

## **Warwickshire Joint Audit and Standards Committee Report Summary**

**Meeting Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**Subject:** Warwickshire Corporate Governance Framework from October 2019

**Contact details:** Sara Ansell, Treasurer Warwickshire OPCC  
Jeff Carruthers, Director of Finance, Warwickshire Police

### **Purpose of the Report:**

The Corporate Governance Framework outlines how both organisations will be governed, both jointly and separately. This framework ensures that the primary objectives of the PCC and Chief Constable and the principal statutory framework within which the organisations operate is observed. As a result this framework should create an efficient and effective public sector relationship between the PCC and the Chief Constable with due regard to the operational independence of the Chief Constable.

The document includes the statutory framework and local policies, outlines how core principles are to be implemented, sets the parameters within which the organisations will operate, and outlines the separate policies and procedures for the PCC and the force and protocols for effective joint working where appropriate.

The Corporate Governance Framework document also includes the Financial and Contract procedure rules. These are designed to ensure the proper accountability of public funds and to ensure that the best value for money is achieved in acquiring all goods and services. The Scheme of delegation for the PCC and for the force is a further supporting document which details the names, areas of business and values attributed to specific individuals, along with any other sub-delegations to ensure that services operate effectively, although it is not produced with this document, due to the personal nature of some of the information.

The Corporate Governance Framework is comprehensively reviewed on an annual basis or more regularly if there are any significant changes to reflect. The annual review was due but it has also become necessary as a result of the ending of the strategic alliance with West Mercia, to ensure the document is up to date, fit for purpose and reflects good governance across both the OPCC and Warwickshire police force. The review has been undertaken primarily by the Chief Executive, Treasurer and Director of Finance in addition to separate independent legal advice from Warwickshire Legal Services and support from other key staff, particularly the Head of Contracts and Procurement.

Given the circumstances the review has resulted in more changes to the documents than in the past, firstly as a direct result of the ending of the Strategic Alliance with West Mercia, as mentioned and also further changes required as a consequence of this, primarily to post titles and areas of responsibilities within the Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations as services are repatriated and stood up in Warwickshire. The comprehensive review has resulted in various minor grammatical amendments, in addition to changes to reflect the new structures and services that will be stood up in Warwickshire. Given the nature of the changes outlined above, there are a number of adjustments to the previous documents, but the completed documents are included with this report for comment and consideration by the Committee. The framework will be reviewed again in March 2020, as more services are transitioned out of the Alliance, and further updates will be provided to the Joint Audit and Standards Committee.

**Recommendation:**

That the Joint Audit and Standards Committee note and comment on the Corporate Governance Framework as adopted by the PCC and Warwickshire police from October 2019.