

## Draft Code of Corporate Governance 2023/24

### Report for the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact Simon Hardiman, Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260201, or Ged Edwards, Planning & Performance Manager, on 01743 260208.

## 1 Purpose of Report

This report gives the Committee an opportunity to make comment on the draft Code of Corporate Governance 2023/24 prior to it going forward to the full Fire Authority for consideration and formal adoption.

### Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- a) make comment on the draft Code of Corporate Governance 2023/24, attached as an appendix to this report; and
- b) forward the draft Code, with amendments (if any), to the Fire Authority for consideration and formal adoption.

## 2 Background

The Fire Authority's Code of Corporate Governance is based on guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE).

This guidance was refreshed in 2016 following publication of a new governance framework for local authorities, police and fire authorities - 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (CIPFA/SOLACE) 2016', published in April 2016.

Compliance with the Governance Code supports the Authority's review of the effectiveness of its system of internal controls as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. This in turn informs the Annual Governance Statement which accompanies the Annual Statement of Accounts, approved by this Committee as those charged with governance.

### **3 Annual Review**

The 2023/24 Code has been reviewed in line with the latest CIPFA guidance. The Authority will refer to this Code of Corporate Governance when publishing its Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24.

A draft of the new Code is attached as an appendix to this report.

The terms of reference of the Standards, Audit and Performance Committee include a responsibility to review the Code of Corporate Governance. Accordingly, the Committee is asked to consider the draft 2023/24 Code, suggesting changes as appropriate. The draft will then be taken to the Fire Authority, for consideration and formal adoption, at its meeting on 19 June 2024.

### **4 Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **5 Legal Comment**

Although the Fire Authority is not legally required to have in place a Code of Corporate Governance, it is considered best practice to do so.

### **6 Appendix**

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority  
Draft Code of Corporate Governance 2023/24.

### **7 Background Papers**

CIPFA /SOLACE Guidance Note – Delivering Good Governance in Local Government – Framework (CIPFA/SOLACE, 2016)