

Knowsley Council Governance and Audit Committee Independent Person

Job Description

As an Independent Member of the Audit and Governance Committee, you will provide independent assurance on the effectiveness of the control environment and corporate governance arrangements within the Council. Your role will involve reviewing financial statements, monitoring audit activities, and promoting high standards of conduct among councillors and co-opted members.

Key Responsibilities

- Review the annual statement of accounts and annual governance statement.
- Consider reports from internal and external auditors.
- Monitor the independence, objectivity, and performance of auditors.
- Oversee counter fraud plans and activities.
- Review the council's treasury management strategy and activities.
- Promote high standards of conduct by councillors and co-opted members.
- Participate in committee meetings and training sessions.

The Independent Person will possess the following attributes, to be assessed through an expression of interest and interview process:

Requirements of the Role

1	Not involved actively in political activity.	E
2	Independent of Local Government.	E
3	Not a Member, Co-opted Member or employee of Knowsley Council within the previous five years.	E
4	Not a relative or close friend of a current Member or employee of Knowsley Council.	E
5	Available to attend evening meetings.	E
6	Experience in financial management, corporate governance, auditing, or commercial management (at a senior or board level).	E
7	A keen interest and commitment to maintaining high standards in public life, in particular the Nolan Principles (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership).	E
8	Experience and the ability to review, analyse and interpret complex information, ask probing questions, and offer constructive challenge and support.	E
9	Knowledge/experience of accounting and audit.	E
10	Good communication and interpersonal skills.	E
11	Understanding of the statutory duties and legislative requirements relevant to local government.	E

A fee of £200 per meeting, will be paid to the appointed candidate.

In addition, under the Localism Act 2011, the Council must promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority.

To this end the Council has adopted a Code of Conduct for Members and has agreed arrangements for dealing with any allegation that a member or co-opted member has breached the code. In accordance with the requirements of the 2011 Act, these arrangements include the appointment of an Independent Person to advise on breaches of the Member Code of Conduct.

The Independent Person will:

- Be available to be consulted by the Monitoring Officer in respect of the report of an investigating officer into allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct.
- If appropriate, following an investigation into breaches of the Code of Conduct to consider the views of the Monitoring Officer in respect of next steps.
- To provide a view to the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee in respect of the allegations of misconduct following formal investigation.

Further information on these requirements can be viewed [here](#).