

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Audit and Corporate Governance Committee is a key component of Slough Borough Council's governance framework. Its purpose is to provide independent assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's arrangements for risk management, internal control, financial reporting and corporate governance.

The Committee comprises elected members of the Council on a cross-political party basis and is seeking to appoint up to four independent, non-voting members to strengthen its expertise and capacity to support effective risk management, governance, internal control and financial reporting.

THE ROLE OF THE INDEPENDENT MEMBER

Independent members bring an external perspective, professional expertise and constructive challenge to support the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee in carrying out its responsibilities. Successful candidates are expected to bring independent challenge, constructive scrutiny and relevant professional experience to the Committee. All committee members are expected to actively participate and demonstrate independence, integrity, objectivity and impartiality in decision-making.

Working alongside elected members, senior officers and external auditors, independent members will help ensure the Committee exercises effective oversight of governance, risk management, internal control and financial stewardship.

The role would suit individuals who have experience of corporate governance and the functions of audit committee, whether in the private or public sector. You may have a background as a director, including a non-executive director, accountant, lawyer, auditor, risk manager or you may run your own business or have a background in the public, private or third sector. We are looking for someone who can demonstrate an independent mindset, manage complex information and adopt a strategic approach, understand the political dynamics of local government whilst operating in an apolitical manner.

RESTRICTIONS ON APPOINTMENT

Whilst we would encourage applications from individuals working or living in the local area, we are more interested in the skills and commitment an individual brings than where they live or work, although attendance at in-person meetings in Slough in the evening is essential.

The only restrictions on appointment are:

- If you are, or have been within the past 5 years, a member or officer of Slough Borough Council or a parish council within the Borough of Slough. Officers of Slough Borough Council include staff employed in any maintained school within the Borough.
- If you have been convicted of any criminal offence in the last five years with a sentence of imprisonment of not less than 3 months, whether suspended or not.
- If you are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or a debt relief restrictions order, including interim orders.

During the appointment process, you may be asked to declare any close relationships with elected members or officers, whether you hold a position of management or are politically active within a local political party and whether you have close or regular business dealings with the Council. The role is intended to be apolitical and independent of the Council. If there are any relationships or key roles you consider may impact on your impartiality, you are encouraged to contact the Council to seek advice in advance of application or raise this in your application.

DESIRABLE QUALITIES

We are not looking for a specific set of skills or knowledge, however the following are desirable.

Knowledge

Corporate governance arrangements in a public, private or voluntary sector

Key principles of risk management

Professional qualifications in business management, accountancy, internal audit or risk management

Skills

Able to understand complex issues

Able to understand the importance of accountability, good governance and probity in public life

Ability to see and focus on strategic issues

Able to appreciate the reality of practical delivery and balance risk, reward and response

Able to analyse and assess evidence to reach rational conclusions

Able to demonstrate objectivity, integrity and discretion in decision making

Effective interpersonal and communication skills

Able to understand and contribute to the work and development of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee

Experience

Working at or with large, complex organisations

Undertaking non-executive or audit committee roles

Specific experience in areas listed under knowledge section

TIME COMMITMENT

Attendance at in person Committee meetings (normally held in the evening) is required with four to six meetings scheduled for the municipal year. Members will also be required to attend any training associated with enabling them to carry out their role in an effective manner. These are mainly held in the evening and may be in person or online. The post holder is expected to read documents in advance and attend pre-committee briefings on specific topics.

The estimated annual time commitment is approximately 10 days per year, including preparation and development activities.

TERM OF OFFICE

The term of appointment for the successful applicants will be for a four year period, which may be extended for a further four years. The Independent Member may resign from the role. Appointments and removal from position are made by Full Council. A failure to regularly attend meetings, training or briefings may result in a recommendation of removal.

ALLOWANCE

An allowance per annum is payable to an Independent Member. Reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses would also be payable for attendance at any Committee meetings/training required. Member allowances are reviewed regularly and may be increased or reduced upon decision of Full Council. This will fall inline with the [Members Allowance Scheme](#)

TO APPLY

If you are interested in applying, please send your CV together with a supporting statement of no more than 2 sides of A4 indicating your suitability for the role, explaining:

- Your relevant experience;
- How you would contribute to the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee;
- Examples of where you have provided effective independent challenge or scrutiny; and
- How you would maintain independence and objectivity in the role.

The closing date for applications is Monday 30th November 2026. Suitable applicants will be short-listed by the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer or their representatives. If short-listed, you may be invited for an interview by a panel comprising no more than two members of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer (or their representatives). Appointments will be made by Full Council.