

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ROLE PROFILE

JOB TITLE: Assistant Director – Legal and Governance

DIRECTORATE: Customers and Business Support Services

REPORTS TO: Director of Customers and Business Support Services

DATE: January 2019

1 PURPOSE OF YOUR JOB

To provide strategic leadership and support to members and officers to enable effective decision making and ensure transparency and compliance across the council by championing good governance.

To work with the Councils Executive to ensure the achievements of the corporate objectives and the needs of the council are met. To be the guardian of the Council's constitution and democratic process.

2 DIMENSIONS

Total Expenditure Budget:	£3.6 m
People:	C 45 fte
Premises:	as per portfolio
Equipment:	as per portfolio
Projects:	as per portfolio

3 PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

Strategic

- As a member of the Council Leadership Group, actively contributes to the strategic management of the Council to ensure achievement of corporate aims and objectives.
- Scans and understands the external and political environment in which the Council operates and takes lead responsibility for ensuring that the strategic plans of the Directorate and the whole organisation meets the needs of the current administration
- Contributes to the development, articulation and communication of a clear vision for co-ordinated services across York, and provides a framework to

ensure an effective and shared programme of joined up service delivery with key partners.

- Leads the formulation and application of strategy for the portfolio within the context of the overall CYC Council plan
- Ensures that elected Members are fully aware of strategic plans and that they are positively, pro-actively and appropriately engaged in the portfolio
- Makes decisions critical to the organisation's success in respect of the wider City of York agenda and the specific portfolio responsibility
- Takes lead responsibility for seeking opportunities to develop the revenue of CYC through partnerships, new ventures and delivers activity that grows revenue and minimises cost without detriment to services

Business operations

- Lead the governance framework and the Council's decision making process to ensure effective and timely decisions are made in accordance with the law and the Council Constitution.
- To perform the statutory Monitoring role and functions for the Council.
- To work in partnership with Members and the Chief Executive to provide effective policy development and implementation to support the decision making processes of the Council.
- To review, interpret and report new and revised legislation, guidance and practice and recommend appropriate action and policy development.
- Ensures a quality, cost effective portfolio performance
- Accountable for the financial performance across the portfolio
- Takes lead responsibility for the effective utilisation of resources, e.g. financial, people, premises (where applicable), electronic, and hardware, identifying efficiencies and savings where appropriate without detriment impact on service and performance
- Strategic responsibility for the civic function and supporting the Lord Mayor and civic party. To ensure the Mansion House is run effectively as a civic and commercial concern.
- Compliance with the statutory requirement of information and data and investigate and deal with complaints ensuring they are dealt with systematically and used to drive improvement.
- To support the Chief Executive in the conduct and management of elections and the delivery of the election registration process.
- Responsibility for the Councils performance and assurance framework.

Partnership

- Identifies key stakeholders and develops an engagement plan that ensures that CYC is engaging appropriately to deliver improved partnerships and, consequently, service outcomes
- Pro-actively seeks opportunities to represent the organisation at high levels with stakeholders across the Yorkshire Region and nationally, where applicable
- Leads the development and sustainability of collaborative working arrangements internally within CYC and with partner organisations and where appropriate commissioning, to agree strategic priorities and ensure integrated and cost effective service design and provision.
- Develop and maintain positive and effective working relationships with elected Members of the Council to ensure effective communication, engagement and leadership of the Council.
- Builds robust cross service relationships and plans that ensure a “One York” service delivery

People Leadership and Management

- Ensures that all members of the portfolio team are aware of the requirements of their role and how that contributes to the success of CYC and how it benefits the residents of CYC
- Takes personal responsibility for identifying and nurturing talent from across the whole organisation and at every level within the organisation and ensures that people with potential are pro-actively supported to deploy their talent and progress to the benefit of CYC
- Leads individuals and teams through change, ensuring that service is protected and people are actively engaged in the seeking of, developing of and delivering of change initiatives which add value to CYC performance and service
- Ensures that each member of the team have clear annual targets and have the resources available to deliver
- Ensures the performance management of the team and individuals within it are effectively and continuously managed and that underperformance is dealt with positively and robustly
- Ensures that all people resources add value to the organisation and the City and that structures are clear, efficient and well targeted

Programme and Project Management

- Is responsible for sponsoring and delivering complex programmes of work that improve performance of CYC and delivers exceptional service to residents and partners
- Takes lead responsibility for identifying, sponsoring and ensuring the delivery of performance improvement projects
- Accountable for ensuring project delivers sustainable results for the benefit of the organisation and the City of York

Equality and Diversity

- Takes lead responsibility for equality, diversity and fairness issues
- Takes personal responsibility for ensuring that all services, employees and service users are treated with dignity and respect
- Ensures that the service portfolio is inclusive for all users and is flexible to meet the diverse needs of service users

4 KNOWLEDGE SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Knowledge

- Knowledge and understanding of local government
- A degree level qualification and/or professional managerial qualification (such as qualified lawyer or equivalent) or equivalent;
- Understanding of organisation structure, operations, decision making channels, planning processes and systems and the ability to identify opportunities for improvement
- Understanding of collaboration with partners and the governance arrangements needed to ensure the council is protected.

Skills

- Ability to successfully develop and deliver strategies to meet organisation objectives and achieve planned results in a complex multi-functional organisation;
- Ability to manage large and complex budgets with an emphasis on value for money and efficiencies
- Highly effective leadership and motivational skills and behaviours that develop and inspire others, promote high standards and collaborative working amongst internal and external stakeholders;
- Outstanding interpersonal, negotiating and commissioning skills;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills that are persuasive, informative and effectively engage the interests of a wide range of audiences;
- IT skills and the ability to fully exploit access to modern Information technology;
- Highly developed skills in numeracy and budget management;
- Corporate and service planning skills that ensure effective resource management, service delivery, best value and continuous improvement;

- Analytical skills that contribute effectively to the identification of development and trends, prioritisation and problem solving.
- Ability to keep equality of opportunity and diversity at the heart of all strategic management and operational activity
- Ability to advise, influence, persuade, command confidence and act assertively in a political environment with all key partners, internal and external, including members.

Experience

- A successful track record of achievement in a senior management role
- Substantial record of achievement in successfully managing change and large-scale projects;
- Significant experience of successfully motivating, managing, persuading and leading staff;
- Wide experience of successful inter-agency working and demonstrable success in developing effective collaborative working with a range of stakeholders to achieve objectives;
- Experience of significantly improving service delivery;
- Evidence of decision making based on sound risk management principles and contingency planning, which comply with the Council Procedures and processes
- Experience of managing performance within a complex environment where there is constant challenge and change
- Experience of negotiating significant contracts, commissioning services and monitoring provision
- Experience of working in a political environment.
- Experience of advising elected members at all levels.

5 Statutory or specialist knowledge, skills and/or experience required

- Senior experience in providing high level legal advice to a large and complex organisation
- Thorough understanding of the legal framework that local authorities operate within
- Knowledge and experience of the democratic process within local government

6 Portfolio

The service areas responsible by this post holder include the following:

- Legal Services including Complaints, FOIs and Official correspondence
- Civic and Democratic services
- Elections