

Corporate Governance Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The term Corporate Governance refers to *the system by which the Fire Authority directs and controls its functions and relates to the community it serves*. It is therefore, the totality of the policies, management systems, procedures, and structures that together, determine and control the way in which the Fire Authority manages its business, formulates its strategies and objectives and sets about delivering its services to meet those objectives, for the greater good of the communities of the City of York and North Yorkshire.
- 1.2 The basic principles of good corporate governance require the Authority to undertake its functions in a way that is completely open and inclusive of all sectors of the community, demonstrates the utmost integrity in all its dealings and is fully accountable to the public it serves.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1 The policy of the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority is to incorporate the principles of Corporate Governance into every dimension of its business to ensure that stakeholders can have confidence in the decision-making and management processes of the authority, and in the conduct and professionalism of its members, officers and agents in delivering services. To this end, the Authority will report annually on its intentions, performance and financial position, as well as on the arrangements in place to ensure good governance is exercised.

3. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 In order to meet the stated policy, the Corporate Governance objectives of the Authority will be
- 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 examination and managing risk
 - developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective
 - engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability

- a culture that demonstrates a 'Zero Tolerance' of Fraud and Corruption
- working with the requirements of key Inspectors to demonstrate continuous improvement in the Authority's procedures
- improving Information Governance

4. THE CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

- 4.1 In support of these objectives, the Authority has developed a local Code of Corporate Governance that sets out in more detail, the key elements of the Authority's arrangements for ensuring that its policy objectives are met. The code sets down a commitment to establish and maintain suitable systems and processes across five key dimensions of the Authority's business,
- 4.2 The operation of this code is subject to regular monitoring and review, both internally and by external review agencies, the results of which will be considered by the Authority, and subsequently reported within the annual Statement of Accounts.