

Code of Corporate Governance 2012/13

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact Sharon Lloyd,
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1 Purpose of Report

This report gives the Committee an opportunity to make comment on the draft Code of Corporate Governance 2012/13, prior to its going forward to the full Fire Authority for consideration and formal adoption.

2 Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- a) Make comment on the draft Code of Corporate Governance 2012/13, attached as an appendix to this report; and
- b) Forward the draft Code, with appropriate amendments, to the Fire Authority for consideration and formal adoption.

3 Background

In April 2005 the Fire Authority first adopted a Code of Corporate Governance, 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). CIPFA and SOLACE subsequently reviewed their guidance and published a document entitled "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government – Framework", which introduced some significant changes.

In 2009, when reviewing the Fire Authority's Code of Corporate Governance 2009/10, your officers rewrote the Code to take into account the format set out in the CIPFA / SOLACE Framework document.

4 Annual Review

In accordance with best practice and the Code itself officers review the Fire Authority's Code of Corporate Governance annually to ensure that it is accurate and up-to-date. A draft, showing the changes proposed, is attached as an appendix to this report. Deletions are shown struck through and additions in bold italics.

The terms of reference of the Audit and Performance Management Committee include a responsibility to consider the annual review report on the Code of Corporate Governance. Accordingly, the Committee is asked to consider the draft 2012/13 Code, suggesting changes as appropriate. The draft will then be taken to the Fire Authority, for consideration and formal adoption, at its meeting on 26 September 2012.

5 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6 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.

7 Equality Impact Assessment

The Code is a set of statements of fact, set out in response to the CIPFA/SOLACE framework and as such it does not have a differential impact upon specific groups. An initial Equality Impact Assessment is not, therefore, required.

8 Appendix

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
Draft Code of Corporate Governance 2012/13

9 Background Papers

CIPFA /SOLACE Guidance Note – Delivering Good Governance in Local Government - Framework