

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK
REVIEW PROCESS AND EMERGING REVIEW AREAS**

INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE

23 JUNE 2020

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide members of the Independent Audit Committee with an update on the process for the annual review of the Corporate Governance Framework and emerging review areas.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Corporate Governance Framework for North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority was first published in April 2019. It consists of:

- **A Statement of Corporate Governance** - making reference to the statutory framework and local policy
- **Code of Corporate Governance** – sets out how the core principles will be implemented
- **Scheme of Corporate Governance** – defines the parameters within which the corporation sole will conduct their business including delegations and consents

2.2 The last twelve months have seen significant change with; refinements to the meeting structure for decision making, new internal governance arrangements within the Fire and Rescue Service, a new Principal Officer Team, the move to a joint Police and Fire headquarters and the launch of Enable North Yorkshire, a formal collaboration providing shared services for North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

2.3 Given the significant changes to the Service’s internal governance arrangements were only introduced on 1 April 2020, it would seem appropriate to conduct a full review of the Corporate Governance Framework in light of these changes, during the second quarter of the financial year (July-September). The Framework will be reviewed by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Chief Fire Officer (and Deputy), Chief Executive Officer of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Monitoring Officer and Treasurer.

3.0 EMERGING REVIEW AREAS/REVISIONS

3.1 Whilst the full review is yet to be conducted, over the course of the last twelve months, a number of review areas/revisions have been identified.

Section	Change
REFERENCES IN THIS DOCUMENT	List of specific expressions and their meanings moved from mid document to first page of Framework to provide early context and understanding.

	List of expressions extended to clearly differentiate the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner in their capacity as The Commissioner (individual) vs The Authority (corporation sole).
Section 3: SCHEME OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – DELEGATIONS AND CONSENTS	
3.2 Key role of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority 3.2.8 The Police, Fire and Crime Panel	Role of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel defined in more detail.
3.5 Functions delegated to the Chief Executive Officer of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner 3.5.14 Senior Information Risk Owner	For the Chief Executive Officer to maintain responsibility as Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) for the Office of the Commissioner but for SIRO responsibilities for the Fire and Rescue Service to be transferred to the Deputy Chief Fire Officer.
3.6 Functions delegated to the Chief Fire Officer – Financial Additional Delegation: 3.6.24 Settlement of employment tribunal cases and grievances	Additional Delegation: Settlement of employment tribunal cases and grievances of staff employed by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner FRA, up to a value of £10,000 with the exception of those cases felt to be exceptional because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They involve a high profile claimant • There is a particular public interest case • There is a real risk that the Commissioner will be exposed to serious public criticism or serious weaknesses in the organisation or policies and procedures will be revealed Any claims in excess of £10,000 will require the authorisation of the Treasurer before any settlement.
3.8 – Monitoring Officer	The Monitoring Officer is currently writing a Monitoring Officer Protocol, elements of which will need to be reflected in the scheme of delegation. This protocol will be finalised in July.
Appendix A: Meeting structure for decision making	Refreshed diagram reflecting Service’s new internal governance arrangements and amended decision making structure.
Throughout	Amend outdated references to ‘Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive’ in favour of the title ‘Chief Fire Officer’. This amendment:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintains strict legal accuracy (the Chief Fire Officer is in any event the statutory Head of Paid Service for the FRS) • is up to date and aligns with the role title to which the current incumbent was appointed • incidentally, avoids any conflation or confusion with the statutory Chief Executive to the NYPFCCFRA and the references to that role throughout the governance instruments
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4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY ACTIONS

- 4.1 Members are asked to note the review process and emerging review areas.
- 4.2 On completion of the formal review, to consider all revisions to the Corporate Governance Framework at the next Independent Audit Committee in September 2020.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Corporate Governance Framework published in April 2019 can be found on the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner’s website at:

<https://www.northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk/content/uploads/2019/04/North-Yorkshire-Police-Fire-and-Crime-Commissioner-Fire-and-Rescue-Authority-Corporate-Governance-Framework.pdf>

AUTHOR

Fiona Kinnear
 Policy and Scrutiny Officer (Fire & Rescue) for the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
 Date: 15/06/2020