



AGENDA ITEM: 12

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

16 March 2015

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 eleventh annual report is attached for Members' consideration.

Recommendation

- 4 Members are asked to 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 tenth annual report to the Fire and Rescue Authority and spans the period from April 2014 to March 2015. 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

David Morris' term of office on the Standards Committee came to an end on 31 August 2014. 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 Morris indicated that he wished to be reappointed and at the Authority meeting on 15 December 2014, Members agreed to the reappointment.

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 01/04/12 - 30/03/16

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 4 March 2015 and the following members attended:

Jane A Eyton-Jones (Chair)
David Morris (Deputy Chair)
Celia Blomeley
Antony P Young

At that meeting, members received an update on recent case law relating to the code of conduct and the new guidance issued by the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW). The report was duly noted.

Complaints against members of the Fire and Rescue Authority

During the period of this report, one complaint was received about an FRA member and this was dealt with under the local resolution procedure. No matters have therefore 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 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.