



POSITION PROFILE

Financial Controller



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Alba was designed with the business customer in mind. Alba is a new Scottish based business bank on a mission to help fuel economic growth through direct lending to SMEs in Scotland and the wider UK regions.

The bank is led by an experienced team who have an intimate knowledge of the banking sector and share a passion to transform SME customer banking, combining a relationship-driven banking model with state-of-the-art technology platforms. Alba's initial investors are successful business people who recognised the need for a new bank to help business owners in the UK.

Alba is a new bank with a clear vision and purpose – to support small and medium-sized businesses as they develop their aspirations, grow, and realise their potential. Alba will help SMEs grow by applying specialist expertise and insight while forming strong and lasting relationships with their future customers.

Alba's ambition is to be a trusted business bank by bringing back the craft of relationship banking. SMEs form the largest part of the UK economy. More than 99% of the 5.9m private businesses in the UK are SMEs, accounting for roughly 60% of total employment in the private sector. Alba's philosophy will be to understand each SME individually and to build relationships on comprehension and trust. Alba's experienced relationship and credit bankers, combined with its state-of-the-art technology platforms, will deliver this key point of difference.

Alba has announced it has been granted a UK banking license, after being Authorised with Restrictions (AWR) by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA). Alba are currently in a 'mobilisation' phase whilst they prepare everything required to achieve full regulatory approval to enable them to take deposits.

Background to the opportunity



Job Title: Financial Controller
Reports to: CFO

Having now received their UK Banking License, Alba is on an exciting journey, and they are keen to continue to bolster their team. The newly created role of Financial Controller will be a key hire for them and will be a pivotal role in working closely with the Chief Financial Officer, helping to build the Finance Function. The role will ensure that Alba establishes a strong financial control framework, complies with all financial reporting requirements, and acts as the Subject Matter Expert on technical accounting requirements. Alba offices are currently based in East Kilbride however they plan to move to central Glasgow offices later this year.

The business is keen to appoint an ambitious and highly driven candidate for the role of Financial Controller. The role will report directly to the CFO with a lot of interaction with the Senior Leadership team. This is a rare opportunity to join a business in its evolution where you can help build the infrastructure and contribute to making a real difference.

The Financial Controller will be responsible for ensuring the accuracy and integrity of the organisation's key financial systems, internal management information and external statutory reporting.

The role will act as the Subject Matter Expert for all technical accounting matters and will have input on the Bank's accounting manual and accounting policies.

The role will be responsible for the day-to-day financial operations of the Bank, including disbursements, supplier payments, payroll and all aspects of the Treasury back-office processes.





The successful candidate will be a qualified accountant through training, highly self-motivated and excited by the opportunity to work with a start-up company. Alba require a candidate with the breadth and depth of experience to manage the range of tasks associated with a start-up business. The candidate will need to be hands on to ensure a robust finance function is in place.

Key Responsibilities

Internal and External Reporting

- Develop and own an efficient and effective year-end process to deliver the Bank's Annual Report & Accounts, including writing papers for the Audit Committee on the key areas of financial judgement
- Production of a range of disclosures within the Bank's Annual Report & Accounts
- Ensure a strong and effective working relationship is maintained with the company's external auditors
- Provision of timely and insightful monthly management information to the ExCo and the Board, including key risks and opportunities
- Preparation of financial regulatory reporting, ensuring complete, accurate and timely returns are submitted in line with the Bank's regulatory reporting obligations
- Work to ensure accurate and timely reporting of all secured funding arrangements
- Work with the Bank's advisors to prepare corporation tax computations in an accurate, timely manner

Technical Accounting

- Contribute to the development of the Bank's Accounting Manual and Accounting Policies, ensuring they remain up-to-date and fit for purpose
- Act as the Subject Matter Expert for all technical accounting matters including IFRS 2 and IFRS 9 (including EIR)

Financial Operations

- Develop the Bank's financial control framework so that it is appropriate and scalable as the balance sheet matures
- Ensure operational finance processes, including treasury back-office processes are efficient and effective and meet the needs of the business
- Maintain a complete and fully reconciled General Ledger ensuring all journals are complete, accurate, timely and valid
- Ensure all balance sheet accounts are reconciled and any issues are tracked through to resolution
- Management of supplier payment management
- Management of the core business bank accounts



Experience

- Fully qualified accountant with appropriate post qualification experience
- Previous experience of working in a senior capacity in financial control / financial reporting in a regulated environment within banking and/or the lending sector of the Financial Services industry
- Hands on experience of working within a fast-paced, ever-changing SME organisation
- Strong financial acumen and excellent process skills, driven to impose a structured, robust and effective control environment
- Strong Technical Accounting skills with a particular emphasis on IFRS 2 and IFRS 9
- Significant involvement with the year-end audit processes including relationships with the external auditors
- Strong report writing experience (e.g. technical papers, MI packs) to senior management and Executive/Board Committees
- Corporation Tax knowledge and experience

Other Key Characteristics & Behaviours

- Organised, works at a fast pace and has a keen attention to detail
- Excellent interpersonal/communication skills: verbal and quality business writing skills
- Can explain complex accounting requirements in a simple and understandable way
- Flexible yet pragmatic approach to meet the wide-ranging needs of the role. Willingness to step outside of core responsibilities as required to support the wider Finance team
- Takes responsibility and ownership of work delivery
- Demonstrates resilience under pressure
- Able to multi-task and prioritise in a changing environment
- Able to respond calmly and rationally whilst maintaining a positive attitude in a challenging and changing, fast-paced work environment
- Motivational and 'can do' attitude to drive personal success, as well as encouraging and supporting success for the team



An attractive package is on offer for this role in line with skills and experience as well as additional benefits.

For more information on remuneration please contact Hazel Wynn at Rutherford Cross.



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The Recruitment Process

- First stage interviews will be with the CFO and HR Consultant
- Second stage interviews are with the CFO & CEO
- Applications should be sent to Hazel Wynn at Rutherford Cross