

23 March 2015**Agenda Item: 5**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT

JOINT CIPFA TRAINING SCHEME – EXAMINATION SUCCESSES

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to invite Members to note the continued success of the Joint CIPFA Training Scheme and to recognise the excellent performance by candidates in recent examinations.

Information and Advice

2. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) is the professional body for people in public finance. 14,000 members work throughout public services, in local and central government, the NHS, national audit agencies, major accountancy firms and in other bodies where public money needs to be effectively and efficiently managed.
3. At its meeting on 17 December 2012 the Finance and Property Committee approved the establishment of a Joint CIPFA Training Scheme in partnership with other local and public authorities across Nottinghamshire.
4. In establishing the Scheme the Committee acknowledged the ongoing financial challenges facing the public sector generally and local government specifically which has highlighted the need for high quality financial management support. The Scheme ensures there is a suitable pool of local talent to meet the future needs of local authorities and other public sector organisations across Nottinghamshire.
5. The aim of the Nottinghamshire Scheme is to provide trainees with the opportunity to gain experience of working across a range of different employers; during their training programme they rotate between the County Council, Nottinghamshire Police and/or Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue, Grant Thornton and one or more of the district councils.
6. This not only has huge benefits to the trainees in terms of building deeper knowledge and practical experience of working within different organisations, but also crucially allows recruitment and training costs to be shared amongst employers, thereby also allowing for a greater number of trainees. Other benefits are:
 - trainees experience quality placements across the whole of Nottinghamshire;
 - development of greater understanding and working practice for the trainee and the partners involved in the scheme;

- keeping the best talent in Nottinghamshire and keeping the best talent in public sector organisations.
7. The scheme has been very successful in attracting high quality graduates into a career in public finance. Although in its relative infancy, since its inception in 2012 the scheme has:
- helped participating organisations recruit 15 high calibre graduates onto the programme using robust assessment and selection methodology;
 - achieved CIPFA pass rates that have been consistently around 92.6% compared to CIPFA's national average of 77.7%;
 - seen a 100% staff retention rate within Nottinghamshire.
8. To exemplify this continued success two of the graduate trainees, both of whom are currently placed at the County Council have each been awarded a prize as one of the best performing candidates in CIPFA's Professional Qualification exams for 2014. Members may wish to congratulate the two trainees who are in attendance at today's meeting.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the continuing success of the Joint CIPFA Training Scheme is noted.
2. That the Members of the Committee recognise the particular achievement of the graduate trainees in the 2014 examinations.

Nigel Stevenson, Service Director – Finance & Procurement

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Financial Comments (NDR 03/03/2015)

There are no financial implications arising directly from the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

None directly.