

CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FOR DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Introduction

- 1.1 Governance is about how police authorities ensure that they are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open and accountable manner. It comprises the systems, processes, culture and values by which organisations are directed and controlled, and through which they account to, engage with and, where appropriate, lead their communities.
- 1.2 This Code of Corporate governance describes how Devon and Cornwall Police Authority discharges its responsibilities in this respect, and particularly its two overarching statutory responsibilities:
- To secure an efficient and effective local police service;
 - To hold to account the Chief Officer of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary for the exercise of his/her functions and those of persons under his/her direction and control.
- The Chief Officer has a statutory responsibility for the control, direction and delivery of operational policing services.
- 1.3 The CIPFA/SOLACe Framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government* sets out six core principles on which effective governance should be built:
- Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area;
 - Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles;
 - Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour;
 - Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk;
 - Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective; and
 - Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.
- 1.4 To achieve this a framework has been formulated locally which ensures that these principles are fully integrated in the conduct of the Authority's business as well as establishing a means of demonstrating compliance.
- 1.5 The Authority can also demonstrate that the systems and processes in place are:
- Monitored for their effectiveness in practice
 - Subject to annual review to ensure they remain up to date

The Code of Corporate Governance

- 2.1 Accordingly, the Authority has developed a Code of Corporate governance which incorporates the core good governance principles, develops these in a local context, and sets out the arrangements for reviewing their effectiveness.
- 2.2 The way in which each of the core principles of good governance is put into practice by the Authority is set out below:

2.2.1 The Authority aims to focus on the purpose of the Authority and on outcomes for the community to create and implement a vision for the local area.

To achieve this the authority will:

- ensure that partnerships are underpinned by a common vision of their work that is understood and agreed by all parties
- decide how the quality of service for users is to be measured and make sure that the information needed to review service quality effectively and regularly is available
- measure / assess public confidence and satisfaction with the policing services they receive

2.2.2 The Authority aims to ensure members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles.

To achieve this the authority will:

- set out a clear statement of the respective roles and responsibilities of the authority and its members and officers individually and the authority's approach towards putting this into practice
- determine a scheme of delegation and reserve powers within the constitution, including a formal schedule of those matters specifically reserved for collective decision of the authority taking account of relevant legislation and ensure that it is monitored and updated when required.

2.2.3 The Authority aims to promote the values of the authority and demonstrate the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

To achieve this the authority will:

- ensure that the authority's leadership sets a tone for the organisation by creating a climate of openness, support and respect
- put in place arrangements to ensure that systems and processes are designed in conformity with appropriate ethical standards, and monitor their continuing effectiveness in practice

2.2.4 The authority aims to take informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and risk management arrangements.

To achieve this the authority will:

- develop and maintain effective arrangements to challenge and scrutinise force performance and compliance with other requirements
- ensure that effective, transparent and accessible arrangements are in place for dealing with complaints.

2.2.5 The authority aims to develop the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective in their roles.

To achieve this the authority will:

- assess the skills required by members and officers and make a commitment to develop those skills to enable roles to be carried out effectively
- ensure that effective arrangements are in place designed to encourage individuals from all sections of the community to engage with, contribute to and participate in the work of the Authority].

2.2.6 The authority aims to engage with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

To achieve this the authority will:

- *make clear to themselves, all staff, the community and stakeholders, what they are accountable for and to whom*

- *ensure arrangements are in place to enable the authority to engage with all sections of the community effectively. These arrangements should recognise that different sections of the community have a variety of priorities and should establish explicit processes for dealing with these competing demands].*

Arrangements For Review Of Governance

3.1 The Authority has put in place the following arrangements to review the effectiveness of the Code of Corporate Governance.

An annual review is conducted to produce an Annual Governance Statement, which is required to meet audit and accounting regulations

The following all play an important part in reviewing and maintaining the effectiveness the Code of Corporate Governance and thus contribute to the Annual Governance Statement.

- The Corporate Governance Committee has a Terms of Reference which include:
 - "To develop and monitor a Code of Corporate Governance including the purpose and effectiveness of corporate governance, good practice and areas for improvement."*
 - "to consider arrangements for risk management policies, process and documentation.."*
- Internal and external audit plans are agreed by the Corporate Governance Committee
- All Inspection reports e.g Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary reviews, are co-ordinated via the Corporate Governance Committee
- There is an Annual Review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit
- The Standards Committee has oversight of ethical matters concerning Members of the Authority
- The Corporate Governance Committee receives regular reports on the actions detailed in the Statement of Internal Control / Annual Governance Statement.