

Report to Council

7 June 2022

Subject:	Appointment of Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
Director:	Director – Law and Governance, Monitoring Officer - Surjit Tour
Contact Officer:	Trisha Newton Senior Democratic Services Officer Trisha_newton@sandwell.gov.uk


1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Council considers the extension of the appointment of Mr Jay Hussain as Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee for the four year period ending 15 July 2026.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

At Council on 17 July 2018 it was approved that Mr Jay Hussain be appointed as Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, for a four year period ending on 16 July 2022. The term was due to come to an end and Mr J Hussain had indicated that he would be happy to extend his term of office in the role.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee examines and reports on the state of the council's governance, risk management and internal control environment.</p>
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4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 At the Council meeting on 4 April 2017, as part of the 2017/18 Governance (Committee and Scrutiny Board Structure) review, it was agreed to appoint a further Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.
- 4.2 At its meeting on 16 October 2018 Council gave approval to increase the membership of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee to include one additional Independent Member (three Independent Members in total).
- 4.3 Two suitable candidates were identified at that time. Mr J Hussain was appointed as one of them and this was approved by Council at its meeting on 17 July 2018.

5 Implications

Resources:	The role of Independent Member is a voluntary position and no annual allowance is paid in respect of this appointment. However, travelling and subsistence expenses are paid at the appropriate rate. The cost of advertising is met from within existing budgets.
Legal and Governance:	<p>The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee operates to an approved terms of reference, based upon a model from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.</p> <p>Local authorities should have regard to section 13 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 which relates to the voting rights of non-elected committee members. Where the audit committee is operating as an advisory committee under the 1972 Act, making recommendations rather than policy, then all members of the committee should be able to vote on that recommendation. If the council wishes to delegate decisions to the committee, for example the adoption of the financial statements, then the independent member will not be able to vote on those matters for decision.</p>
Risk:	CIPFA strongly recommend the appointment of independent members to audit committees.



Equality:	There are no direct implications arising for equality.
Health and Wellbeing:	There are no direct implications arising for the proposals on health and wellbeing of our communities.
Social Value	There were no direct implications arising for social value

