

# Financial Management Policy Statement

## Policy objectives

We will:

1. Demonstrate and make sure high standards of financial governance and management are in place throughout the organisation through the application of financial regulations and contract and procurement standing orders
2. Comply with all relevant finance legislation
3. Manage the Authority's funds in accordance with the approved treasury management strategy, adopting the CIPFA treasury management in the public services: Code of Practice and the CIPFA prudential code for capital finance in local authorities
4. Make sure the public has faith in how we spend and manage our finances including ensuring that the authority's financial statements (the annual statement of accounts), comply with the account and audit regulations and the CIPFA code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom
5. Demonstrate value for money by making best use of the resources available to us, delivering economy, efficiency and effectiveness
6. Ensure that decision making is supported by reliable financial data and information
7. Manage significant financial liabilities and risks by maintaining a risk assessed general reserve of £2.5m, or 5% of the Authority's net revenue budget, whichever is the greater.
8. Ensure that as far as reasonably possible, all of our assets are secure from attack or interference.

## Compliance and assurance

The Authority delegates these policy objectives to the Treasurer of the Fire and Rescue Authority, i.e. the person appointed by them with responsibility for the proper administration of the Authority's financial affairs, in accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Section 112 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and the Chief Fire Officer.

The Treasurer will be responsible for ensuring compliance with financial policy objectives through maintaining a suite of financial regulations and contract and procurement standing orders. The Treasurer will also undertake an annual assurance of this policy to support the Statement of Assurance and the Annual Governance Statement which will be approved by the Finance and Governance Committee.

We will also assure through reports received and judgements made by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

**Document Management:**

| <b>Lead director</b> | <b>Review Date</b> |
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| Ian Cotter           | February 2020      |