

Dear Applicant

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Thank you for the interest you have shown in the position of Director of Finance with Douglas Borough Council. The vacancy has arisen as a result of the retirement of the former Director who has been with the Council for the last 17 years and has been part of the Corporate Management Team that has worked with many Members to transform Douglas into a desirable place to live, work and visit.

In this role there will be an exciting opportunity for you to be part of that Team leading and managing the transformation of the services provided by the Department whilst ensuring the Council's policies and procedures continue to be implemented effectively and consistently. Our aim is to provide modern and efficient high quality cost effective front-line services, achieved through the continuous review of service delivery options and the maximising of opportunities for partnership and joint working.

Douglas is the Isle of Man's capital and leads the rest of the Island by example. The importance of investment in the Borough can never be overemphasised and the Council must maintain its assets and not shy away from its general maintenance responsibilities. Political and economic risk and uncertainty represent a clear and present danger and the Council cannot afford to not move forward – this is a time for the Council to work though its long-term plan and create a lasting legacy for a strong, successful, outward-looking Douglas.

This years' Budget allowed for further capital investment to maintain existing assets and advance schemes that will bring long-term benefit to the Town but the Council is also realistic about the continued financial demands being placed on it. Despite that we have in the last few years opened a £5 million sheltered housing complex, further enhancing our housing scheme and freeing up a number of family sized homes; continued our 10 year £40 million programme of external refurbishment of the Willaston housing estate; invested in the refurbishment of the Island wide Crematorium; and are progressing with our environmentally friendly and energy saving street lamp conversion programme estimated to deliver saving of more than £150,000 per year.

Whilst the Council is committed to these major capital schemes, it has to deal with more and more services being devolved from Central Government to local authorities. The Council advocates localism; the provision of local services at a local level, underpinned by local accountability and local democracy.

The Council has a 4 year term with 18 Members which it has resolved to reduce to 12 in the 2020 Election, and is not run on political lines and as such there is no majority party. The whole Council elects the Leader who then serves as the Chair of the Executive Committee.

The successful candidate can expect to rely on the support of the Leader, Chairs of all Committees and all elected Members and committed staff in their drive towards maximising efficiency, improving performance and increasing customer satisfaction to Douglas, it's residents and the community.

The Isle of Man is self-governing and has a strong identity due in part to its independence. It offers a tranquil, peaceful way of life. Low crime, a beautiful environment, excellent standards of education and good transport links make for a better quality of life. It is also within easy reach of the rest of the British Isles. Douglas, an international finance centre and holiday destination, is the Island's main centre of culture, arts, entertainment and shopping.

If you think you are the exceptional candidate we are looking for then we would welcome an application from you.

Yours sincerely

**COUNCILLOR D W CHRISTIAN, M.B.E., J.P.
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**