

COUNCIL

25 MARCH 2026

**APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES AND
APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS**

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to the appointment of a Member to the Northumbria Local Resilience Board, to appointments to existing committee vacancies and the extension of the appointment of the Independent Persons.

2.0 Northumbria Local Resilience Board

2.1 The Northumbria Local Resilience Forum (NLRF) is a multi-agency partnership made up of representatives from local public services, including the emergency services, local authorities, the NHS, the Environment Agency and other organisations involved in emergency preparedness. NLRF is participating in a Government pilot scheme committed to strengthening the Government's Local Resilience Forums programme and in turn, bolstering national resilience.

2.2 As part of the pilot scheme, a Board is to be established which has a number of key resilience priorities, provides oversight and is the governance mechanism for the Chief Resilience Officer to report into and to be given direction by the Board. The voting members of the Board are the Police and Crime Commissioner of Northumbria and an elected member from each of the local authorities (Sunderland, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland and South Tyneside). Other non-voting members also form part of the Board.

2.3 Council is requested to approve the appointment of the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Equalities to the Northumbria Local Resilience Board.

3.0 Existing Committee Vacancies

3.1 The Council has previously considered changes to committee nominations which were required due to the recalculation of the political balance. A number of appointments were agreed at the Council meeting on 28 January 2026. The remaining vacancies are summarised in the table below:

Committee	Member(s) to be Appointed
Standards Committee	Ungrouped Member
Joint Consultative Committee	Ungrouped Member

Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee	Ungrouped Member
Appeals Committee	Labour Group Member

4.0 Appointment of Independent Persons

4.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to appoint at least one Independent Person, whose views must be sought and taken into account before the Standards Committee makes a decision in respect of an allegation against a Member which has been investigated. The Independent Person's views may also be sought by a Member who is the subject of a complaint.

4.2 At its meeting on 15th May 2024, the Council appointed Mr Dennis Hall and Mr Stuart Green as Independent Persons, each for a term of two years' duration, which may be extended by the Council for two further two-year terms (i.e. six years in total). The Council also agreed to award an annual allowance of £1,000 for undertaking the role of Independent Person and to reimburse reasonable travel and subsistence expenses.

4.3 Mr Hall and Mr Green have provided valuable input and support to the Standards Committee processes and it is therefore recommended that their periods of office be extended by a further period of two years from 15th May 2026.

5.0 Recommendations

The Council is accordingly invited to approve the following:

- (i) the appointment of the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Equalities to the Northumbria Local Resilience Board;
- (ii) the appointment of an ungrouped member to the Standards Committee;
- (iii) the appointment of an ungrouped member to the Joint Consultative Committee;
- (iv) the appointment of an ungrouped member to the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee;
- (v) the appointment of a Labour Group member to the Appeals Committee; and
- (vi) the extension of the period of appointment of Mr Dennis Hall and Mr Stuart Green as Independent Persons as set out in the report, for an additional period of two years from 15th May 2026 and to continue to award an annual allowance of £1,000 for undertaking the role of Independent Person and to reimburse reasonable travel and subsistence costs.