

Report to	North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority	
Date	18/12/17	
Lead Officer	Clerk to the Authority	
Contact Officer	Colin Everett (01745 535286)	
Subject	Appointment of Independent Members to serve on the Authority's Standards Committee	

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To recommend that the Authority appoint Sally Ellis and Julia Hughes to the Authority's Standards Committee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 The Authority undertook a joint recruitment campaign with Flintshire County Council to recruit members to their respective Standards Committees. NWFRA required two independent members and Flintshire required one independent member.

RECOMMENDATION

- 3 That Members appoint Sally Ellis and Julia Hughes for a period of four years from 1 January 2018.

BACKGROUND

- 4 During 2003, in accordance with legislative requirements, the Authority established a Standards Committee. This committee comprises of six members, four of whom are independent members and two representatives from the Fire Authority.
- 5 This year, the recruitment campaign was undertaken jointly with Flintshire County Council.

INFORMATION

- 6 Although the fire and rescue authority and the county council operate in different ways, it was decided to take the unusual step of recruiting jointly. This was done to share cost but also, and more importantly, because the benefits that could spring from sharing insights between the two bodies are recognised.

- 7 The vacancies were advertised in the Daily Post, Flintshire Leader, on the NWFRA and Flintshire CC websites and social media websites during October and November 2017, with the closing date for applications set as 13 November 2017. Eight applications were received in response to the advertisement, of whom 5 were short listed.
- 8 On 29 November the Panel met to interview the short-listed candidates. At the completion of the interview process the Panel deliberated at length on the attributes and strengths of the five candidates and concluded that all candidates were appointable.
- 9 The Panel recommends that the Authority appoint Sally Ellis and Julia Hughes with effect from 1 January 2018 for a term of four years; pen pictures are attached at appendix 1 for information.
- 10 The membership of the Committee and their terms of office will be as follows:

Independent Members

David Morris	01/09/14 - 31/08/18 (second term)
Antony Young	01/04/16 - 30/03/20 (second term)
Sally Ellis	01/01/18 – 31/12/21
Julia Hughes	01/01/18 – 31/12/21

Fire and Rescue Authority representatives

Councillor Dylan Rees	May 2017 – May 2021
Councillor Owen Thomas	May 2017 – May 2021

IMPLICATIONS

Wellbeing Objectives	Not relevant.
Budget	Any costs associated with meetings and events attended by members are reimbursed from the travel and subsistence budget.
Legal	No specific implications arise from approving the recommendation.
Staffing	No specific implications arise from approving the recommendation.
Equalities/Human Rights/ Welsh Language	No specific implications arise from approving the recommendation.
Risks	No specific risks arise from approving the recommendation.

Sally Ellis

Originally from Norfolk, Sally Ellis has lived in Flintshire for more than 30 years, mostly in Caerwys. She has two children who both still live in the area and went to school in Mold. Sally has also lived or worked (or both) in all of the North Wales local authority areas.

Sally is a graduate and has qualifications in social administration, strategic management and leadership. Sally is able to read and understand Welsh reasonably well.

Sally's early working life was in community development, working for the voluntary sector, including in North Wales. She moved to work for local government in 1992, working for Clwyd and Conwy Councils before becoming the Director of Modernisation and Well-being at Denbighshire County Council from 2001-2014. She was Director of Social Services as well as having responsibility for a varying range of Council services, including housing, HR, ICT, leisure and the corporate recovery (emergency planning) role. This work also brought her into partnerships with the Fire and Rescue Service, especially its preventative and emergency response functions.

Since retiring from full time work in 2014, Sally has undertaken a number of roles for Welsh Government and mentoring and consultancy work for national and local government, mostly in North Wales. She is currently a member of the Public Services Staff Commission which is looking at the workforce implications of public service reform in Wales. She is also a Member of Flintshire's Audit Committee since June 2017. On a voluntary basis, Sally is Vice Chair of North Wales Housing Association and an adviser for Denbighshire Citizens Advice.

Sally describes herself as a keen gardener and walker, film and theatre goer.

Julia Hughes

Julia Hughes lives in Denbighshire close to the Flintshire border and is currently an Independent member of the Denbighshire County Council Standards Committee having been appointed to that position in May 2015.

Since July 2014, she has also been a Non-Executive Director on the Board of Grŵp Cynefin Housing Association which operates in the six North Wales counties and North Powys. She is a member of many of the sub committees including the Audit and Resources Committee (currently the Chair), Governance Committee and Pensions Group.

She has spent nearly 32 years of full time work in the education sector, in substantial Leadership and Management roles for much of that period and her final role was the Director of Adult and Community Learning in Conwy and Denbighshire for Coleg Llandrillo (part of Grŵp Llandrillo Menai) with responsibility for four college sites, outreach provision in Conwy and Denbighshire, college provision in public libraries and some Higher Education, Work Based Learning and Commercial work.

Julia is still involved with the sector, offering educational consultancy services and her contracts have included Welsh Government projects and EU project evaluation.

Additionally she assists with the running, operation and business compliance of the family farm.

Her varied career and background and current activities including voluntary roles, together with her regular continuous professional development experience, provide her with a wide and varied transferable skills set and personal attributes which are very relevant to the membership requirements and work of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority and Flintshire County Council Standards Committees.