

Northumberland County Council - JOB DESCRIPTION

Post Title: Claims and Finance Manager		Director/Service/Sector: Economic Development and Growth Service- Finance Place and Regeneration Directorate		Office Use
Grade: Band 9		Workplace: County Hall and other locations as determined by the Agile Working Policy		JD Ref : 4056
Responsible to: Regeneration Finance and Performance Manager		Date: 24.09.19 18.11.19 02.10.24	Manager Level: 3	
Job Purpose: Using a high degree of autonomy and initiative manage the , monitoring, compliance and performance reporting function for the Economic Development and Growth and Regeneration Service. To provide professional advice and support with respect to compliance matters for grant claims and performance monitoring returns for externally and internally multi-year funded projects. Act as the principal claims and monitoring officer within the Service with respect to the Council's role as Accountable Body for externally funded multi-year projects and programmes				
Resources	Staff	Direct Staff Management responsibility for 4 professional, technical & administrative members of staff with the potential for the Team to increase		
	Finance	Will have monitoring responsibility for the budget management for service budgets and review and authorisation of grant claims up to a value of £30m. Has responsibility for NCC core budgets of c£1.5m annually .		
	Physical			
	Clients	A wide variety of internal (cross departmental) and external clients (Advance Northumberland, businesses, public sector partners and VCS organisations) Significant interaction with MHCLG, BEIS, DEFRA officers and Borderlands PMO		
Duties and key result areas:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist in the direction and fully manage where appropriate a team through an effective approach to performance management and appraisals that ensures performance objectives are met. 2. On behalf of the Council in its role as Accountable Body, assist in leading the delivery and management of the finance, monitoring, compliance and performance reporting function for the Economic Development and Growth Service and the Regeneration Service. 3. Represent the Council at a senior level at external strategic funding meetings in respect of multi-year programmes 4. Work with the legal and finance management services within the Council to establish and implement cross service requirements with respect to the Councils responsibilities as Accountable Body. 5. Effectively manage the use of resources to ensure maximum effectiveness and efficiencies are achieved. 6. Be responsible for the achievement of performance requirements with respect to the timely submission, accuracy and quality of claims and monitoring returns submitted to external funding providers. 7. Manage and for high value strategic programmes undertake the compilation and submission for programme grant claims 8. Undertake management and review checks on project grant claims processed by staff within the team. 9. On behalf of the Council act as the lead liaison officer with external funding providers with respect to financial and reporting matters 10. Manage the establishment, control, and monitoring of budget codes for projects and programmes within Economic Development and Growth Service and Regeneration service, ensuring that Council internal governance and reporting requirements have been met. 				

11. Assist with the management of the annual budget setting process, monitoring and year end closure for all budgets for both revenue and capital programmes
12. Lead the development and implementation of robust financial and monitoring systems for all externally funded programmes and projects delivered by the Economic Development and Growth Service and Regeneration Service.
13. Provide professional and technical advice and guidance to Project Managers on compliance requirements in respect of grant conditions,
14. Manage the procurement, establishment, and enhancements for Programme Management databases.
15. Implement training across the service with respect to financial, monitoring and compliance matters.
16. Manage and design the provision of internal performance reports which enable decisions to be made by Project Managers, Senior Managers, Directors and Members.
17. Manage the undertaking of Project Engagement and Monitoring Visits ensuring that quality thresholds are met, formal reports are completed, and any actions implemented.
18. Manage the payments schedule for all grant claims in accordance with delegated limits
19. Act as principal liaison in respect of all project and programmes financial audits.
20. Manage the responses to issues raised by internal and external audit.
21. Deputise for the Regeneration Finance and Performance Manager both internally and externally.
22. Support the work of the Economic Development and Growth Service and Regeneration service in a management capacity.

The duties and responsibilities highlighted in this Job Description are indicative and may vary over time. Post holders will be expected to undertake duties and responsibilities relevant to the nature, level and extend of the post and the grade has been established on this basis.

Work Arrangements

Transport requirements:	Will involve visits to projects off site.
Working patterns:	Flexible working arrangements with the need to work outside of normal working hours as required.
Working conditions:	Office Based

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Post Title: Finance and Claims Manager	Director/Service/Sector: Finance Team: Economic Development and Growth Service Place and Regeneration Directorate	Ref:4056
Essential	Desirable	Assess by
Qualifications and Knowledge		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant area</u> ● Extensive knowledge of grant management procedures within an accountable body setting. ● A well-developed understanding of regional and local regeneration procedures and policies ● Extensive knowledge of compliance requirements for a wide range of national funding programmes ● Excellent knowledge of financial administration procedures and systems within a public organisation ● Knowledge of Staff Development and Performance appraisal procedures within a public sector organisation 	Knowledge of Oracle E-Business A professional Accountancy Qualification Evidence of CPD A degree AAT or equivalent in financial management or accountancy	
Experience		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ● Significant Experience of external grant funding regulations and programmes. ● Significant Experience of budget management, control and variance reporting for Senior Management use ● Significant experience of grant claim procedures for large external funding programmes ● Significant experience of staff management including performance appraisals and technical training and development ● Significant experience in the development and implementation of project monitoring systems ● Significant Experience in supervision of purchase order, invoicing, and payment control ● Experience of the development of project management software systems 	Experience of PMS and MCIS 5 years experience in a financial role within a public sector organisation	
Skills and competencies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ability to lead and manage a team of professional, technical, and administrative staff ● Ability to identify priorities and manage and allocate work to meet tight deadlines. ● Advanced IT skills and able to effectively use IT to achieve work objectives. ● Excellent organisational skills with the ability to react quickly and handle a diverse and complex portfolio of multi-year projects & programmes ● Excellent interpersonal and communication skills to relate effectively to and command respect, trust and confidence of internal colleagues and Senior Managers, officers within external funding agencies, project applicants, Council 	ECDL	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> members and other stakeholders. ● Well-developed networking, partnership and support skills. ● Effectively expresses views using appropriate means depending upon the audience. ● Strong analytical skills and an aptitude for developing solutions to problems. ● Numerate and skilled at analysing/reasoning with complex business related statistics. ● Advanced written skills with an aptitude to effectively make funding justifications and activity descriptions. ● Persistence in applying a methodical approach to problem solving. ● Negotiation skills and able to persuade others to an alternative point of view. ● Maintains a professional demeanour in stressful and difficult situations. ● Ability to work methodically, systematically to a high degree of accuracy ● Ability to analyse regulations and develop and implement systems which ensure compliance with these ● Able to apply own initiative to overcome operational problems. ● Proactive and achievement orientated 		
Physical, mental, emotional, and environmental demands		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Normally works from a seated position with some need to walk bend or carry items ● Needs to maintain general awareness, with lengthy periods of enhanced concentration ● Ability to deal with clients who can be in conflict with the Council 		
Motivation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highly motivated with the ability to motivate others ● Models and encourages high standards of honesty, integrity, openness, and respect for others. ● Promotes and encourages a Partnership approach to working. ● Proactive and achievement orientated ● Works with little direct supervision. 		
Other		

Key to assessment methods; (a) application form, (i) interview, (r) references, (t) ability tests (q) personality questionnaire (g) assessed group work, (p) presentation, (o) others e.g. case studies/visits