



# Independent Member of Audit and Risk Committee Recruitment Pack

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September 2025



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## Welcome

We're delighted that you are interested in joining us as an Independent Member of our Audit and Risk Committee. It's an extremely exciting time to join us!

### About Irwell Valley Homes

As a housing provider, we have a direct relationship with 20,000 people who live in our homes and play a significant role within local communities. We take this responsibility seriously and make it our mission to enable people to live well in their homes and communities.

Our Living Well plan is focused on doing the basics brilliantly for our customers. Driving up the quality of our homes and services, delivering more affordable homes and making a difference in the communities we serve. Underpinned by continually striving to increase our impact, improve our performance and ensure we manage and rise to changing expectations and regulatory requirements.

With a turnover of over £37m and over 300 colleagues, we are a leading housing provider in Greater Manchester.

Our G1-V2 status demonstrates our financial strength, sound governance and capacity to deliver our ambitions. We are prepared to take on a level of risk through increased investment, to ensure we can improve standards of building safety for our homes.

As a values-based organisation, we believe that how we do things is just important as what we achieve. Our Values and Behaviours have been developed by colleagues. Demonstrating these in all that we do helps us to create fantastic experiences for customers, colleagues and the people we work with.

We employ people who are passionate about making a difference who can take responsibility and get things done, and we have developed an agile, flexible culture which supports people to do this.

Our culture is inclusive, and we are committed to increasing diversity. We enable everyone to be themselves at work, so that they feel at home with us. And we trust and support people to take pride and do their best, in a role that is fulfilling and rewarding. We invest in them, because we know that this helps us to deliver better outcomes for our customers and our colleagues.

**You can read more how we will help people to live well in their homes and communities in our 3-year Living Well plan:**

[www.irwellvalley.co.uk/media/11blydhg/ivh-corporate-plan-2025.pdf](http://www.irwellvalley.co.uk/media/11blydhg/ivh-corporate-plan-2025.pdf).



## About the role

We are looking to strengthen our Audit and Risk Committee through the addition of an independent member with risk, assurance, controls and ideally financial skills. An understanding of emergent cyber and data risk would also be advantageous.

You can meet our current Executive Team and Board Members here [www.irwellvalley.co.uk/about-us/our-organisation/how-were-managed/meet-the-executive-team](http://www.irwellvalley.co.uk/about-us/our-organisation/how-were-managed/meet-the-executive-team)

We are looking for someone who can bring valuable external and objective perspectives to the Committee. You will be joining us at an exciting but challenging time, so you must share our values and vision for the future. Having knowledge or experience of the housing sector, the challenges and opportunities presented to us as an organisation and, most importantly, our customers, is key to success in this role. We are committed to increasing diversity on our Board.

**If you are excited about this opportunity and believe you can add value and make a difference, we look forward to hearing from you and wish you every success in your application.**





# Independent member of audit and risk committee

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The Board’s role is to ensure that Irwell Valley Homes is managed efficiently, effectively and in accordance with the requirements of the law, the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) and best practice. The Board should conform to the highest standards of performance, integrity and conduct and we have formally adopted the NHF Code of Governance 2020.

The Board operates under the leadership and guidance of the Chair and works in partnership with the Chief Executive and the Executive Team. Board Members use their background, knowledge, skills and lived experiences to work together to ensure that the Board, supported by its committees, carries out its responsibilities effectively and leads from the front in demonstrating our values and behaviours.





# Main responsibilities of independent member of audit and risk committee:

- Play an active role in working with the Committee Chair to develop and ensure implementation of the Company’s values, strategies, objectives, policies and culture, in accordance with the rules and legal and regulatory requirements.
- Provide constructive challenge; a critical friend able to provide an independent perspective whilst prioritising the interests of our customers and the organisation.
- Apply personal expertise, skills and knowledge with due regard to the Committee’s business.
- Review, and challenge where necessary, financial performance, stress testing and the Annual Report and Accounts before submission to the Board, including the VFM self-assessment and Statement.
- Protect the independence of Internal and External Auditors, ensuring that they can report directly to the Committee, Board and the Chair of the Board where necessary.
- Oversee development of the Company’s Risk Management Framework, processes and procedures. Ensure it remains relevant, proportionate and fit for purpose.
- Promote excellence in risk management throughout the organisation and drive continuous improvement in our approach to strategic risk management.
- Review, and challenge where necessary, the Company’s compliance with legal and regulatory requirements including those relating to Data Protection, Health and Safety and Equality and Diversity and those contained within Homes England and other Regulatory Frameworks.
- Ensure appropriate policies and procedures are in place relating to fraud prevention and whistleblowing.
- Establish a constructive working relationship with the Committee Chair and other Committee members, and the Executive, Leadership team and other colleagues as appropriate.
- Encourage constructive relationships and good communication between the Committee and other parts of the governance structure.
- Role model good governance practices and behaviours.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of, and keep up to date with, sector issues.
- Whilst maintaining independence, attend strategy sessions thereby ensuring a clear understanding of the organisation’s strategic direction and priorities.
- Uphold the NHF Code of Governance and seek to ensure that governance best practice is maintained.
- Take part in reviews of governance effectiveness.
- Undertake any appropriate learning and development opportunities available to Committee members.





# Person specification

## Knowledge and experience

- Experience of working within an organisation of similar complexity to Irwell Valley Homes.
- Knowledge and understanding of good governance.
- Experience, knowledge or awareness of issues affecting the housing sector and our customers.
- Senior level strategic experience within one or more of the following areas gained in either an executive or non-executive role:
  - Risk Management
  - Compliance
  - Audit and Assurance
  - Financial Reporting
  - Effective Governance
  - Digital and Cyber risk (desirable)
- Experience of operating in a regulated environment.
- Experience of board membership or involvement in meetings of committees.
- Relevant business knowledge and commercial experience, including business planning and performance management.
- Strong understanding of risk assessment, management and mitigation techniques.

## Skills and personal qualities

- Commitment to the mission, values and inclusive culture of IVH.
- Clear understanding of the organisation’s overall strategy and has the ability to stay abreast of trends in the external environment; considers cross-functional, organisational and business implications before making decisions.
- Proven track record of providing clear, balanced advice and guidance on strategic issues as a member of a board, committee or senior executive management team. Has the ability to challenge constructively.
- Sound team player who can work productively and collaborate effectively, building partnerships to achieve shared corporate objectives.
- Great interpersonal and communication skills.
- High standards of personal and professional integrity.
- High level of personal drive.
- Ability to create a culture of collective responsibility, encouraging debate and consensual decision making.
- Commitment to the values of accountability, openness, and transparency.
- Demonstrates strong commitment to equality and diversity.



# What you need to know

Remuneration:  
£3,000  
a year

**Term of office:** In line with our adopted Code of Governance, Independent Members will be appointed for an initial fixed term of 3 years with an opportunity to extend for a second fixed term of a further 3 years. The maximum period of service is 6 years.

**Remuneration:** £3,000 pa plus reasonable expenses.

**Time commitment:** As an Independent Member you will be expected to prepare for and attend four Audit and Risk Committee meetings per year, typically held on a Monday, plus attendance at an annual Board Strategy Day. These are a mix of virtual and in person meetings based in proximity to IVH communities. We are able to offer hybrid meetings should they be required by agreement with the committee chair.

## Upcoming dates:

**Strategy Day**  
14th November 2025

**Audit and Risk Committee**  
  
24th November 2025:  
Virtual on TEAMS: 12:30 – 14:00

2nd February 2026:  
In person: 10:15 – 11:45

**Board member support:** All members are provided with a laptop and email address so they can access all their papers, past papers and papers of other committees plus other useful information such as risk digests, sector publications, sector risk profiles and publications from other organisations through the dedicated Board Portal on MS Teams. Board Members can also chat with each other and officers and join meetings through this channel.

**Induction and training programme:**  
We understand the importance of the induction process and appreciate that each new member will have different needs – so we develop a personalised induction to suit individual members.  
  
Training opportunities, conferences, webinars and networking events are also regularly circulated to all Board Members. We also have a series of Board training and awareness sessions, which all members are encouraged to attend.





# What you need to know

## Further information

We believe it's good to talk, so for an informal and confidential chat about this opportunity, please contact one of our retained advisors at EMA.

## How to apply

### Application Process

Please submit an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (CV) and covering letter, ensuring that you quote the following reference number: ema498

It is important that your CV highlights supporting evidence of how your previous experience and skills relate to the criteria outlined in the Job Description and Person Specification. Within your CV, please supply the following:

- Full name and postal address
- Work and home telephone number, mobile number and email address
- Employment history (*explaining any gaps*)
- Education and dates your qualifications were obtained
- Current memberships of relevant professional bodies and dates
- Details of two referees (*including your current employer if applicable*). **We will ask you before contacting your references.**

Your covering letter (*maximum of 3 x A4 pages*) should be used to convey why you are attracted to this position and what you will bring to the role. The covering letter is considered an important aspect of your application and will be used to assess your motivation for the role.

Please also complete the declaration form which includes equalities monitoring information. The equality and diversity information you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence, will not be disclosed to the interview panel and will form no part of the selection process.

The timetable for the selection process is included below. In your supporting letter, please advise us if you have any difficulty with the outlined dates and / or any other dates when you are unavailable for assessment. We try to offer flexibility, but it can be difficult to convene the selection panel outside the advertised selection dates due to diary commitments.

**Please return your application by 12noon on the 3rd October 2025 to [responsehandling1@emaconsultancy.org.uk](mailto:responsehandling1@emaconsultancy.org.uk)**

The closing date for applications is 12noon 03/10/2025. Your application will be acknowledged and treated with strictest confidence.





# What you need to know

## Assessment and selection process

All applications will be considered and assessed against the requirements of the Person Specification to select an initial long list of candidates. If you have been successful at this stage ema will contact, you via phone / email immediately following the initial longlisting meeting with IVH.

Timetable	Date
Closing Date	12noon, 3 October
Screening Interviews	(Virtual): w/c 13 October
Final Interviews	(In person): w/c 3 November

## Contact details

If you have any queries about the position or the selection process; or if you would like an informal and confidential discussion with our consultant, please do not hesitate to contact [Anne Elliott](#) at ema on [07875 762029](#).







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📘 [/irwellvalleyhomes](https://www.facebook.com/irwellvalleyhomes)    🐦 [@irwellvalley](https://twitter.com/irwellvalley)

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We are really excited about the future and the part we play in creating  
better futures for people and communities across Greater Manchester.  
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