

Hi, my name's Becky Hellard. I am the interim CFO for Birmingham and have been for 10 months. I'm really pleased you're watching this video. You'll really get to know the real Birmingham.

How would you characterise the political landscape at Birmingham City Council?

We've got a really mature political landscape, so if you don't know Birmingham well, then do please listen on. We've got really supportive members. They do really value the officers support that they get and advice. They're really good listeners. They do expect decent advice and of very high calibre. So will ask an awful lot of questions.

They do, however, recognise us as professionals. For us and for members, officers and members separately and together, we value openness and honesty as above everything else. So, yeah, we work really closely with the members. They really know their patch and they really care about the city and the citizens and businesses in that city. So, yeah, real positive for Birmingham.

What qualities do we believe are crucial in building a new kind of Council at Birmingham?

Well for start, we need the very best here in Birmingham. We are aiming very high. I'm sure you'll have seen Chris's video. You know that we want Birmingham to be the best city on earth. Well, we need the very best-in-class finance service to support that. And we need to be climbing up there very, very quickly.

So really the qualities we're looking for is high-performing deliverers. People who actually get things over the line. Dedicated people, positive, energised people. People who really look forward to the challenges and welcome these and see them as opportunities. You only get the very best out of difficult situations, don't you? We're already on the journey. So we want people who want to really join us on that journey.

Why should others want to build a career at Birmingham City Council?

I see it as a privilege. It's a vibrant city, it's a vibrant organisation. And actually, it's just a really great place to work. Some great people working there. It's a really supportive environment. So, that would be the loose answer, I guess.

Just to finish it off, we've got all the right ingredients for success. We've got great members. We've got a new chief exec who's very well seasoned in this role. And it also happens to be a member of CIPFA. So very on onside with our service. Both Sara and I've got many years of experience and we are totally dedicated to building a best-in-class finance service.

So, whilst we have got significant challenges, all of them are doable. There's no show stoppers. And so, for somebody coming to build a career at Birmingham, they can really make a name for themselves for having made a difference. Just the sheer scale and breadth of Birmingham means there's lots of learning and development to be done, as well as feeling proud of what you will have delivered.