

# Report to the Cleveland Police Joint Audit Committee



**Executive & Presenting Officer: Mr Ian Wright, Chief Finance Officer**

**Status: For information**

**Corporate Governance Framework- Update to the Code of Corporate Governance**

**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Joint Audit Committee of the recent updates to the Corporate Governance Framework (CGF) specifically Section F covering Contract Standing Orders.
- 1.2 This is the formal written update, as requested by the Committee after verbally agreeing the updates at the March 2025 Joint Audit Committee meeting.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the members of the Joint Audit Committee note the updates to the Corporate Governance Framework as set out in this report.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 Section F of the Corporate Governance Framework provides OPCC and Cleveland Police Staff with a clear regulatory framework setting out the procedures for how Procurement and Contract Management activities shall be conducted.
- 3.2 Section F6 of the CGF sets out the financial thresholds under which the procurement function must abide by when authorising spending on behalf of the OPCC and Cleveland Police. Previously the first financial threshold, for Low Value Procurements, was set at £10,000.
- 3.3 In the financial year 2024/2025 it became increasingly apparent that a number of repeating annual spend requirements were breaching this threshold. This was due to a number of factors, such as historical inflation, and environmental factors such as the long-term market effects of Covid, Brexit and wars across Europe were increasing the costs of goods and services and this was having a significant impact on the workload of the Procurement Function.

## **4. Investigation**

- 4.1 The Procurement function undertook an internal investigation into historical amendments of the CGF, and it was understood through discussions that this threshold had not been amended for a number of years.
- 4.2 A Benchmarking exercise was undertaken to understand what similar thresholds our national Procurement counterparts were also adhering to under similar governance frameworks. It became apparent that Police Forces and PCC offices nationally have a range of Low Value Thresholds in place, from £10,000 up to £50,000 for larger forces such as the Met / GMP.

## **5. Request for Amendment**

- 5.1 The Procurement function presented at the March 2025 Joint Audit Committee the following amendments to the CGF:
- Section F in relation to Procurement Process thresholds be updated for the Low Value Procurements to be below £20,000 (currently £10,000)
  - For Medium Value Procurements to be above £20,000 (currently £10,000) and below £50,000.
  - In Section F, and Section G (Delegated Limits) threshold limits to be amended from £10,000 to show as £20,000 in line with the above.
  - Additional amendments are requested to remove references to the Procurement and Contracting Regulations 2015 (as the previous regulatory framework governing Public Sector Spend) and replace these with the Procurement Act 2023 (as the new regulatory framework)

**Nick Eyley**  
**Commissioning & Procurement Manager**