



AGENDA ITEM: 13

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

20 March 2017

THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

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 twelfth 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 twelfth annual report to the Fire and Rescue Authority and spans the period from April 2016 to March 2017. 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 term of offices of both Celia Blomeley and Jane Eyton-Jones will come to an end on 31 December 2017. 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.

This will be the end of their second term and therefore they are not eligible for re-appointment. Arrangements will be made to advertise these roles in the summer months of 2017. Thank you to both ladies for their work on the Committee over the years.

Also, the local authority elections are taking place in May 2017 and therefore we thank Councillors Evans and Dunn for their contributions over the past five years.

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 1 March 2017 and the following members attended:

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

At that meeting, members received information on the revised guidance on code of conduct. Members also noted the minutes of the North Wales Standards Forum meeting, at which the Public Services Ombudsman had delivered a presentation followed by a question and answer session.

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.

Conclusion

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