

Chief Finance Officer





Why Wakefield?

It's an incredibly exciting time to be thinking about joining Wakefield. We're a stable Council with a bright future, taking responsible decisions so that we are sustainable, and continuing to provide great services to our communities.

We've got a fantastic reputation for being well-run. Our emerging Wakefield District Plan will set out our shared aspirations for the next decade, giving us a comprehensive framework to coordinate work across the local public, private and voluntary sectors.

And our 2025-26 Budget is putting us on a path to having a right-sized organisation, no ongoing dependency on reserves, and to make sure we're able to look to the future with confidence.

We've got an incredible workforce. An open and supportive culture where challenge is welcomed. And we're a place that likes to get things done.

Joining us you'll have the opportunity to work in a place which is creative and diverse, exciting and ambitious. To make a lasting impact so that our district is a better place to live and work in. And to be part of a high-performing leadership team who are modernising how our Council works.

If you think you can play a key role in helping us to realise these ambitions, continue reading to find out more about being our Chief Finance Officer.

Tony Reeves

Chief Executive



About Wakefield

We are a district of over 350,000 people with a diverse range of city, urban and rural communities.

We've huge strengths in our health and care, manufacturing and logistics, and arts and creative sectors. All part of our £8 billion economy.

We're proud of our heritage of making and creating. Our place at the heart of Yorkshire and the Leeds City Region which makes our connectivity by road or rail hard to beat. And our 10,000 local businesses.

We're home to some great attractions. We've got Pontefract Racecourse and Hemsworth Water Park. The internationally recognised Hepworth Gallery, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, and National Coal Mining Museum. And we've got two Super League teams, Wakefield Trinity Wildcats and Castleford Tigers.

Our 16 local nature reserves mean we've got more than anywhere else in West Yorkshire. 70% of our district is greenbelt. That makes our area a great place both to live and work.

And we've a growing regional profile as a key part of the West Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.



About Wakefield Council

We're one of the five metropolitan Councils in West Yorkshire. And one of ten districts within the wider, thriving Leeds City Region.

We've got a great team of over 5,000 staff who help us to deliver a wide range of services. Including supporting the education of our young people, caring for vulnerable children and adults, and providing support to residents when they most need it.

We invest in our places, maintain local highways, and make sure we keep our communities safe and clean.

We've 63 elected Councillors who oversee and scrutinise how we provide vital public services for our communities.

Labour's Cllr Denise Jeffrey is our Council Leader. Decisions are taken by our Cabinet, appointed by the Leader and comprised of Councillors from our majority political group. And our cross-party Scrutiny Committees look at how we're delivering for local people.

They scrutinise work in our Children and Young People, Adults and Public Health, Regeneration, Environment and Economic Growth, and Transformation Directorates. Those sit alongside a strategic Chief Executive's Unit.



About You

- We're looking for an exceptional leader who will be extremely visible in how they build and engage with their team, and in how they communicate financial priorities across the Council.
- With significant experience of working at a senior financial management level in a large organisation, you'll have a track record of successful financial management and of leading innovative financial strategies, objectives, and policies.
- As a CCAB or CIMA qualified accountant you'll have the vision and experience to be a highly credible and strategic Chief Finance Officer in line with Section 151 responsibilities.
- Your commitment to working in line with CIPFA principles for Chief Finance Officers will help support the development and delivery of our medium-term financial planning and delivery of work on our budget setting, monitoring and management.
- You will innovate and challenge how we can be more efficient and commercial to deliver the best possible value for our residents.
- Your great financial management skills will help us to safeguard public money at all times set the Council on a path to sustainability, ending our reliance on reserves, and move forward with growing confidence.
- Great partnership working skills – both internally and externally – will build positive relationships that help us to influence outcomes.
- Every day you'll be identifying ways we can improve, solving problems, and thinking differently.
- You share our ambition to deliver first class services, be open for investment, and embed the views of our communities in everything we do.



About The Role

- You'll be our nominated Section 151 Officer in line with the Local Government Act 1972. You'll be involved in and influence all our key decisions, managing risks and opportunities, and reviewing their implications.
- With direct management of our Financial Services Department, you'll oversee a budget of around £54 million. And you'll lead all of our financial planning, including for our revenue budget, capital programme and treasury management activity.
- With 4 direct reports, our Chief Finance Officer leads a Financial Services Team of around 250 posts in total. Making sure that we have effective financial systems and procedures in place and that we're making best use of the Council's resources.
- You will be able to play an active and influential role in our Corporate Management Team, working closely with the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, and Cabinet Members to rigorously analyse, advise on, and challenge all financial matters.
- With lead responsibility for Audit, Risk and Financial Management, alongside Revenues and Benefits, the role provides strategic guidance to senior stakeholders so decisions are underpinned by expert financial, commercial business and operational advice.
- As part of making sure we have robust financial controls in place, you'll make sure we comply with the Chief Finance Officer protocol and report on that duty to our Audit and Governance Committee every year.
- You'll play a key role across West Yorkshire, representing the Council at the West Yorkshire Finance Directors Forum and acting as Section 151 officer for the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation and the West Yorkshire Joint Services Committee.
- The role is politically restricted post under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. And requires the post holder to take part in the Council's Emergency Response Rota.



What We Offer

- We're offering a competitive starting salary for our Chief Finance Officer of **£107,443**.
- A generous annual leave allowance starting at **31 days a year**.
- You will automatically become a member of the **Local Government Pensions Scheme**, which is managed by the West Yorkshire Pension Fund.
- We work flexibly. This includes **hybrid working** and **flexible working** patterns.
- We have **family friendly policies** which include shared parental leave, foster and kinship carer leave and working carer leave.
- A commitment to your ongoing **professional development**. We offer a significant range of learning opportunities for staff throughout their careers. But most of all you'll be supported to deliver as part of a high-performing team.
- Expenses for relocation would be considered in line with our Removal & Disturbance terms and conditions
- Subsidised Public Transport Passes and City Centre Parking.
- Employee Assistance Programme with Spectrum Life.



About The Process

If you are interested in applying, please submit your CV and a covering letter.

This needs to evidence how your previous experiences, skills and knowledge relate to the role and your motivation for applying.

The next stages for our recruitment process include;

- A closing date of Sunday 2 March.
- A technical interview with senior leaders in the Council.
- An assessment centre.
- An interview with elected members.

For further information, or to arrange a confidential conversation about this role, contact contact Julie Towers on **07764 791736** or **julie.towers@penna.com**.

You can also find out more about what working in Wakefield is like at <https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/executive-recruitment>.

