

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

19 FEBRUARY 2024

1. WMFRA CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Joint report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, the Clerk to the Authority, and the Monitoring Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Authority note the refreshed Code of Corporate Governance.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is submitted to enable Members to consider and note the refreshed Code of Corporate Governance (see Appendix 1), which has been updated to ensure it continues to correctly reflect the Authority's assurance and transparency arrangements.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Authority has developed and adopted a local Code of Corporate Governance based upon the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) / Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE) framework, 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework 2016'.
- 3.2 The original version was updated in light of revised arrangements resulting from the implementation of the reformed Fire Authority post 2018. This local Code has been refreshed and updated to ensure it continues to reflect how the Authority sets out its assurance and transparency arrangements.

- 3.3 As the 2016 SOLACE Framework remains in place, it should be noted that the changes are largely administrative in nature, aiming to provide greater assurance and transparency, as part of the Authority's ongoing commitment to continuous improvement.
- 3.4 The three fundamental principles that underpin the Code of Corporate Governance remain the same: Openness, Accountability, and Integrity.
- 3.5 The Code provides an overview of the governance and accountability arrangements which are currently in place, and explains how the Authority meets the seven principles of good governance and how these are adhered to through the organisations frameworks, policies, and processes:
- Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law
 - Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement
 - Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits
 - Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes
 - Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and individuals within it
 - Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management
 - Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out. The matters contained in this report do not relate to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The development and publication of a local Code of Corporate Governance aligns with good practice, specifically 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework 2016' (CIPFA/SOLACE, 2016), and clear expectations of good governance in the public sector.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework 2016
(CIPFA/SOLACE)

[WMFRA Code of Corporate Governance - RFA 2018](#)

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