

Independent Member of Audit, Standards And Risk Committee



The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) is seeking to appoint independent members to its Audit, Standards and Risk Committee. This is a non-executive role that will provide professional, objective and impartial advice on the internal control environment and governance and risk management arrangements of the Authority. You will be supported in your role via a member induction which will assist you in understanding the work of the Mayor, the MCA and its Executive. You will also be invited to participate in additional relevant training to support your continuing professional development.

About the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority

The Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) and South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (PTE) have recently merged to form a new integrated organisation, led by the Mayor and the MCA Board, work continues across all areas of responsibility to shape the new organisation and embed new operating models.

Alongside this corporate transformation, in securing a devolution deal with additional powers and resources, the MCA has a major capital, revenue and investment programme to deliver and is working to implement transformation in public transport usage and service delivery. This, set against the economic and transport challenges resulting from the Covid pandemic, is creating a challenging operating environment.

About the Audit, Standards and Risk Committee

The Audit, Standards and Risk Committee is a statutory committee of the MCA and a key component of corporate governance providing independent focus on the audit, assurance and reporting framework underpinning financial management and governance arrangements.

The Committee advises on the adequacy and effectiveness of governance arrangements including the management of risk, and scrutinises, reviews and endorses the Treasury Management Strategy, Financial Regulations and statutory accounts, before they are finalised and presented to the MCA Board for approval.

Membership

The Audit, Standards and Risk Committee is composed of 6 Members as follows:

- 4 elected Members from the SYMCA's constituent Local Authorities on a political balance basis
- 2 Independent Members

The Vice-chair is an Independent Member.

Key Responsibilities

The purpose of the Audit, Standards and Risk Committee is to:

- Consider and recommend the Statement of Accounts to the MCA Board
- Consider and monitor areas of concern raised via the External Auditor's Annual Audit and Inspection Letter
- Consider and advise on the findings of the Annual Governance Review Annual and Governance Statement
- Consider and advise on the findings of the review of effectiveness of the internal audit function
- Oversee the effectiveness of risk management arrangements
- Oversee the effectiveness of the control environment
- Oversee anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements
- Approve (under delegated authority) the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and associated Fraud Response Plan and any changes
- Challenge performance management arrangements
- Oversee and review the Internal audit Strategy
- Receive reports from Internal Audit
- Engage with External Auditor and ensure there is an effective relationship between external and internal audit
- Review any recommendations in respect of proposed changes to the Financial Regulations
- Scrutinise the Treasury Management Strategy
- Consider and advise on the Code of Corporate Governance
- Establish Advisory panels as sees fit in order to discharge its role and function
- Prepare an annual workplan
- Review and report on the effectiveness of the Committee

Should there be any Members Code of Conduct compliance issues, the Committee would also convene as the Standards Committee for the Authority.

Skills & Experience

You will be a person who has experience of working at a senior level, or other experience which would give similar benefits, who has skills and experience in either finance, accountancy, audit and risk-management or with senior level business management, ideally in the public sector.

Candidates will have experience of effectively challenging and questioning at senior committees/boards with an ability to understand, interpret, discuss and question complex written material identifying the salient points to make balanced, reasonable and proportionate judgements to improve and strengthen the Authority's governance, internal control and risk management arrangements.

Skills

The ability to:

- Understand complex issues and demonstrate judgment in dealing with them
- Embrace and acknowledge the importance of accountability and probity in public life
- Understand of the need for independence of audit from daily management responsibilities

- Interpret information and come to a rational conclusion
- Demonstrate objectivity, integrity, discretion and effective interpersonal skills

Knowledge

Knowledge of the following is desirable:

- Local government
- Corporate governance arrangements in either public or private sectors
- Financial management
- Risk management
- Audit practise and responsibilities

As soon as possible after appointment, Members must acquire:

- an understanding of the objectives, key activities and significant issues affecting the Authority
- an understanding of the Authority's functions and responsibilities, including key relationships with partners, businesses and other stakeholders
- an understanding of the organisation's culture
- an understanding of any relevant legislation or other rules governing the organisation
- an understanding of corporate governance arrangements in place
- an understanding of the government environment generally

Other

- You must be eligible for appointment in accordance with the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017
- You have must no criminal convictions
- You must not be an undischarged bankrupt
- You should not be an employee of or the holder of a significant office in an organisation with close commercial links with the Authority or Constituent Authorities
- You should have no formal connection with any political group
- You must have respect for confidentiality

Appointees must also agree to abide by the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct while serving on the Committee and upon appointment, complete a Register of Interest, which will be published on the Authority's website.

Candidates must be over the age of 18, have recognisable ties to South Yorkshire and be able to attend meetings in Sheffield during the working day.

About the appointment

Time Commitment

The Committee meets formally in person on a quarterly basis with, potentially, an additional one or two meetings scheduled if required. Ad hoc virtual meetings may also be convened to brief members in between formal meetings. All formal meetings are held at the SYMCA Head Office in Sheffield and are webcast, generally lasting up to half a day. Time will also be required for meeting preparation.

Appointment and Allowances

Successful applicants will be appointed for 3 years and remunerated for the services that they provide. An allowance of *£312.50 per formal meeting will be paid together with reimbursement for reasonable expenses.

*based on 4 meetings per year

How to apply

If you think you have the skills and experience along with the passion to join us, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Alongside an up-to-date CV, you should submit a supporting statement that responds to the requirements set out above. This statement should be no more than 2,000 words.

This should be submitted to the Human Resources Team via email recruitment@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk but no later than 12noon on Friday 16th September 2022.

Interviews will take place on the afternoon of 26th September 2022 at 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ.

For further information, or to arrange an informal discussion about the role, please email governance@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk

Diversity in Public Appointments

In line with the Government's Diversity Action Plan, we recognise the importance of public appointees being drawn from all aspects of the society that they serve.

We are committed to the promotion of equality of opportunity to all, irrespective of sex, marital status, pregnancy or maternity leave, civil partnership status, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religious belief, race, disability and age.

Discover more about the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority by visiting <https://southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk>