



Audit and Governance Board

**Wednesday, 24 September 2025 at 6.30
p.m.
The Board Room - Municipal Building,
Widnes**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Abbott'.

Interim Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Rob Polhill (Chair)	Labour
Councillor Neil Connolly (Vice-Chair)	Labour
Councillor John Abbott	Labour
Councillor Valerie Hill	Labour
Councillor Margaret Ratcliffe	Liberal Democrats
Councillor Sharon Thornton	Labour
Councillor Pamela Wallace	Labour

***Please contact Gill Ferguson on 0151 511 8059 or e-mail
gill.ferguson@halton.gov.uk for further information.***

The next meeting of the Board is on Wednesday, 19 November 2025

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Part I

Item No.	Page No.
1. MINUTES	1 - 6
2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST	
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion or voting on the item.	
3. NEW RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY	7 - 30
4. ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION UPDATE	31 - 74
5. EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25 (APPENDIX TO BE PUBLISHED AS A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM)	75 - 77
6. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT - 2024/25	78 - 117
7. 2024/25 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT AND LETTER OF REPRESENTATION	118 - 343
8. CIPFA FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CODE	344 - 374
9. APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER	375 - 378
10. SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985	

PART II

In this case the Board has a discretion to exclude the press and public and, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, it is **RECOMMENDED** that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, having been satisfied that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

11.INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

379 - 532

12.MERSEY GATEWAY PROJECT

533 - 544

In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.