

## 13. The Code of Corporate Governance

### Purpose of Report

1. To seek adoption of the updated Code of Corporate Governance.
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### Recommendation

***The Chief Fire Officer and the Clerk to the Authority recommend that the updated Code of Corporate Governance be adopted.***

### Background

2. The Authority adopted a Code of Corporate Governance on 21 March 2003, which closely followed guidance published jointly by CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) and SOLACE (the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) and endorsed by the Local Government Association and the Audit Commission.
3. Members and Senior Officers of Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority are responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of the Authority's affairs and the stewardship of the resources at its disposal in support of the Annual Governance Statement. The Code describes the system by which the Authority directs and controls its functions and relates to its communities.
4. The CIPFA/SOLACE guidance has been updated and has changed significantly. The latest guidance 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework' replaces the original five dimensions to be included in the Code with the following six core principles:
  - Focusing on the purpose of the Authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area;
  - Members and Officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles;
  - Promoting values for the Authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour;
  - Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk;
  - Developing the capacity and capability of Members and Officers to be effective; and
  - Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

5. The Code attached at Appendix 1 reflects these six core principles and is subject to ongoing review to ensure that the highest standards of governance are maintained. The Code is updated and formally considered by the Authority each year.
6. As part of the ongoing review, the Standards Committee have met to consider the areas in the Code of Conduct with regards standards of conduct and behaviour and their comments are reflected in the attached document.

### **Summary**

7. The Code has been reviewed by senior officers of the Authority and updated to be aligned with the latest recommendations of good practice.
8. This updated Code is attached for Members' consideration and Members are asked to adopt this updated Code.

### **Supporting Information**

#### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Code of Corporate Governance

#### **Contact Officer**

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