

APPENDIX 1

Independent Person - Role Expectations

Role Purpose:

The Independent Person supports the Audit Committee in its role to provide assurance to elected members, members of the public, and wider stakeholders. This assurance covers the adequacy of the Council's risk management framework, its internal control environment & governance arrangements, and its overall performance, both operationally and financially.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Participating in meetings of the Audit Committee and making decisions

- To actively participate in Committee meetings and be objective, independent and impartial.
- To demonstrate independence, integrity, and impartiality in decision making according to legal, constitutional and policy requirements
- To have regard to the requirements of the Chair of the Committee and the professional advice of Senior Officers of the authority including Section 151 Officer, Monitoring Officer and Head of Internal Audit
- To contribute to the development of the forward work programme for the Committee.
- To promote the role of the Committee within the Council.
- To support reporting as required to Council.
- To participate in any training and development required for the role.

Contributing to the work of the Committee in its role in:

Reviewing the Council's financial affairs

- Overseeing the authority's Internal and External Audit arrangements.
- Working with internal and external auditors.
- Reviewing the annual financial statements and notes to the accounts.
- Ensuring that value for money is achieved in all aspects of the Council's operations and processes.
- Seeking assurances of compliance with the Treasury Management Strategy and Practices.

Reviewing and assessing the governance, risk management and control of the authority

- Reviewing and assessing the risk management, internal control, and corporate governance arrangements of the authority.

- Reviewing and assessing the financial risks, and be satisfied that the authority's assurance statements, including the annual governance statement, reflects the risk environment and any activities required to improve it.
- To be committed to the values of the Council/s and public office in line with the Nolan Principles in Public Life.
- To participate actively in supporting the principles and practice of equality of opportunity as stated in the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Additional Information:

To be eligible you must not be a member of any political party or have any strong political affiliations. In addition, you must not have been a councillor or member of staff of any council or public authority during the last five years, and must not be related to, or be a close friend of, any councillor or officer of Middlesbrough Council.

The role is for a two-year period and may be extended for a further term subject to mutual agreement.

An annual allowance of £800 is payable for the above role. This amount will be subject to review on an annual basis.

Criteria	Essential/Desirable
Be able to demonstrate independence from the Council	Essential
A good understanding of governance, risk management and control	Essential
Integrity, objectivity, discretion and the ability to make decisions in line with the Nolan Principles	Essential
Ability to analyse complex information, question probe, and seek clarification so to come to an independent and unbiased view	Essential
Effective interpersonal skills, including good communication skills, the ability to cooperate with others in a committee, and to demonstrate tact and diplomacy in handling sensitive matters	Essential
Knowledge/experience in finance, risk management, performance management or audit, and/or general management of businesses or public sector organisations.	Essential
A relevant professional qualification in any of the areas set out above.	Essential

Criteria	Essential/Desirable
A broad range of experience, preferably in a medium/large organisation in any sector at a senior level or other experience which would provide similar benefits	Desirable
Understanding of the political environment that local authorities operate within	Desirable