



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

Background

This is the Standards Committee's sixth annual report to the Fire and Rescue Authority and spans the period from April 2009 to March 2010.

Membership

This year saw the terms of office of two members coming to an end. Chris Bretherton-Watt and John Pollard stood down in September.

An advertisement for new independent members was placed in the Daily Post and posted on the internet. On 1st December, interviews were held at Rhyl Community Fire Station and two new members were appointed – Celia Blomeley and Jane A Eyton-Jones.

Therefore the new membership is as follows:

Independent members

Mr Simon Fysh
Mr Samindre Soysa
Celia Blomeley
Jane A Eyton-Jones

Fire and Rescue Authority members

Councillor Glyn Williams
Councillor Merfyn Thomas

Meetings held

Legislation dictates that all Standards Committees are required to meet at least once per calendar year. The Standards Committee met on 18th February 2010. Throughout the year other business was transacted via correspondence, details of which are provided further on in this report.

Attendance was as follows:

Apologies were received from Samindre Soysa.

Issues Discussed

At its meeting on 18th February 2010, the Committee discussed the following:

The first item on the agenda was nominating a new Chair and Vice-Chair for the Committee. were appointed.

The Clerk gave members an induction/refresher training and discussed the role of independent members and what is expected from the committee. New members received a copy of the Authority Members' Handbook.

Minutes of the last meeting were discussed and members were informed that the Authority had decided not to offer remuneration to co-opted members.

Members of the committee were pleased to note that the Authority had been successful in its application for the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development.

The committee considered future training needs of the independent members and it was decided

Complaints against members of the Fire and Rescue Authority

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

Additional Information

The committee was informed that the Authority had agreed to establish an audit committee. Members were fully supportive of this approach.

Conclusion

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