

Report to	<b>North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority</b>
Date	<b>20 April 2026</b>
Lead Officer	<b>Clerk to the Authority</b>
Contact Officer	<b>Gareth Owens</b>
Subject	<b>Appointment of Independent Members to serve on the Authority's Standards Committee</b>



## PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To recommend that North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) appoint David Davies to the Authority's Standards Committee.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 The Authority must appoint Independent Members to its Standards Committee. These are people with no connection to politics or the authority who are co-opted on to the Authority. The Authority required has conducted an open recruitment exercise to select suitable candidates.

## RECOMMENDATION

- 3 It is recommended that Members:
  - i) **Appoint David Davies for a period of four years from 20 April 2026; and**
  - ii) **Thank Julia Hughes and Sally Ellis for their hard work and commitment.**

## BACKGROUND

- 4 The Authority has an established Standards Committee. This committee comprises of six members, four of whom are Independent Members and two representatives from the Authority. Independent Members are people who are neither a councillor nor an officer with the Authority or any other local authority. People who have been councillors or officers in the past are able to serve as Independent Members after a period of at least 2 years has elapsed. The duration of that period is longer if the person has held a more senior position in a local authority.

- 5 Julia Hughes and Sally Ellis have served as Independent Members since 1 September 2019. They are the current Chair and Deputy Chair of the committee. They have served two terms of office and so cannot be reappointed. The Authority therefore needed to recruit to replace them.
- 6 There is detailed legislation governing the recruitment of Independent Members.

## INFORMATION

- 7 The vacancies were advertised in the North Wales Chronicle (covering Bangor, Caernarfon and surrounding areas), the Journal (covering Rhyl, Prestatyn, Abergele and surrounding areas), Denbighshire Free Press (covering Denbighshire, Mold and surrounding areas), and the Wrexham Leader (covering Wrexham and surrounding areas) as well as on the Authority website. They were also circulated to Monitoring Officers and posted on social media websites during November 2025. Five applications were received in response to the advertisement, of whom four were short listed.
- 8 On 26 March an interview panel met to interview the short-listed candidates. The panel was supported by the Clerk, Gareth Owen and Louise McCabe-Allen, Deputy Head of HR. It consisted of:

Councillor Dylan Rees	Chair of the Authority and Executive Panel
Councillor Gareth Sandilands	Chair of Audit Committee
Gareth Pritchard	Member of Standards Committee
Noela Jones	Lay person

- 9 At the completion of the interview process the Panel deliberated at length on the attributes and strengths of the candidate and concluded that David Davies was appointable.
- 10 The Panel recommends that the Authority appoint David Davies with effect from 20 April 2026 for the maximum permitted first term of six years.
- 11 The membership of the Committee and their terms of office will be as follows:

### Independent Members

Gill Murgatroyd	01/09/19 - 31/08/27 (second term)
Gareth Pritchard	01/09/19 - 31/08/27 (second term)
David Davies	20/04/26 – 19/04/32

## **Fire and Rescue Authority representatives**

Councillor Brynmor Hughes 07/06/2022 – 10/05/2027

Councillor Ian Hodge 20/05/2025 – 10/05/2027

### **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.