

Code of Corporate Governance 2009/10

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

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1 Purpose of Report

This report gives the Committee an opportunity to make comment on the proposed new Code of Corporate Governance, prior to its going forward to the full Fire Authority for agreement and adoption.

2 Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- a) Make comment on the draft Code of Corporate Governance 2009/10, attached as an appendix to this report; and
- b) Forward the draft Code, with appropriate amendments, to the Fire Authority for approval and formal adoption.

3 Background

At its meeting on 26 April 2005 the Fire Authority 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). Each year since then the Code has been reviewed, updated and formally approved by the Fire Authority. The CIPFA / SOLACE guidance itself has, however, been updated and changed significantly in the latest guidance entitled "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government – Framework".

Whilst in essence good governance remains unchanged, the five dimensions in the guidance have been replaced by six core principles, each of which is supported by sub-principles to provide a governance framework. The new

guidance again identifies best practice for authorities to adopt when establishing their own local Code of Corporate Governance.

When producing the attached draft Code of Corporate Governance for 2009/10, your officers have taken full account of the latest guidance. The Committee is asked to consider the draft Code, suggesting changes as appropriate. The draft Code will then be taken to the Fire Authority, for approval and adoption, at its meeting on 14 October 2009.

4 Internal Audit Review

At the time of writing it has not been possible for Internal Audit to complete their independent annual audit of the Fire Authority's Code of Corporate Governance. A verbal update on the outcomes from this audit, if available, will be given during the meeting.

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

This report has been assessed to ensure that any effect it might have would not result in discriminatory practice or differential impact upon specific groups. The initial Equality Impact Assessment is attached.

8 Appendix

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority draft Code of Corporate Governance 2009/10

9 Background Papers

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

Implications of all of the following have been considered and, where they are significant (i.e. marked with an asterisk), the implications are detailed within the report itself.

Balanced Score Card	Integrated Risk Management Planning	
Business Continuity Planning	Legal	*
Capacity	Member Involvement	
Civil Contingencies Act	National Framework	
Comprehensive Performance Assessment	Operational Assurance	
Efficiency Savings	Retained	
Environmental	Risk and Insurance	
Financial	Staff	
Fire Control/Fire Link	Strategic Planning	
Information, Communications and Technology	West Midlands Regional Management Board	
Freedom of Information / Data Protection / Environmental Information	Equality Impact Assessment (attached)	*