risks and contingency plans
- 10) Delivery on professional standards and performance measures for the service

General	• A commitment to and champion for equality and diversity in all aspects of employment and service provision. All employees are expected to understand and promote this approach in their work. • Adherence to Health and Safety requirements and proper risk management is required from all employees in so far as is relevant to their role. All employees are expected to understand and promote good health and safety practices and manage risks appropriately • Deal with any Safeguarding issues that might arise, in line with the Council's policies and procedures. • Comply with Health and Safety Regulations associated with your employment. • Be aware of the council's responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 1984 for the security, accuracy and relevance of all personal data held on such systems and ensure that all processes comply with this. • To treat all information acquired through your employment, both formally and informally, in strict confidence.
Critical Success Factors	• Provision of and delivery of quality services – ensuring a high level of service that is reflective of all customer needs and value for money • Anticipates different customer needs – delivering a customer focused shared service which is a cultural 'fit', is flexible and proactive in approach • Delivers a resilient business, which continuously improves and innovates with healthy revenue streams • Operates an ethos of and champions a unified public service approach and actively engages stakeholders both within and outside the council • Delivers capacity and capability to operate business as usual with the capacity and capability to innovate and project manage to support this • Delivers a flexible and scalable platform to innovate, enhance market knowledge and continuously improve • Invests in people and skills to deliver a sustainable business

Person Specification

The criteria listed in this Person Specification are all essential to the job. Where the Method of Assessment is stated to be the Application Form, your application needs to demonstrate clearly and concisely how you meet each of the criteria, even if other methods of assessment are also shown. If you do not address these criteria fully, or if we do not consider that you meet them, you will not be shortlisted. Please give specific examples wherever possible.

	Criteria	Method of assessment
Professional qualifications/memberships	• Full member of CCAB (preferably CIPFA) or CIMA with some post qualification experience – Essential • Evidence of significant relevant Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	
Able to demonstrate and evidence a highly developed Competence in:	• Critical Thinking • Financial Management, Reporting and Analysis • Risk Management and Financial Controls • Delivering Excellent Customer Service • Communicating • Motivating Others • Driving Performance • Developing Talent • Managing Personal and Organisational Change • Project Management and Implementation • Driving innovation, creativity and continuous improvement • Working Together • Delivering at Pace	
Able to demonstrate and evidence Knowledge and experience in	• Significant relevant experience managing technical and financial accounting issues in relation to public sector funding arrangements • Knowledge of the major issues facing local government, understanding of the national policy context, requirements and future direction for relevant service areas • Ability to drive through and deliver effective performance management • Experience in persuading a wide range of stakeholders to work together, encouraging an organisational focus on the needs of the community • Good interpersonal and communication and presentation skills, with proven ability to communicate effectively to a wide range of audiences both horizontally and vertically, financial and non-financial, throughout the organisation • Evidence of successful resources management in a multi-disciplinary environment, business planning, quality and performance management including formulating budgets and financial models, resolution of conflicting priorities, applying rigorous planning challenge and appropriate control procedures	

	• Experience delivering a financial strategy service • Managing and successfully delivering projects, a knowledge of project management • Experience preparing business cases for investment decisions including the ability to apply options appraisals and evaluation techniques • Experience of working effectively in an area with competing demands and tight time-scales. • Practical experience of the final accounts process • Able to lead, inspire and motivate a range of employees and generate a positive working environment • Ability to think critically, apply innovative and creative thinking to address complex service challenges • Well-developed IT skills (MS Office suite, financial systems, data visualisation tools (e.g., Power BI, Tableau)) • Demonstrate the ability to communicate, both written and oral, financial issues to both financial and non-financial managers, senior officers and external organisations • Ability to clearly communicate with and influence staff members and external stakeholders	
Behaviours and personal qualities	• Resilience, not easily deterred in the face of challenges • Ability to develop effective relationships with internal and external partners to secure results • Good interpersonal skills and able to challenge, support, influence and engage stakeholders and peers • Identifies opportunities for co-operation and interdependency across groups and delivery units • Committed to corporate and collegiate working across the service • Delivers service objectives with professional excellence, expertise and efficiency, taking account of diverse customer needs • Analyses information objectively, considering the facts and differing perspectives to reach a sound, logical conclusion • Ability to analyse data, identify current and future trends to produce meaningful reports • Ability to interpret reports in order to produce findings and recommendations for actions/areas of improvement • Takes responsibility for delivering timely and quality results with focus and drive	

	• Identifies good practice and solutions, and integrates them into service provision • Is aware and challenges, if necessary, organisational cultures that may lead to poor practice • Uses intuition as well as complex analysis to create a new concept or approach • Demonstrates sensitivity in understanding the impact of change on others • Demonstrates integrity and consistency in decision making • Upholds a high standard of fairness and ethics in words and actions • Encourage different views and perspectives • Leads by example and models desired organisational behaviours	
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