

WHERE
CAREERS
THRIVE

When potential
is unlocked,
talent *thrives*



West
Northamptonshire
Council

Job description and person specification

Business Rates Billing Senior Officer

Revenues and Benefits, Finance

Thank you for your interest in this role. Our vision at West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is: 'to make West Northants a great place to live, work, visit and thrive'.

We truly stand by this and work hard every day to make this a reality, and at WNC it's about our people. People who thrive with ambition, bring new ideas, demand better ways of working, care about every detail, and who never shy away from a challenge.

Our culture is a gateway for new experiences. A place to forge new opportunities. To empower you in your career and unite you with like-minded people. When potential is unlocked, talent thrives.



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Purpose and impact:

1. To act as a senior specialist on Business Rates and to ensure that Business Rates billing is undertaken accurately, collection of rates are achieved and income to the Council is maximised.
2. To be responsible for processing more difficult and complex Business Rates accounts and to provide guidance and advice to Business Rates Billing Officers.

Accountable to:

This role is accountable to the Business Rates Billing Team Leader, whilst there is no direct line management responsibility you will be the first point of contact for Billing Team Officer enquiries and you will act as a key point of contact for both the team and the Team Leaders. The role sits within Revenues and Benefits, part of the Finance Directorate in West Northamptonshire Council.

Responsibilities:

1. To provide advice, training and assistance to the Business Rates Billing Officers and to ensure that new and existing legislation is complied with and to assist in the implementation and development of new working practices and in the formation of policies and procedures.
2. To maintain an up to date knowledge of Business Rates legislation and case law and to act as specialist on all Revenues matters.
3. Working with the Customer Services team to develop a customer first culture and to ensure that customer demands are met and that improvements are implemented.
4. To deputise for and to support the Business Rates Billing Team leader and Senior Business Rates Recovery Officer in delegated duties including control of leave, general welfare at work and to motivate and develop the Business Rates Billing Officers to build a flexible and resilient team
5. To assist Team Leaders with testing of new software releases for the Business Rates system.
6. To assist Team leaders with the compilation and completion of statistics and reports.
7. To process the Business Rates Valuation Office schedules within 10 working days of receipt, dealing with correspondence in relation to Splits, Mergers and Reorganisations.
8. To allocate work to the Business Rates Billing Officers to ensure that work is processed, and bills produced in a timely and accurate way and in line with policies and procedures and to offer an excellent customer service
9. Prioritise and manage own workloads to ensure objectives and targets are achieved and customer requirements are met
10. To demonstrate awareness/understanding of equal opportunities and other people's behavioural, physical, social and welfare needs.
11. To maximise personal productivity, minimise duplication and errors; and manage our information efficiently and securely to reduce risk, through effective use of Office 365 and our internal IT systems and applications.
12. Actively challenge and seek to eliminate any directly or indirectly discriminatory practice or behaviours.
13. Demonstrate awareness and understanding of other people's behavioural, physical, social and welfare needs and ensure that reasonable care is taken at all times for the health, safety and welfare of yourself and other persons.
14. Any other duties and responsibilities that may be reasonably allocated.

This job description reflects the major tasks to be carried out by the post holder and identifies a level of responsibility at which they will be required to work. In the interests of effective working, the major tasks may be reviewed from time to time to reflect changing needs and circumstances. Such reviews and any consequential changes will be carried out in consultation with the post holder.

Person specification:

The requirements for the role are outlined below and will be part of the selection process. Each of the criteria listed below will be measured by:

(**A**) Application Form, (**T**) Test, (**I**) Interview, (**P**) Presentation, (**D**) Documentation.

Minimum levels of knowledge, skills experience and qualifications required for this job.

Skills and abilities:	Essential / Desirable	Measured by
Communication/Influencing: Strong communication and negotiation skills and ability to communicate with all customers, partners, ability to make difficult decisions showing tact and diplomacy.	Essential	A, T, I
Performance: Proven ability to work on own initiative to achieve targets and deadlines and to use own discretion and judgment	Essential	A, T, I
Proven ability to prioritise large volumes of complex work to meet tight deadlines and targets while having regard to urgent more vulnerable cases and the need to be accurate	Essential	A, T, I
Planning and Organising: Strong organisational and time management skills	Essential	A, T, I
Equal Opportunities: Ability to demonstrate awareness/understanding of equal opportunities and other people's behaviour, physical, social and welfare needs	Essential	A, T, I
This is applicable to all roles in WNC that are required to use IT equipment: Demonstrate effective use of Office 365 (incl. Teams, OneDrive, etc.) or willingness to undertake training during the probation period.	Essential	A, T, I

Knowledge:	Essential / Desirable	Measured by
Legislation: Demonstrate the ability to take on board and understand complex legislation	Essential	A, T, I
Experience of processing Business Rates accounts	Essential	A, T, I
IT Systems: Demonstrable knowledge and experience of using Capita or Northgate Revenues and Benefits	Desirable	A, T, I

Relevant experience:	Essential / Desirable	Measured by
Ability to work as part of a team and to adopt a flexible approach to work.	Essential	A, T, I
Any other duties as reasonable		

Education, training and work qualifications:	Essential / Desirable	Measured by
English and Maths GCSE grade C or above / Proven literacy and numeracy skills	Essential	A, D
In depth experience of working in a Revenues environment	Essential	A, D
Evidence of continuing CPD	Desirable	A, D

All appointments are subject to standard pre-employment screening. This will include identity, references, proof of right to work in the UK, medical clearance and verification of certificates.

Additional pre-employment checks specific to this role include:

Standard Disclosure and Barring Service check

Day-to-day in the role:

Hours:	37 hours	Primary work base:	One Angel Square
Job family band:	WLBAND07	Worker type:	Part-flexible
Salary range:	£36,734 - £39,278	Budget responsibility:	None
People management responsibility:	None		

Working conditions & how we work:

This role has been identified as a part-flexible worker type, this means that you will be able to work from other work locations and when not working from an office you will be working remotely for up to 3 days a week (including from home).

Our organisational values and behaviours

Everything we want to achieve for West Northants depends on having the right people in place and doing the right things and we want all colleagues to THRIVE, both personally and professionally. Our values and our behaviours framework underpin how we work and what partners and customers can expect from us. We want to do our very best for our residents, service users and businesses and for our staff – we want everyone to THRIVE.

T Trust	We are honest, fair, transparent and accountable. We can be trusted to do what we say we will.
H High Performing	we get the basics right and what we do, we do well. We manage our business efficiently.
R Respect	we respect each other and our customers in a diverse, professional and supportive environment.
I Innovate	we encourage curiosity, we are creative and seize opportunities to grow individually as an organisation and as an area.
V Value	We continually strive for best practice and ways of improving existing procedures, practices and systems and thereby promoting efficiency and cost effectiveness
E Empower	we believe in people, will listen, learn and trust them to make decisions. We help people to realise their ambitions.

“Valuing colleagues as individuals and encompassing our different perspectives to deliver our collective ambitions. One West inclusive culture”

When potential is unlocked, talent *thrives*

Choose a career that offers you a true sense of achievement, fills you with pride and challenges you in a positive way, everyday.

The benefits of a career at WNC include:

- **People** are at the centre of everything we do. Without our people, we wouldn't be able to deliver services to the people in our community.
- **Ambition** runs through everything we do at West Northants Council, we nurture and develop our people's ambition and willingness to succeed, to continually improve the service we provide to the community.
- **Care** is at the heart of West Northants Council, we care in so many ways; seen and unseen, helping our colleagues and community to thrive.
- **Flexibility** is key, we know work-life balance is critical to wellbeing, so we work hard to make sure our benefits package promotes and improves wellbeing; from annual leave, sick pay, family leave and flexible working, financial security offered by a local government pension scheme and life assurance, and discount schemes which make a difference to your day-to-day life, through to employee helplines offering free legal, health, financial and wellbeing advice and support.

We want you to have balance and be happy.

