Position description

Position title	Group Manager, Financial Operations
Group / Branch	Finance and Technology
Reports to (Title)	CFO & General Manager, Finance and Technology
Competency level	Group Manager

Job Purpose

The Group Manager, Financial Operations is responsible for leading South East Water's financial operations and control, treasury, financial systems and transformation functions to ensure financial sustainability and compliance with all statutory obligations.

The role provides strategic leadership to ensure the organisation maintains strong financial stewardship, compliance, financial sustainability and continuous improvement of finance services.

As a member of the Finance and Technology Leadership Team, the role shares accountability for setting the Group's direction, delivering its priorities and strengthening its contribution to South East Water's corporate strategy. The role provides leadership beyond its functional boundaries, working collectively with peers to address financial sustainability challenges, prioritise resources, manage risk and deliver change.

Working closely with the Group Manager Financial Planning & Analysis, the role translates SEW's financial sustainability objectives into effective treasury and funding strategies, strong financial controls, reliable financial information and measurable improvements in finance capability and efficiency.

The role leads the Head of Financial Controller and Head of Financial Systems and Transformation and is accountable for ensuring the finance team delivers accurate financial reporting, robust internal controls, efficient finance systems, and continuous improvement outcomes.

Key Accountabilities

Enterprise and People Leadership

- Contribute actively to the Finance and Technology Leadership Team, shaping strategy, agreeing shared priorities and taking collective accountability for delivery.
- Lead across functional boundaries to resolve issues, manage dependencies and deliver outcomes that support SEW as a whole.
- Translate SEW's financial sustainability challenges into clear team priorities, measurable outcomes and accountability for action.
- Lead through financial constraint and transformation, making clear choices about resources, service levels, risk and improvement priorities.
- Develop leaders and specialist capability, strengthen succession and build a collaborative, accountable and customer-focused culture.
- Foster an environment where emerging risks and delivery issues are raised early, challenged constructively and addressed collectively.

Stakeholder Management

- Develop, build and build trusted relationships with Executive and Senior leaders, peers and relevant government stakeholders.
- Represent South East Water in interactions with government departments, agencies, interest groups, advisory committees and water industry networks as appropriate.
- Influence organisational decisions through credible financial advice and insights.
- Participate in relevant Governance Committees, including the Finance Audit and Risk Management Committee (FARM)

Strategic Financial Leadership

- Lead the development and execution of finance strategies aligned to South East Water's Corporate Plan, regulatory obligations and long term financial sustainability.
- Provide clear advice to the Executive Team, Board, Finance Audit and Risk Management Committee (FARM) and key stakeholders on financial exposures, options, trade-offs and recommended actions.
- Support corporate planning, pricing submissions, investment strategies and funding decisions.
- Lead treasury and funding strategies that support SEW's investment requirements while managing liquidity, refinancing exposure, interest costs and credit-rating objectives.
- Partner with Financial Planning & Analysis to assess funding implications and recommend responses where forecasts indicate pressure on cash flow, borrowing capacity or financial guardrails.
- Lead financial control, treasury, accounting and taxation input into alternative funding models and significant commercial transactions.

Financial Control

- Ensure compliance with accounting standards, legislative requirements, audit obligations and governance frameworks.
- Oversee financial reporting, treasury, taxation, fixed assets, accounts payable and financial control functions.
- Maintain a robust internal control environment and drive continuous improvement in governance practices.
- Oversee external audit and regulatory reporting requirements.

Financial Systems and Transformation

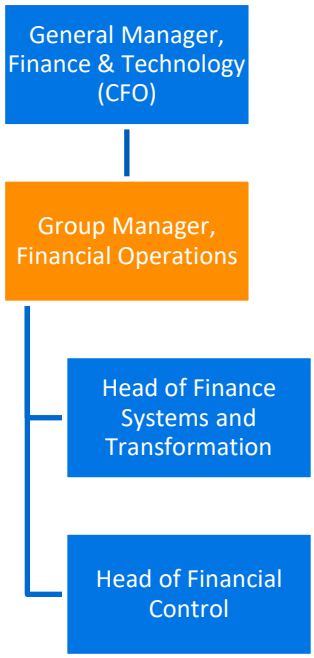
- Set and deliver a prioritised finance transformation roadmap with Technology and Financial Planning & Analysis, aligned to business needs, financial capacity and measurable benefits.
- Drive optimisation and automation of finance systems and processes to reduce manual workarounds, improve financial data integrity and strengthen end-to-end processes, controls and reporting reliability.
- Ensure transformation initiatives deliver sustained improvements in efficiency, service quality, control effectiveness and decision support, with clear ownership of benefits.
- Promote innovation and data-driven decision making across finance operations.

Knowledge, Skills & Experience

- A tertiary qualification in a relevant discipline such as accounting and/or finance and membership of a recognised professional accounting association. An appropriate post graduate qualifications (CPA / CA) is necessary.
- Proven ability to lead leaders and specialist teams through financial constraint, organisational change and systems transformation, fostering a common purpose and commitment to continuous professional development.
- Proven ability to challenge and support key stakeholders simultaneously, to meet internal customer needs (all levels of SEW) and external customer needs (Government, private businesses and consultants). Also need to build relationships with industry peers.
- Highly developed strategic, analytical and financial skills
- Strong judgement, influencing and negotiating skills, with the ability to constructively challenge senior stakeholders, communicate difficult trade-offs and secure commitment to action.
- Strong business acumen
- The ability to work collaboratively with the Executive, Board and other key stakeholders
- Well-developed interpersonal and communication skills (oral and written)
- The ability to relate to people at all levels
- A passion for commercial performance and results oriented
- Demonstrated experience contributing to a senior leadership team, shaping shared priorities and delivering enterprise outcomes beyond direct functional responsibilities.

Dimensions

Organisational Chart



Number of people managed:

Two direct reports and 9 team members.

Size of budget managed:

Directly responsible for team operating expenditure budget and a debt portfolio of $3.6 billion

Value of Assets managed:

N/A

Ensuring a sustainable, resilient organisation:

Authorities outlined in Instrument of Delegations yes - Responsible Officer

Compliance management responsibilities outlined in the compliance and obligations register yes - primary responsibilities

South East Water operates a 24/7 service environment. Whilst this role does not involve after-hours rostered duty, all employees may be required to provide out of hours support from time to time as required.