

Warwickshire Joint Audit and Standards Committee Report Summary

Meeting Date: 17th March 2021

Subject: Warwickshire Corporate Governance Framework review March 2021

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 document was last reviewed in March 2020 by the Joint Audit and Standards Committee. The attached document outlines any suggested tracked changes and is based on feedback from the OPCC Treasurer, Chief Executive, legal staff, and the Director of Finance, the Head of Contracts and Procurement and the Head of A, S & I in the force.

The main changes relate to the fact that now that the transition period has ended for leaving the EU, the UK is no longer bound by EU law. Domestic law has been amended

to create a UK based procurement regime, the threshold levels will now be expressly set out in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 in sterling.

Recommendation:

That the Joint Audit and Standards Committee note, feedback and comment on the suggested changes to the Corporate Governance Framework, including the financial and contract regulations as adopted by the PCC and Warwickshire police before their final approval.