

MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION



Member submitting the question: Cllr Chris Wood

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To the Cabinet Member for: mark.lowry@plymouth.gov.uk

Question: In the week commencing 26th January 2026 Plymouth City Council advertised for two senior roles, one was titled 'Head of Finance – Strategic Planning and Business Partnering' the other was titled 'Head of Finance – Corporate (Deputy S151 Officer)'. Both adverts had an application deadline of the 8th of February 2026 and were listed as only being available for internal applicants and agency workers with over 12 weeks service. Why were these roles restricted to internal applicants at the exclusion of all others?

Answer:

We are planning a wider restructure of the finance function which will see staff costs reduce overall, and there are internal candidates who we believe may be suitable for one or both roles within the service at the moment. If these candidates apply, they will be subject to a rigorous selection process with a panel interview. Candidates would have to meet the essential requirements of the role to be appointed.

Should one of our internal candidates be successful, this would create opportunities for others within the service, with the overall effect of developing talent in the organisation and reducing recruitment costs. If there are any vacancies not recruited to once the internal process is complete, these will be advertised externally.

Signed:

Date: 12 February 2026

Written questions:

- will be replied to within 10 working days
- will be published on the last Friday of each month