

Financial Accountant

Employer:	East West Railway Company
Location:	Milton Keynes
Basis:	Permanent
Role Summary:	Unique opportunity to support the development of a nationally significant infrastructure project currently in its initial stages through supporting the development and delivery of the Financial Controls and Reporting strategies across a challenging spectrum of stakeholders. Reporting to the Head of Finance, you will support them to fulfil this new organisation's expectations.

A little bit about us:

East West Rail is a new direct connection, linking communities between Oxford and Cambridge, including Bicester, Milton Keynes and Bedford by rail.

Oxford, Cambridge and the communities in between are renowned for their vibrant economy, educational excellence and scientific innovation. They deliver growth and prosperity both locally and for the whole country; connecting these two cities and the communities in between is crucial to the social and economic future of the region.

East West Railway Company was set up to accelerate the delivery of the East West Rail infrastructure and passenger services, bringing faster journey times and easing pressure on local roads.

We were set up by the Secretary of State for Transport in 2017 to do things differently. We aim to innovate, positively disrupt, and challenge the status-quo, leading to quicker and more cost-effective project delivery, and an improved experience for passengers and the communities we serve.

As we build our team, we're looking for people with the right skills and mindset so that we can innovate, positively disrupt and set new industry standards. Whether you've been working on some of the world's most exciting rail and infrastructure projects or can inspire us with your ideas and expertise from other sectors, we want to hear from you.

Responsibilities and accountabilities

As the Financial Accountant for the East West Rail scheme you will:

- You will lead on the production of the Annual Report and Account, working with the Audit Committee and the Management Team to prepare a draft Annual Report and Account to an agreed timeline, for review by the external auditor, the NAO.
- You be responsible for ensuring the Annual Report and Account is comprehensively supported by audit evidence which has been reviewed and tested.
- Following the audit, you will lead on addressing each issue raised in the External Audit Report.
- You will liaise with the Department for Transport (DfT) on the completion and delivery of Group consolidation packs and Whole of Government Accounting activity.
- You will be responsible for maintaining and promoting financial controls within the company and assist the company to be compliant with Government financial reporting standards, policies and procedures
- You will lead on 'preventing fraud, corruption and bribery' activity, liaising with the DfT where necessary.
- You will be responsible for all aspects of the Balance Sheet. You will oversee and review the completion of Balance Sheet reconciliations each month. You will undertake regular reviews of the Balance Sheet.
- You will over see the Goods Receipting process ensuring that the month end accrual is reasonable, and the process is operating effectively.
- You will be responsible for the management of EWR Co.'s working capital and cash to ensure business liquidity
- As Technical Accounting issues arise, you will work with the Head of Financial Controls and Reporting to determine a way forward.
- You will proactively seek ways to improve how processes are completed.
- You will assist, where required, with medium term forecasting e.g. a Government wide spend review.
- Due to the small size of the team you will provide back up for the team to ensure other critical processes can be completed while other team members are on leave or absent
- Facilitate the integrity and privacy of financial data
- Support the EWR Co. commitment to customer service and the customer journey
- Take responsibility of your own and others' health and safety and of those who may be affected in the day-to-day delivery of this role by adopting and working to the EWR Co. Health and Safety principles
- Co-operate with EWR Co. in all matters relating to health and safety, including following safe working procedures at all times
- Act as a role model for EWR Co.'s vision and values, behaving in ways that are in alignment with EWR Co.'s Ways of Working, encouraging and supporting others to do so
- Promote diversity in the workplace and adopt appropriate behaviour when interacting with colleagues

Experience and skills

As the Financial Accountant for the East West Rail scheme you will have at least 3 years' accounting experience in a similar role.

Your skills and experience will include:

- Recognisable experience in a similar role
- Experience of producing Annual Accounts
- Excellent technical knowledge
- Strong analytical skills
- Working knowledge of financial regulations, systems and procedures
- Strong people and team management skills with the ability to engage and manage stakeholders
- Excellent communication and presentation skills
- An appreciation for and interest in driving innovation and change in an established industry or organisation
- Experience and confidence in dealing with high levels of uncertainty and ambiguity in a constantly changing and challenging environment
- UK public sector experience is advantageous, UK rail and / or capital programme knowledge is also valued

Education and qualifications

- Qualified Accountant (ACA, CIMA or equivalent)
- You will need to have the right to work in the UK.

Role Dimensions

- You will be reporting directly to the Head of Financial Controls and Reporting
- You will be responsible for one member of staff.
- Given the early stage of the project, it is likely that the nature of the role may evolve as the project progresses. It is also possible that other ad-hoc activities and duties may be required

Join the team!

Please send your resume and a covering letter explaining why you are interested in the role and meet the above experience requirements to: recruitment@eastwestrail.co.uk