

21 March 2016

Agenda Item: 6

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE, PROCUREMENT & IMPROVEMENT**

### **JOINT CIPFA TRAINING SCHEME – EXAMINATION SUCCESS**

#### **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 performance by a prize winning candidate 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 pass rates in the December 2015 examinations are comparable to and, in some subjects, well above the national average.
  8. To exemplify this continued success, Brendan Hodson, one of the graduate trainees has been awarded a prize as one of the best performing candidates in CIPFA's Professional Qualification examinations for 2015. The Section 151 Officer has accepted an invitation to accompany him as a guest to the prize winners' ceremony and reception on 7 April 2016. Members may wish to recognise this achievement by way of a letter from the Chairman of the Finance & Property Committee to Mr Hodson passing on their congratulations on his tremendous success.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

1. That the continuing success of the Joint CIPFA Training Scheme is noted.
2. That the Chairman of the Finance & Property Committee sends a letter of congratulation to Mr Hodson in recognition of his tremendous success.

**Nigel Stevenson, Service Director – Finance, Procurement & Improvement**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments (KK 09/03/2016 )**

The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Finance and Property Committee.

### **Financial Comments (NDR 26/02/2016)**

There are no financial implications arising directly from the report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All