

**TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**Item No. 4**

**MEETING: 11 OCTOBER 2021**

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**SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON**

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

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**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.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 11 December 2017, the Authority appointed Mr Dennis Hall to the post for a period of two years, with provision for the Authority to extend the appointment on two subsequent occasions (i.e. 6 years in total).
- 2.3 At its meeting on 18 November 2019, the Authority extended the period of appointment of Mr Hall for an additional period of two years from 1 December 2019. This appointment will therefore expire on 1 December 2021.
- 2.4 Mr Hall is a retired local government solicitor and former monitoring officer, with extensive knowledge and experience of local government. He is also the Independent Person for Sunderland City Council and while there have been no complaints about members of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority to consider, Mr Hall has provided valuable input and support to the complaints process in Sunderland, which has recently extended his appointment for a further two year term. It is therefore recommended that his period of office also be extended by this Authority.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Authority is recommended to extend the period of appointment of Mr Dennis Hall as Independent Person as set out in the report, for an additional period of two years from 1 December 2021.

