

**REVIEW OF THE
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK**

INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE

20 JUNE 2023

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide members of the Independent Audit Committee with the outcomes of the annual review of the Corporate Governance Framework completed in April 2023.

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** - setting out how the core principles will be implemented
- **Scheme of Corporate Governance** – defining the parameters within which the corporation sole will conduct their business including delegations and consents

3.0 REVIEW AND REVISIONS

3.1 In April 2023, the Corporate Governance Framework was comprehensively reviewed by Statutory Officers.

3.2 The Framework was still considered fit for purpose, subject to the following key changes (detailed changes tracked in Appendix 1). Section 6. Contract Regulations is subject to the most changes.

Section	Change
2.3 Code of Corporate Governance	Additional reference to the 'national Fire Standards' to underpin the commitment to the principles of corporate governance.
2.3.3 Principle C, 2nd bullet And at 2.3.7 Principle G, 3rd bullet	Revised wording to better describe the purpose of the Fire and Rescue Plan.
Appendix A: Meeting structure for decision making	Updated diagram will be added to reflect the Service's new internal governance arrangements.

<p>6 Contract Regulations Key changes detailed in the right column. Detailed changes can be viewed in Appendix 1.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes reflect the UK government launch of a new system to replace the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) to the Find a Tender Service (FTS). As such, UK contracting authorities no longer need to publish procurement notices in the OJEU, with FTS being used as the default public sector procurement process instead. • Introduction of a Procurement Request Form for procurement over £10k. • Restrictions on use of credit card for procurement under £10k - only if a Purchase Order cannot be used. • Exemptions to contract procedures - introduction of Single Tender Action (STA) to be completed, a list of exemptions inserted when using a STA and clarification of the process for approval. • Introduction of a Contract Summary Report for procurements over £50k.
<p>Throughout</p>	<p>Replacement of 'Head of Finance' with 'Chief Accountant' to reflect role title change.</p> <p>Replacement of 'Purchasing Department' with 'Procurement Department' to reflect title change</p>
<p>Appendix D – North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service Values</p>	<p>Removed appendix - the values are already set out in the respective corporate and strategic plans.</p>

3.3 Led by the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer, internal governance seminars will be scheduled over the next three months with members of the NYFRS Strategic Leadership Team and separately with enableNY and NYFRS middle management, to raise awareness and understanding of the roles of the Commissioner (as Fire Authority), the statutory officers, governance and specifically of the Framework, including the recent changes.

3.4 The next comprehensive review of the Corporate Governance Framework will take place in March 2024, in readiness for the transfer of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority to the Mayoral Combined Authority in May 2024.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY ACTIONS

4.1 Members are asked to consider and approve the revisions detailed at paragraph 3.2.

