

New Independent Members for the Standards Committee

North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority &
Flintshire County Council

Introduction

Thank you for expressing an interest in working with the Fire and Rescue Authority and Flintshire County Council.

Our Standards Committees provide valuable independent input into the procedures and protocols that councillors must follow, and recruiting people with the right skills and outlook is key to their success. We hope that having read the application pack you will choose to apply for one, or both, of the roles on offer.

The two authorities operate in different ways but have taken the unusual step of trying to recruit jointly. We have done this to share cost but also, and more importantly, because we recognise the benefits that could spring from sharing insights between the two bodies. Some people may wish to work for just one body; we hope you will consider applying to both.

I hope these opportunities are of interest to you and we look forward to receiving your application.

Yours Sincerely



Dylan Rees

Chair
North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority



Julia Hughes

Chair of Flintshire County Council
Standards Committee



Information

Flintshire County Council is looking for **one** lay person to serve as an independent member on its Standards Committee.

North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority is looking for **three** lay persons to serve as independent members on its Standards Committee.

In the interest of collaboration, a joint recruitment campaign is being held. Applicants are free to apply to work with either the Fire Authority, Flintshire County Council or with both (please tick the relevant boxes on the application form).

The ability to speak Welsh will be considered to be an advantage, and the need to achieve a balance of skills, qualities and expertise on the Committee, as well as the need to represent the community as a whole and achieve a geographical spread will be taken into account.

The Flintshire County Council Standards Committee normally meets on the first Monday every other month. Meeting dates are reserved for the first Monday of the intervening months in case there is an application for a dispensation. Meetings are hybrid and take place in the Lord Barry Jones Chamber, Ty Dewi Sant, Ewloe with the option to attend online. They at 5.30pm.

The Standards Committee of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority meets twice a year unless there is urgent business to be discussed. Meetings are online and take place during the day at a time agreed with the committee members.

Independent members are remunerated in accordance with rates set by the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru.





Appointment of Independent Members to The Standards Committees of Flintshire County Council and North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority

The Standards Committee

The Standards Committee plays a central role in the ethical framework that governs the conduct of local authority members. Every member of a local authority and of every community and town council has undertaken to abide by the Code of Conduct for Members. The Committee's main role is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by these councillors and to assist them to observe the Members' Code of Conduct. Additionally, the Committee is responsible for overseeing the Gifts and Hospitality Protocol for Members.

The Committee has certain specific functions including considering complaints that members have breached the Code of Conduct and to impose a sanction where appropriate. It also considers applications made by members for dispensations to allow them to take part in discussions even though they have a prejudicial interest under the Code.

Such complaints are rare so the main work of the Committee is to review codes and protocols. The aim is to ensure that the authority's processes support and encourage ethical behaviour that conforms with the councillors' code of conduct. The Committee also monitors councillors' attendance at meetings of the Fire Authority.

The Independent Members

Applicants will be required to demonstrate independence and impartiality in assisting the Standards Committee in promoting, maintaining and improving ethical arrangements within Flintshire County Council and its county's community/town councils. The same is applicable to the Fire and Rescue Authority's Standards Committee.

The work of the Committee requires the Independent Members to possess the following qualities and skills:-

1. listening skills
2. ability to understand and weigh up evidence
3. ability to come to an objective view and explain that view by reference to the evidence
4. team working skills
5. respect for others and an understanding of diversity issues
6. discretion
7. personal integrity
8. not actively participate in local or national politics
9. not have had significant previous disputes with the Authority
10. not have a close relationship with any member/officer of the Authority.

A detailed knowledge of local government is not necessary although it would be an advantage if potential candidates were interested in matters relating to public life and services. In addition, independent members must: -

- Be eligible for selection as an independent member (see below as to who cannot be an independent member*);

Details for Applicants

- Be well respected in the community;
- Be able to meet the time commitment involved and be available at short notice;
- Be able to provide two references.

*A person cannot be an independent member if he/she is:

- a councillor or officer (or married to a councillor or officer) any county/county borough council, fire authority, national park authority, or a community/town council

- a former councillor or officer of Flintshire County Council nor North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority. Former councillors or officers of other county/county borough councils, fire authorities or national parks cannot be independent members until the expiry of 12 months since they ceased to be a councillor or officer of such an authority.

The Appointment Process

The Authourities are obliged to set up a Consultative Panel to consider applications. The Panel, after interviewing all applicants, will present its recommendation to a meeting of the Full Council and a meeting of the full Fire and Rescue Authority, which will make the appointment.

Applications must be submitted on the appropriate Application Form accompanied by 2 letters of reference.

Successful candidates will be expected to take up their appointments immediately and serve, subject to termination or resignation, for between 4 and 6 years. There is also the possibility of re-appointment for a further term, up to a maximum of 10 years.

The offers are subject to, and conditional upon, the successful completion of a DBS check.

Remuneration

As mentioned, Independent Members are remunerated for each meeting/event they attend in accordance with rates set by the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru. Those rates are currently £105 for up to 4 hours and £210 for over 4 hours. These rates are reviewed annually.

Both the Authority and the Council are Equal Opportunities employers and provider of services and welcome applications from women, young people, disabled people and people from ethnic minorities.



Find out more and to apply please visit:

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service Website: Vacancies - North Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Or
Flintshire County Council: Vacancies - Flintshire County Council

For enquiries please contact the Recruitment Team at North Wales Fire & Rescue Service on 01745 535 250 or recruitment@northwalesfire.gov.wales

Closing date: 09:00, 4 January 2027
Interviews: Expected 11 January 2027

