

CORPORATE POLICIES AND RISKS UPDATE
WDA/25/26

Recommendation

That:

1. Members commend to the Authority the updated Financial Procedure Rules;
2. Members commend to the Authority the updated Contract Procedure Rules
3. Members note the proposed Anti-fraud Bribery & Corruption Policy; and
4. Members note the Corporate Risk Register

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CORPORATE POLICIES AND RISKS UPDATE
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Report of the Director of Finance

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To request that Members consider and commend to the Authority the following documents:

- The proposed amended Financial Procedure Rules;
- The proposed amended Contract Procedure Rules;
- The proposed Anti-fraud Bribery & Corruption Policy; and
- The Corporate Risk Register.

2. Background

2.1 A Primary Assurance Group (PAG) has been established and is responsible for the continuing assessment and review of the Authority's corporate governance arrangements in line with the Authority's Corporate Code of Governance. The group consists of the Authority's Statutory Officers in consultation with the Chief Executive.

2.2 PAG met on 18th May 2026 and considered the documents that are presented to this committee for consideration.

2.3 As part of the continuing assessment of corporate governance, PAG undertakes periodic reviews of the previous year's Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan to ensure progress is being made. An update is outlined in a separate report on corporate governance taken to this committee meeting.

3. Financial procedure Rules

- 3.1 The Authority undertook a review of its Constitution during 2025/26, which resulted in various proposed amendments that will be put forward for Authority approval on 26th June. This included updating the Financial Procedure Rules, which are included at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The changes have resulted in a more comprehensive set of procedures that incorporate
- Budget virement thresholds
 - Capital programme
 - Land & Property transactions
 - Treasury Management

4. Contract procedure Rules

- 4.1 The Authority's Contract Procedural Rules underwent a root and branch review during 2024/25 with the update approved at the 2025 Authority AGM, that review reflecting the changes put in place by the Procurement Act 2023.
- 4.2 The Rules have been reviewed for the purposes of this report, and the following summarises the key amendments proposed to the Contract Procedural Rules proposed at this time:
- i) All financial threshold values have been updated to reflect the latest UK public procurement threshold values, effective from 1st January 2026.
 - ii) The thresholds for Administrative Decisions have been updated (paragraph 2.20).
- 4.3 A copy of the updated Contract Procedural Rules is provided at Appendix 2.

5. Anti-fraud, Bribery & Corruption policy

- 5.1 The production of an updated Anti-fraud Bribery & Corruption Policy is an outstanding recommendation from previous audit reports. The updated policy included at Appendix 3 was approved by PAG on 18th May 2026.

6. Corporate Risk Register

6.1 This was approved by PAG on 18th May 2026 and included at Appendix 4.

7. Annual Governance Statement Review

7.1 The Primary Assurance Group has undertaken its end of year review of the work undertaken to deliver the 2025-26 Improvement Action Plan. This is outlined in the Corporate Governance report included in the agenda for this committee meeting.

8. Risk Implications

8.1 The review of corporate governance and internal control arrangements is a statutory requirement and failure to undertake an effective review may lead to weaknesses in the direction and control of the Authority's functions.

8.2 The following key risks have been identified:

Identified Risk	Likelihood Rating	Consequence Rating	Risk Value	Mitigation
Weaknesses in internal control mechanisms are not identified.	1	4	4	Annual Assessment
Failure to deliver continuous improvement.	2	3	6	Improvement Plan identified and monitored by Primary Assurance Group

9. HR Implications

9.1 There are no HR implications associated with this report.

10. Environmental Implications

10.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

11. Legal Implications

11.1 The review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control and production of the governance statement is required in order to comply with Regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

12. Financial Implications

12.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

13. Conclusion

13.1 That Members:

- commend to the Authority the updated Financial Procedure Rules;
- commend to the Authority the updated Contract Procedure Rules
- note the proposed Anti-fraud Bribery & Corruption Policy; and

13.1 note the Corporate Risk Register.

14. Appendices

Appendix 1: Proposed amended Financial Procedure Rules 2026-27

Appendix 2: Proposed amended Contract Procedure Rules

Appendix 3: Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy 2026-27

Appendix 4: Corporate Risk Register

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The background documents to this report are open to inspection in accordance with Section 100D of The Local Government Act 1972 - Nil.