

Council/Committee:	Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
Report Title	Appointment of Independent Member
Date of Meeting	Thursday, 18 September 2025
Report Author	Stephnie Hancock Deputy Democratic Services Manager
Lead Officer	Mike Jones Monitoring Officer, Service Director – Governance,
Wards Affected	All.
Identify exempt information and exemption category	Open
Appendices (if any)	1. Independent Member Role Description

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) recommends that local authority audit committees include two independent members to provide appropriate technical expertise to support the Committee in carrying out its role effectively.
- 1.2 Following the resignation of a longstanding independent member on the Committee, a recruitment and selection process was undertaken.
- 1.3 The Committee is now asked to consider the appointment of Mr Taminder Pattar to fill the vacancy, bringing the total number of independent members to two, as recommended by CIPFA.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to appoint Mr Taminder Pattar as Independent Member for a period of four years, ending with the annual meeting of the Council in May 2029.

3. Proposals – Reasons for the recommendation

- 3.1 Audit Committees are a key component of corporate governance. They are a key source of assurance about the organisation's arrangements for managing risk, maintaining an effective control environment, and reporting on financial and non-financial performance.
- 3.2 The Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) recommends that local authority audit committees include two independent

members to provide appropriate technical expertise to support the Committee in carrying out its role effectively.

- 3.3 Independent members with appropriate skills and experience supplement those of the elected members and improve the effectiveness of the Audit Committee. Further details on the role of the Independent Member can be found in the Role Description at the Appendix.
- 3.4 Following the resignation of a longstanding independent member on the Committee a recruitment and selection exercise was undertaken.
- 3.5 Following an interview with the Chair, the Monitoring Officer & Service Director – Governance and the Audit Services and Risk Management Manager the position was offered to Taminder Pattar. Satisfactory references have been received and the Committee is now asked to confirm the appointment of Mr Pattar for a four-year period.
- 3.6 Mr Pattar is a qualified chartered accountant with a strong background in external and internal audit across diverse industries, including multinational corporations.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 At its meeting on 13 May 2025 the Council agreed to introduce an allowance of £50 per meeting attended, plus travel costs for Independent Members of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee with effect from the new municipal year 2025/26.

7. Legal and Governance Implications

- 7.1 The Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) recommends that local authority audit committees include two independent members to provide appropriate technical expertise to support the Committee in carrying out its role effectively.

8. Risks

- 8.1 The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee is a key component of the Council's risk management framework.

9. Equality and Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty)

- 9.1 It was not necessary to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment.

11. Background Documents

None.

12. How does this deliver the objectives of the Strategic Themes?

12.1 This report will support the delivery of the following Strategic Themes:-

- Growing up in Sandwell
- Living in Sandwell
- Healthy in Sandwell
- Thriving Economy in Sandwell
- One Council One Team Approach.

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee is a key component of the Council's governance, risk management and internal control framework.