

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MEETING: 20 MARCH 2017

**SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON UNDER THE LOCALISM
ACT 2011**

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the arrangements for dealing with code of conduct complaints about members, the Authority is required to appoint an Independent Person (IP) who must be consulted by the Authority before it makes a decision on an allegation that it has investigated. The IP may also be consulted by the Authority, or by the member who is the subject of a complaint, at other stages in the process.
- 1.2 The term of office of the current IP, Sheba Joseph, will expire in September 2017 and it is therefore necessary for arrangements to be put in hand to advertise the vacancy, although the current incumbent may reapply for the position. It is proposed that the Deputy Clerk of the Authority arrange to advertise the vacancy and that applications received are considered by the Clerk and Deputy Clerk, in consultation with the Chair of the Governance Committee, following which a recommendation will be made to the Authority. It is also proposed that the term of office be a 2 year term renewable for a further 3 terms (i.e. a maximum of 8 years in total). An annual allowance of £200 plus reasonable travel and subsistence is paid to the IP.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Deputy Clerk be authorised to advertise the position of Independent Person and make arrangements for consideration of applications as set out in the report.

