

Joint Audit Committee

19th March 2018

Joint Corporate Governance Framework Review

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Joint Corporate Governance Framework, which includes the Financial Regulations, have been in existence across the Alliance since the inception of Police and Crime Commissioners and the creation of Chief Constables as separate legal entities. The Corporate Governance Framework was fundamentally reviewed for April 2014 with the transfer of staff to the Chief Constables. Further comprehensive reviews were undertaken in 2015, 2016 and most recently in August 2017.
- 1.2 Following the changes in the Police organisational structure, with the removal of the post of Director of Finance, the Framework has again been reviewed by the Chief Executives, Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer, Acting Chief Finance Officer and Head of Legal Services.
- 1.3 This paper outlines the changes proposed to the Corporate Governance Framework as a result of that review. The full Corporate Governance Framework is attached at Appendix A.

2. Changes

- 2.1 The following parts of the Scheme of Corporate Governance have been changed:
 - The new Chief Finance Officer role for the two Police forces holds all the statutory responsibilities previously held by the Director of Finance post under the Local Government and Finance Act 1988, Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and associated legislation. All but one reference simply required a re-naming of the post responsible from Director of Finance to Chief Finance Officer.
 - The transfer of responsibility for the Procurement function from the Director of Finance to the Director of Enabling requires a new paragraph 3.8.2 and 3.13 (with consequent renumbering).
- 2.2 The references to the Director of Finance have been changed to Chief Finance Officer in the Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders.
- 2.3 Following recommendations by Internal Audit, the following part of the Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders have also been changed:

Section 10.1.10 and 10.1.20, pages 86 and 88 Partnerships

- Amended to clarify the requirement and responsibilities for keeping a register of partnerships, collaborations and other legally formalised consortia.

3. Recommendation

That the Joint Audit Committee consider the revised Corporate Governance Framework including the Financial Regulations and any necessary recommendations.

Andy Champness and Neil Hewison, Chief Executives

Liz Hall, Treasurer

Jeff Carruthers, Acting Chief Finance Officer

Marcia Eccleston, Head of Legal Services