

Report to	<b>Fire and Rescue Authority</b>
Date	<b>19/03/18</b>
Lead Officer	<b>Colin Everett, Clerk to the Authority</b>
Contact Officer	<b>Alwen Davies, Member Liaison Officer</b>
Subject	<b>The Standards Committee's Annual Report to the Fire and Rescue Authority</b>



### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1 Members are asked to note and approve the attached report.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2 As a matter of good corporate governance the Standards Committee provides the Fire and Rescue Authority with an annual report on its activities during each financial year.
- 3 Consequently the Committee's thirteenth annual report is attached for members' consideration.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4 That Members note and approve the Standards Committee's annual report.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

Wellbeing Objectives	No specific implications
Budget	No specific implications
Legal	No specific implications
Staffing	No specific implications
Equalities/Human Rights/ Welsh Language	No specific implications
Risks	No specific implications

## **DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE OF NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

### **Background**

This is the Standards Committee's thirteenth annual report to the Fire and Rescue Authority and spans the period from April 2017 to March 2018. Legislation requires that Standards Committees meet at least annually.

The Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee provide a remit to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members of the Authority and to oversee the whistle-blowing policy for complaints against members of the Authority. Also, where statute permits, to receive reports and complaints about members and to conduct or oversee investigations and to make recommendations to the authority.

### **Membership**

The terms of office of both Celia Blomeley and Jane Eyton-Jones came to an end on 31 December 2017. As it was the end of their second term they were not eligible for re-appointment.

This year, the recruitment campaign was undertaken jointly with Flintshire County Council. Although the Fire and Rescue Authority and the County Council operate in different ways, it was decided to take the unusual step of recruiting jointly. This was done to share cost, and more importantly, because the benefits that could spring from sharing insights between the two bodies are recognised.

The vacancies were advertised in the Daily Post, Flintshire Leader, on the NWFRA and Flintshire CC websites and social media websites during October and early November 2017. Eight applications were received in response to the advertisement, of whom five were short listed. On 29 November the Panel met to interview the short-listed candidates. At the completion of the interview process the Panel deliberated at length on the attributes and strengths of the five candidates and concluded that all candidates were appointable.

At the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority meeting on 18 December 2017, members accepted the Panel's recommendation that Sally Ellis and Julia Hughes be appointed with effect from 1 January 2018 for a term of four years.

There are also two new representatives from the NWFRA following the council elections in 2017. Therefore the new membership is as follows:

#### Independent members

David Morris 01/09/14 - 31/08/18

Antony P Young 01/04/16 - 31/03/20

Sally Ellis 01/01/18 – 31/12/2021

Julia Hughes 01/01/18 – 31/12/2021

#### Fire and Rescue Authority members

Councillor Dylan Rees (19/06/18 onwards)

Councillor Owen Thomas (19/06/18 onwards)

### **Attendance and Issues**

The Standards Committee met on 14 March 2018 and the following members attended:

Antony P Young

Sally Ellis

Julia Hughes

Councillor Owen Thomas

At that meeting, members

- received an induction on the workings of the Authority
- received a report on attendance levels
- set the committee's work programme.

### **Complaints against members of the Fire and Rescue Authority**

There were no complaints about FRA members during this period. However, there have been concerns expressed about FRA members' attendance at meetings and this will be reviewed at the Standards Committee meeting in September 2018.

### **Financial Implications**

The budget for the Standards Committee is part of the committee services heading which covers all Authority costs. Following the approval of the members' remuneration scheme on 18 June 2012, independent members are now entitled to claim remuneration based on meetings and events attended. To date, no such claims have been made.

### **Conclusion**

The Standards Committee recommends that the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority notes its report.