

COUNTY DURHAM AND DARLINGTON  
FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY  
APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS



County Durham and Darlington  
**Fire and Rescue Authority**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**The Fire and Rescue Authority**

The Fire and Rescue Authority for County Durham and Darlington came into force on 20 November 1996 and was established under The Durham Fire Services (Combination Scheme) Order 1996.

The Authority consists of 25 members (21 Durham and 4 Darlington Councillors). These figures are proportionate to the number of local government electors in its area. The Fire and Rescue Authority:

- Determines policy and strategy relating to the objectives of the authority and its priorities
- Approves the Community Risk Management Plan (CDMP) formerly the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP)
- Approves the Authority's revenue and capital budget strategy, revenue and capital budgets, level of precept and statement of accounts
- Receives reports and recommendations from Authority Committees and reviews the structure and remit of Committees
- Ensuring the Authority fulfils its statutory duties including those under the Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004 and National Framework
- Fosters continuous service improvement
- Appoints the Chief Fire Officer and Principal Officers of the Fire and Rescue Service and the Treasurer, Clerk and Monitoring Officer of the Authority.

**Ethical Framework -**

The Localism Act 2011 provides the framework intended to secure high standards of conduct in public office. It requires each Relevant Authority to appoint at least one Independent Person who will be consulted on alleged breaches of the Members Code of Conduct which the Authority has decided to investigate before the Authority reaches a decision.

The Independent Persons may also be consulted on allegations referred by the Authority in deciding whether to investigate. Members who are the subject of complaints are also entitled to seek the views of the Independent Person. The Independent Person is not however a member of the Authority. The Fire Authority has delegated to its Human Resources Committee the responsibility for handling complaints.

**Personal Requirements**

Applicants should have a good general education. They should be of good character and able to demonstrate the highest standard of personal integrity and conduct. Applicants should have sound common sense and the ability to absorb, understand and analyse written and verbal information and be capable of reaching objective and reasoned decisions.

HELEN LYNCH

Clerk to the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority