

REPORT TO: Audit and Governance Board
DATE: 18 March 2026
REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Finance
PORTFOLIO: Corporate Services
SUBJECT: Recruitment of an Independent Member
WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 A verbal update will be provided regarding the process to recruit an Independent Member to the Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the verbal update on progress with recruitment of an Independent Member to the Board, be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 On 24 September 2025 the Board approved a report setting out the requirements for appointing a suitably qualified Independent Member to the Board, who would provide additional expertise and knowledge relevant to the Board's role, particularly that of the Council's Audit Committee.
- 3.2 This followed the review and update of the Board's terms of reference and composition, to ensure they comply with Cipfa's recommended practice.
- 3.3 The post was advertised via the careers page on the Council's website and via social media with a closing date for applications of 28th November 2025.
- 3.4 A verbal update will be provided to the Board regarding progress with the recruitment process.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Travelling expenses will be provided in accordance with the Member's expenses scheme. There is currently no allowance paid for the post.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

There are no direct implications for any of the Council's priorities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 If it does not prove possible to recruit a suitable candidate to the post, the approach taken to the recruitment will need to be reconsidered.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None identified.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

10.1 There are none under the meaning of the Act.