



west midlands
police and crime
commissioner



AGENDA ITEM 08

**JOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE
11 December 2025**

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request feedback on the draft Joint Corporate Code of Governance from Joint Audit Committee, particularly on matters of interest to them in the code.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This Committee's terms of reference includes reviewing the Corporate Governance Framework of the PCC and CC. The Framework sets out how the Commissioner and the Chief Constable conduct their organisation's business both jointly and separately, in accordance with policy contained within the Statement of Corporate Governance. To do this, the Framework highlights key enablers for ensuring good governance.
- 2.2 The purpose of the Statement of Corporate Governance, is to give clarity to the way the two corporation's sole, the PCC and the CC, will govern both jointly and separately, to do business in the right way, for the right reason and at the right time.
- 2.3 The Framework follows the guidance in "Delivering Good Governance: Guidance notes for Policing Bodies in England and Wales 2016" and sets out the framework within which the two corporations sole will govern both jointly and separately.

It comprises four distinct levels:

- Joint **Statement** of Corporate Governance: a statement of corporate governance, making reference to the statutory framework and local policy
- Joint **Code** of Corporate Governance: a code of corporate governance, setting out how the core principles will be implemented, with Annex "Core Principles of Effective Governance"
- Joint **Scheme** of Corporate Governance: which defines the parameters within which the corporations sole will conduct their business, and the delegations from the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner to their respective staff and officers.
- Protocols or policy and procedure statements for each corporation sole, and the two corporations sole acting jointly, which are presented as

- Annex A: Contract Standing Orders
- Annex B: Financial Regulations

3. PROCESS

Review of the Corporate Governance Framework

- 3.1 The joint Corporate Governance Working Group between the PCC's office and West Midlands Police has reviewed the Corporate Governance Framework over recent months to amend the Framework. The changes incorporated in this update include:-
- Significant changes in the way that contracts are tendered which are due to the passage of the Procurement Act 2023. Secondary legislation brought in the changes in the Act with effect from 24 February 2025.
 - Contract standing orders have been revised to include processes which will be compliant with the new legislation and legal advice was sought and received on these new processes
 - Recognising that the price of goods and services have increased rapidly over the past 5 years due to inflation. This has made the previous levels around purchasing authority increasingly out of date, bringing onerous exercises to bear on what is now relatively low level spend.
 - The bandings at which different tendering actions are required in order to be consistent with the 2023 Procurement Act.
 - There has been a review of internal requirements for procurement action to enable a focus on higher value tenders
 - The PCC has made some changes to his governance structures since the start of his new term.
 - All references to the Strategic Police and Crime Board (SPCB) have been reviewed and replaced, where appropriate, by the Accountability and Governance Board.
 - The work of the Data Technology and Operational Ethics board is included
 - The delegations to the Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer of the OPCC, and the Chief Legal Officer, have been reviewed to ensure they fully reflect current roles and responsibilities
 - Attention has been given to ensure that there is consistent referencing to job roles and positions throughout
 - There has been a new monarch and so references to the Queen are replaced by the King
 - Adding to the terms of reference of the Joint Governance Board in order that reports, particularly of instances where the code could not be followed, have agenda time and space.
- 3.2 The bandings at which different tendering actions are required have been compared to other Policing bodies and discussed at Financial Governance Board.
- 3.3 The PCC has completed his review and presented a draft copy of the document for review to FET. That review by FET, and the review by JAC, take place at the same time in order that consultation with JAC is meaningful.
- 3.4 Following discussion with the PCC and CC, and if approved by this committee, then we will develop a communication plan which will incorporate a series of workshops to deliver the changes from 1 April 2026.

4 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 The Framework will be kept under regular review through the Corporate Governance Working Group to ensure it remains fit for purpose. This is to ensure it reflects the role of the PCC and WMP from a statutory and organisational perspective.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 The Committee are asked to comment on the draft code of governance and provide their feedback on any changes they propose those charged with governance may want to consider.

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