Director of Finance (Deputy Section 151 Officer)

Salary: £124,394.80 to £130,218.01
Location: Shropshire, with attendance expected 3 to 4 days each week
Accountable to: Corporate Director Finance and Governance (Section 151 Officer)

Help shape a financially sustainable future for Shropshire

This is a significant opportunity to join Shropshire Council at a pivotal point in its improvement and transformation journey.

We are seeking an outstanding finance leader who can combine technical excellence with strategic insight, sound judgement and the confidence to provide clear, professionally independent advice and challenge.

As our Director of Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer, you will provide strategic and professional leadership across Finance and Exchequer Services. You will play a central role in strengthening the Council's financial sustainability, governance and accountability, while ensuring that our resources are directed towards the priorities that matter most to Shropshire and its residents.

The opportunity

Reporting to the Corporate Director Finance and Governance, you will support the effective discharge of the Council's statutory financial responsibilities and deputise for the Section 151 Officer when required and appropriately authorised.

You will lead the Council's approach to medium-term financial planning, budget preparation and monitoring, forecasting, financial reporting, treasury management, financial controls and statutory accounting. You will ensure that elected Members and senior officers receive timely, authoritative and accessible financial advice, insight and assurance.

As a member of the Council's senior leadership team, you will work closely with the Chief Executive, Corporate Directors, elected Members and external partners. You will bring constructive challenge to corporate decision-making, ensuring that affordability, legality, value for money, risk and the stewardship of public resources are considered from the outset.

What you will lead

You will:

- act as Deputy Section 151 Officer, supporting the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs;
- lead the Council's medium-term financial strategy and financial planning framework;

- provide authoritative, objective and professionally independent advice to Members and senior leaders;
- maintain robust arrangements for financial management, accounting, budgeting, forecasting, reporting and control;
- ensure that significant financial risks, pressures and opportunities are identified, assessed and escalated promptly;
- lead financial input into transformation, savings and service redesign programmes;
- strengthen financial accountability and organisational capability across the Council;
- build an influential strategic business partnering model that supports and constructively challenges services;
- lead and develop high-performing, resilient and inclusive Finance and Exchequer services;
- oversee compliance with statutory, constitutional, regulatory and external audit requirements; and
- contribute to the wider corporate leadership, improvement and transformation of the Council.

About you

You will be a fully qualified accountant and a current member of a recognised CCAB professional accountancy body, with continuing professional development appropriate to a senior finance leadership role.

You will bring:

- substantial senior leadership experience gained in a complex finance environment;
- previous experience as a Deputy Section 151 Officer;
- a strong track record in financial strategy, medium-term financial planning, budget preparation and monitoring;
- experience of managing significant financial pressures, complex risks and financial recovery activity;
- evidence of leading and developing high-performing professional finance teams;
- executive-level leadership experience within a complex, unionised organisation, ideally in local government or the wider public sector;

- the credibility and judgement to advise and constructively challenge chief executives, senior leaders and elected Members;
- experience of leading finance improvement and complex organisation-wide transformation; and
- a strong understanding of democratic, statutory and corporate governance arrangements.

You will be politically astute without being political, able to translate complex financial information into clear advice and willing to provide robust professional challenge when the Council's financial sustainability, governance or stewardship of public money may be at risk.

Leading with purpose

We are looking for a visible and values-led leader who can create an inclusive, accountable and high-performing culture. You will work collaboratively across organisational boundaries, develop trusted relationships and remain focused on delivering sustainable outcomes.

Our PROUD values are:

- **Partnerships**
- **Respect**
- **Opportunities**
- **Understanding**
- **can Do**

These values guide how we work with one another, our partners and the communities we serve.

Working arrangements

The postholder will be expected to attend Shropshire for **3 to 4 days each week**, with the remaining day undertaken through home-working arrangements. The role also participates in the Council's on-call Emergency Response rota.

Join us

If you are an accomplished senior finance leader who combines professional integrity, strategic perspective and delivery focus, this is an opportunity to make a substantial contribution to the future of Shropshire Council and the communities we serve.

Closing date: Sunday 29th November
Technical assessment: w/c 7th December.
Final assessment and interview: w/c 14th December

To discuss the role further and/or apply: please contact Matt Masters or Daniel Harrington at Opus People Solutions on Matthew.Masters@opuspeoplesolutions.co.uk or Daniel.Harrington@opuspeoplesolutions.co.uk

This post is politically restricted. Appointment will be subject to the Council's required pre-employment checks.