

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No 5

MEETING: 11TH DECEMBER 2017

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

**JOINT REPORT OF: CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE (CLERK TO THE
AUTHORITY) AND DEPUTY CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Under the Localism Act 2011, the Authority is required to appoint an Independent Person (IP), whose views are sought and taken into account in connection with complaints about members' conduct. The IP receives an annual allowance of £200 and reasonable travel and subsistence expenses are reimbursed.
- 1.2 The term of office of the Authority's previous IP, Sheba Joseph, has now expired. Following public advertisement and consideration of applications received, the Chief Fire Officer, Chair of the Governance Committee and Deputy Clerk recommend that the Authority appoint Mr Dennis Hall to the post.
- 1.3 Mr Hall recently retired from local government, his most recent post being that of Commercial Manager and Solicitor at Gateshead Council. He is a former monitoring officer and has extensive knowledge and experience of local government in general and, of particular relevance to this role, of advising Standards and other committees, as well as town and parish councils, on issues of probity and ethics. He also has experience of conducting and reporting on investigations.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Authority is recommended to appoint Dennis Hall as Independent Person for an initial period of two years, renewable for a further 2 terms (i.e. a maximum of 6 years in total).

