



Title of Report:	Independent Member Vacancy and Appointment Process
Committee Report Submitted To:	Audit Committee
Date of Meeting:	17th June 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee YES/NO	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2026-31)	
Strategic Theme	Governance, Quality and Continuous Improvement
Outcome	Governance arrangements that ensure compliance, transparency, and effective decision-making
Lead Officer	Audit, Risk and Governance Manager

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	Sept 2026

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£3,000
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	3601 – Internal Audit
Staffing Costs	£1,000

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	YES/NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	YES/NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date: n/a
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: n/a
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date: n/a
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: n/a
Data Protection Impact	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date: n/a

Assessment (DPIA)	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: n/a
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1.0 **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for the appointment of an Independent Member to the Audit Committee and to agree the selection process.

2.0 **Background**

- 2.1 The Audit Committee plays a critical role in supporting the Council's governance, risk management, and internal control framework. In line with CIPFA guidance, the Committee includes an Independent Member to strengthen objectivity, provide external perspective, and enhance public confidence in the Council's governance arrangements.
- 2.2 The Council agreed to the Appointment of an Independent Member in December 2015. The current Independent Member was appointed in June 2023 for a term of 3 years, which is due to expire in September 2026.
- 2.3 A vacancy now exists, and an advertisement will be placed within the Belfast Telegraph and Coleraine Chronicle at the earliest convenience. A shortlisting and interview process will commence thereafter.

3.0 **Recommendations(s)**

- 3.1 **It is recommended** that the Audit Committee note the end of the contract for the current Independent Member and approves the recruitment process proposed.
- 3.2 **It is recommended** that the Chair of the Audit Committee sits on the Interview Panel, as part of the recruitment and selection process for the appointment of the Independent Member.