



Audit and Governance Board

Wednesday, 18 March 2026 at 6.30 p.m.
The Board Room - Municipal Building,
Widnes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'A. J. Anderson'.

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

Part I

Item No.	Page No.
1. MINUTES	1 - 4
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. STANDARDS UPDATE	5 - 7
4. ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION PLAN – 2026/27	8 - 23
5. RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRESS UPDATE	24 - 32
6. ANNUAL AUDITOR'S REPORT 2024/25 - ACTION PLAN	33 - 43
7. EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN – 2025/26 YEAR-END	44 - 76
8. INFORMING THE EXTERNAL AUDIT RISK ASSESSMENT	77 - 104
9. RECRUITMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER	105 - 106
10. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2026/27	107 - 140
11. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT PART I	141 - 151

**12. 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.

13. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT PART II

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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.