

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Senior Finance Business Partner
MANAGED BY:	Head of Finance
GRADE:	12

THE ROLE

The Senior Finance Business Partner provides senior financial leadership across the Combined Authority, ensuring that financial advice is embedded in strategic planning, investment decisions, and service delivery. With responsibility for leading the Finance Business Partnering team, the postholder ensures that resources are aligned to organisational priorities and that evidence-based decision-making drives value for money across revenue, capital, and external funding streams (c.£400m annual budget).

This role works closely with the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT), Heads of Service, and elected members, providing high-level financial analysis and challenge on major projects, business cases, and policy proposals. The Senior Finance Business Partner also leads cross-cutting initiatives within finance, strengthening financial accountability and shaping budget and investment processes across the organisation.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Organisation-Wide Financial Leadership

- Provide senior-level financial advice and challenge across all directorates, influencing operational and strategic, and investment decisions.
- Lead corporate budget setting and forecasting, ensuring alignment with organisational strategy and funding constraints.
- Represent Finance at CLT, committees, and other senior forums, reporting on financial performance, risks, and opportunities.
- Shape and lead cross-cutting financial initiatives to strengthen insight, governance, and efficiency.
- Validate and challenge the outcomes of financial appraisals on proposals such as changes to service delivery, new developments, or government policy changes, advising service management on financial aspects.

Capital & Investment Oversight

- Lead the financial management of significant capital and investment programmes, ensuring effective oversight, risk management, and value for money.
- Provide financial modelling and scenario analysis for major projects, business cases, and funding proposals.
- Ensure integration between capital, revenue, and external funding streams in multi-year financial planning.

Governance & Compliance

- Ensure that financial implications are clearly articulated in key decisions, business cases, and policy design.
- Apply financial governance frameworks and highlight compliance risks, working with Finance Operations and Financial Accounting colleagues.
- Act as a senior custodian of financial governance within directorates, embedding accountability for financial performance.

Leadership & Team Development

- Deputise for the Head of Finance in technical areas as required.
- Lead and develop the Finance Business Partnering team, setting clear expectations and building succession plans.
- Promote consistent processes, templates, and quality standards across all business partnering activities.
- Foster a culture of continuous improvement and professional development within the team.

Strategic Partnering & Decision Support

- Provide high-level advice on funding models, cost-benefit analysis, and financial risks.
- Lead input into medium-term and long-term financial plans, ensuring robust and sustainable financial strategies.
- Present complex financial analysis and performance insights clearly and persuasively to senior stakeholders, elected members, and partners.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL (MUST HAVE)

Qualifications and Knowledge

- Fully qualified accountant (ACA, ACCA, CIMA, CIPFA or equivalent) with significant post-qualification experience.
- Extensive knowledge of financial governance, including IFRS, CIPFA codes of practice and local government finance frameworks.

Experience

- Proven experience in a financial leadership role, managing teams and delivering organisation-wide financial oversight.
- Demonstrable success in leading corporate budget processes and helping to develop a medium-term financial strategy.
- Experience in financial management for large, complex organisations with budget exceeding £300m.
- Exposure to working on large capital programmes.
- Track record of driving process improvement and innovation, promoting a high-performance culture within finance teams.
- Significant experience providing financial advice to executive leadership teams, including Chief Executives and directors.

Skills and Competencies

- Exceptional analytical skills with the ability to interpret complex financial data and present insights clearly and concisely.
- Proven ability to influence and negotiate with senior stakeholders, including directors and external partners.

- Advanced proficiency in financial systems, tools, and technologies, with a strong focus on innovation and process improvement.
- High levels of integrity, attention to detail, and the ability to balance strategic vision with operational excellence.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with a track record of engaging effectively at all levels of an organisation.

DESIRABLE

- Knowledge of accounting systems, preferably Agresso.
- Experience working in public-sector organisations.
- Familiarity with project management methodologies.