

WHERE
CAREERS
THRIVE

When potential
is unlocked,
talent *thrives*



West
Northamptonshire
Council

Senior Finance Business Partner

Accountancy – Technical Services, Finance Directorate

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:

This post is located in the Professional Accountancy Technical Services Team supporting West Northamptonshire Council. The Accountancy Technical Services Team are the technical business partners responsible for:

- Closure of Accounts
- IFRS Accounting
- Fixed Assets
- Preparation of working papers
- Ensuring that the Statement of Accounts is produced in accordance with statutory deadlines and regulatory and statutory requirements
- Dealing with year-end audit queries
- Developing of processes and procedures

The role of the Senior Finance Business Partner is to lead on the lead on the development plan, fixed assets, and integrity of the financial information system This is a high-profile role and requires good management skills to ensure finance services provided are efficient and professional.

A Senior Finance Business Partner is expected to lead and manage members of the Finance team that may include Finance Business Partners and Assistant Finance Business Partners/Accountants.

Within the Finance Team the post-holder will be expected to be able to operate in any of the Senior Finance Business Partner posts.

The Council has offices in Northampton, Daventry and Towcester.

Accountable to:

This role is accountable to the Strategic Finance Business Partner for Development Services, responsible for the direct line management of 1 Finance Business Partner and 2 Assistant Finance Business Partners. The role sits within the Accountancy – Technical Services, part of the Finance Services Directorate in West Northamptonshire Council.

Responsibilities:

1. As a member of the Strategic Finance Business Partner's management team, contribute to the overall strategic and operational management of the provision of Financial Services to the Accountancy Team, deliver Customer Satisfaction levels and support the Finance Business Partner business plan and deliverables.
2. Manage, motivate and develop staff within the team, providing support to ensure that priorities are identified, objectives achieved, Valuing Individual Performance (V.I.P) conversations are held and to enhance the overall level of performance and morale.
3. Ensure that services perform their duties and functions in fulfilment of their financial statutory obligations, keeping abreast of the Council's changing legal obligations, mandates and responsible for ensuring relevant compliance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules and Codes of Practice.
4. To manage the provision of financial support on obtaining and securing financial resources including the assessment of business options, including interpreting/analysing complex financial and non-financial information.
5. Support the development of improved financial awareness of elected members, budget managers and staff through the development and organisation of management training.

6. Support the closedown of the accounts schedule including by managing work streams, preparing working papers, dealing with audit queries and reviewing processes and timescales to enable deadlines to be met.
7. Deputise for and manage finance projects assigned by the Strategic Finance Business Partners in their absence where appropriate.
8. 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.
9. Actively challenge and seek to eliminate any directly or indirectly discriminatory practice or behaviours.
10. 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.

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
		A, T, I, P, D
Able to lead, inspire and motivate a range of employees and generate a positive working environment	E	A, I, P
Ability to analyse and address complex issues including the need to deliver different support to different service elements	E	A, I, P
Ability to apply innovative and creative thinking to complex service challenges	E	A, I, P
Committed to corporate and collegiate working across the services of West Northants.	E	A, I
Enthusiastic, not easily deterred and able to convey enthusiasm to others	E	A, I, P
Demonstrate the ability to communicate, both written and oral, complex financial issues to non-financial managers, senior managers and external organisations	E	A, I
Ability to constructively challenge budget holders to take a corporate approach to finance issues	E	A, I
Ability to work with others to reach a common goal	E	A, I, P
Ability to provide professional leadership to colleagues	E	A, I, P
Ability to maintain high levels of performance under changing conditions, tasks, responsibilities or people	E	A, I
Ability to plan and organise time and resources to ensure that deadlines and agreed targets are met with minimum supervision	E	A, I
Ability to constantly review and improve processes and information for budget managers and senior management to aid decision making	E	A, I
Experience of delivering training to small and large groups of people	D	A, I
Well-developed IT skills of using financial information systems including reporting	E	A, I
Demonstrate effective use of Office 365 (incl. Teams, OneDrive, etc.) or willingness to undertake training during the probation period.	E	A, T, I, P

Knowledge:	Essential / Desirable	Measured by
		A, T, I, P, D
Understanding of how local government works, including the specific complexities of local government finance, and the major influences and challenges it faces	E	A, I, P
Have up to date knowledge of accounting policy such as IFRS, CIPFA codes of practice and Taxation and be able to interpret and apply as required	E	A, I, P
Demonstrate direct experience of working in partnership with private, public and voluntary organisations	D	A, I

Relevant experience:	Essential / Desirable	Measured by
		A, T, I, P, D
Proven staff leadership and management experience	E	A, I, P
Proven experience in the areas of Financial Planning, Control and Reporting	E	A, I
Experience in the development of Financial Processes	E	A, I
Evidence of developing and delivering financial training to officers and members	E	A, I
Proven experience of communicating effectively with professional and technical finance staff and operational managers. Ability to negotiate and influence at a high level	E	A, I
Experience of working at a professional level within a local government organisation	D	A, I

Education, training and work qualifications:	Essential / Desirable	Measured by
		A, T, I, P, D
CCAB Qualified (or recognised professional accounting qualification)	E	A, I
Be committed to and have evidence of ongoing professional development as required by the membership of their professional body	E	A, I
Appropriate Management Qualification	D	A, I

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:

Professional Registration

Day-to-day in the role:

Hours:	37 per week	Primary work base:	One Angel Square
Job family band:	10	Worker type:	Part-flexible
Salary range:	£53,694 to £57,443	Budget responsibility:	£300,000
People management responsibility:	3 people		

Working conditions & how we work:

We are open to discussions about flexible working.

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.”

Should you require this document in another format or language, please contact: Careers@westnorthants.gov.uk

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.

