

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE INDEPENDENT MEMBER

JOB DESCRIPTION

The core **purpose** of this role as an independent external member of the SLCC's Audit and Risk Committee is to provide objective advice, support and constructive challenge to the SLCC on matters relating to governance, financial management, risk management, internal control and assurance. The role helps ensure that the organisation maintains the highest standards of financial stewardship, accountability and transparency in the use of public resources.

Key Areas covered by the Committee:

Governance and Accountability

- Review the effectiveness of the organisation's governance arrangements.
- Seek assurance that the organisation complies with relevant legislation, public sector guidance and best practice.
- Support the Board in maintaining high standards of accountability and transparency.

Risk Management

- Review the adequacy of risk management arrangements.
- Scrutinise strategic and operational risks.
- Assess whether appropriate mitigation and assurance mechanisms are in place.

Financial Stewardship

- Review annual accounts and governance statements before Board approval.
- Monitor financial controls and arrangements for safeguarding levy income and public funds.
- Consider whether resources are being used economically, efficiently and effectively.

Internal and External Audit

- Review and monitor internal audit plans, reports and recommendations.
- Monitor implementation of agreed audit actions.
- Consider reports from External Audit and management responses.
- Meet periodically with auditors without management present where appropriate.

Assurance and Organisational Resilience

- Review assurances relating to cyber security, information security and data protection.
- Monitor arrangements for fraud prevention, whistleblowing and business continuity.
- Consider reports relating to Health and Safety compliance and organisational resilience.
- Provide independent challenge on emerging risks and the effectiveness of management controls.
- Support continuous improvement in governance and assurance practices

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential Experience

- Experience of at least one of the following: governance, audit, risk management, finance, compliance, regulation or organisational assurance.
- Experience in scrutinising complex information and providing constructive challenge.
- Understanding of accountability and governance within the public, private or third sector.
- Ability to demonstrate sound judgement, independence and integrity.
- Experience operating at senior executive, non-executive or equivalent level within a similar organisation.
- Experience of scrutinising strategic, operational, financial and programme risks and assessing the effectiveness of assurance and internal control frameworks

Desirable Experience

- Professional experience in one or more of:
 - Audit or accountancy
 - Risk management
 - Cyber security or information governance
 - Health and Safety governance
 - Regulatory or public sector environments
 - Internal or External Audit
 - Board or Committee membership
- An understanding of public sector accountability, governance and assurance and risk management arrangements, including the role of the Accountable Officer and the principles set out in the Scottish Public Finance Manual
- Experience of organisational transformation
- Experience of providing oversight, scrutiny or assurance of significant organisational, digital or service transformation programmes.