



AGENDA ITEM: 16

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

21 March 2016

THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

Report by Colin Everett, Clerk to the Authority

Purpose of Report

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

Background

- 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 eleventh annual report is attached for Members' consideration.

Recommendation

- 4 That Members note and approve the Standards Committee's Annual Report.



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

Background

This is the Standards Committee's eleventh annual report to the Fire and Rescue Authority and spans the period from April 2015 to March 2016. 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

Anthony Young's term of office on the Standards Committee comes to an end on 31 March 2016. Following the introduction of the Standards Committees (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006, an independent member can be reappointed for a maximum of one further term of up to four years. There is no legal requirement to advertise a vacancy if it is intended to make a reappointment.

Mr Young has indicated that he wishes to be reappointed and this will be submitted for approval at the Authority meeting on 21 March 2016.

Therefore, the current membership is as follows:

Independent members

Celia Blomeley 01/01/2014 - 31/12/17

Jane A Eyton-Jones 01/01/2014 - 31/12/17

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

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

Fire and Rescue Authority members

Councillor Brian Dunn (18/06/12 onwards)

Councillor Jim G Evans (18/06/12 onwards)

Attendance and Issues

The Standards Committee met on 14 January 2016 and the following members attended:

Jane A Eyton-Jones (Chair)
Celia Blomeley
Antony P Young
Cllr Jim Evans, Anglesey County Council
Cllr Brian Dunn, Flintshire County Council.

At that meeting, members received an update on legislative changes to the ethical regime. It was noted that draft consultative legislation had been published with the intention that changes to the code of conduct be brought into effect in time for the annual general meetings of local authorities in May. In addition draft consultative legislation had been published in respect of the establishment of joint standards committees and the procedures to be followed when handling complaints. Members approved a response for submission to the Welsh Government.

Complaints against members of the Fire and Rescue Authority

There were no complaints about FRA members during this period.

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 18th June 2012, independent members are now entitled to claim remuneration based on meetings and events attended. To date, no such claims have been made. Travel allowances amounting to £9.90 have been paid to independent members.

Conclusion

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