



## **AGENDA ITEM: 11**

### **NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**29<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

#### **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 approve the attached report which will be presented to the Authority at its March meeting.

##### **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 tenth annual report is attached for Members' consideration.

##### **Recommendation**

- 4 Members are asked to approve the Standards Committee's Annual Report to be presented to the Authority at its March meeting.



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

### Background

This is the Standards Committee's tenth annual report to the Fire and Rescue Authority and spans the period from April 2013 to March 2014. 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

Jane Eyton-Jones and Celia Blomeley's terms of office on the Standards Committee came to an end on 31 December 2013. 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.

Both ladies indicated that they were willing to be reappointed and at the Authority meeting on 16 December 2013, Members agreed to the reappointments.

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 01/09/10 - 31/08/14

Antony P Young 01/04/12 - 30/03/16

#### Fire and Rescue Authority members

Councillor Brian Dunn (18/06/12 onwards)

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

Also contained within the report to the Authority, was a request for delegated authority to the Chair, Clerk and the Chief Fire Officer to appoint a lay panel member to sit on any future advisory panels when vacancies arise on the Standards Committee. Authority members agreed that the appointment of the lay panel member should be delegated to the Chair, Clerk and the Chief Fire Officer.

### **Attendance and Issues**

The Standards Committee met on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013 and the following members attended:

Jane A Eyton-Jones (Chair)  
David Morris (Deputy Chair)  
Celia Blomeley  
Antony P Young  
Cllr Jim Evans, Anglesey County Council

At that meeting, Jane A Eyton-Jones was re-appointed Chair and David Morris was appointed Deputy Chair of the Committee. Members discussed the proposed changes to the code of conduct, indemnity insurance, local resolution system and the publication of members' interests online. Members also noted that the Authority had approved a social media protocol.

Another meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014 and the following members were in attendance: *TO BE CONFIRMED AFTER THE MEETING*

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

*Two documents namely member/officer relations protocol and local resolution system procedure were presented and following discussion members decided to recommend the documents to the Executive Panel for consideration. Members were also given an update on the Authority's indemnity insurance position, the publication of members' interests online and the proposed changes to the code of conduct.*

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

During the period of this report, no complaints have been made against councillors in roles as members of the Fire and Rescue Authority. Accordingly, no matters have been referred to the Committee for investigation or decision.

## **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<sup>th</sup> 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 £33.80 have been paid to independent members.

## **Conclusion**

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