

EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

Report of a meeting of the East Sussex Fire Authority held at Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters at 10.30 hours on Thursday 5 June 2014.

Present: Councillors Barnes, Buchanan, Butler, Carden, Earl, Galley, Hawtree, Howson, Lambert, MacCafferty, Peltzer Dunn, Pragnell, Powell, Scott, Sheppard, Taylor, Theobald and Wincott.

1. Election of Chairman

1.1 The Fire Authority, having regard to the procedures governing the election of the Chairman, appointed Councillor Howson as its Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

2.1 The Fire Authority, having regard to the procedures governing the election of the Vice-Chair, appointed Councillor Lambert as its Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.

3. Political Representation on the Panels of the Fire Authority

3.1 The Fire Authority has considered the political balance on Panels and Members have resolved that:

3.1.1 the Panel arrangements and political representation, as set out below, be confirmed;

3.1.2 the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Panels be appointed by the Panels in accordance with Standing Order 41.14; and

3.1.3 it be noted that a report will be submitted to the Scrutiny & Audit Panel on 11 July 2014, following a request to each Political Group to make any changes to current nominations to these posts; and

Based upon political proportions for 2014/15

	TOTAL	
Appointments	6	2 Cons, 1 LDem, 1 Green, 1Lab, 1 UKIP
Scrutiny & Audit *	8	3 Cons, 1 LDem, 1 Green, 2 Lab, 1 UKIP
Policy & Resources	8	3 Cons, 1 LDem, 2 Green, 1 Lab, 1 UKIP
Human Resources	6	3 Cons, 1 Lab, 1 Green, 1 LDem
Urgency	6	3 Cons, 1 UKIP, 1 Green, 1Lab

* informal protocol – up to 3 P&R Members to serve on S&A Panel

(The total number of seats = 34, divided 14:6:6:4:4 on the basis of the 2014/15 political balance).

4. Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Review of Prevention, Protection and Response – Consultation Outcomes and Way Forward

4.1 The Fire Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive that informed the Fire Authority of the consultation responses to the proposals following the review of Prevention, Protection and Response and sought determination on the proposals.

4.2 Members were reminded of the approach they had approved for the 10 week public consultation which had been carried out by the Service's Communications Team and Opinion Research Services (ORS). The approach taken included:

- Publication of the review and all supporting documents on the Service web site.
- Online questionnaire
- Various Service Brief publications inviting staff to consult on the review
- Presentations to watches by the Corporate Management Team
- Emails/letters to over 500 local Councillors, businesses, stakeholders and community groups inviting them to view and consult on the review online and/or to attend the stakeholder forums, including a reminder one month before the end of the consultation
- A follow up e-mail/letter to parish and town councils reminding them of the stakeholder forum arrangements
- 2 staff forums conducted by ORS
- 3 Public forums conducted by ORS
- 2 stakeholder forums conducted by ORS
- 5 public roadshows conducted by the ESFRS Communications Team and supported by the Corporate Management Team.
- Extensive media campaign throughout the consultation period which included radio, TV and press coverage.
- Social media, e.g. Facebook and Twitter.

4.3 Phase 2 of the outcomes of the Review of Prevention, Protection and Response which were proposals developed in order to meet the funding gap and consequential savings target of £7.1m, as identified within the Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2014/15 – 2018/19. Members had a full discussion regarding the proposals and the subsequent implications on service delivery should the proposals be adopted.

4.4 Members resolved that having fully considered the outcomes of the consultation and engagement process, including three petitions presented to the Fire Authority, which were noted and taken into consideration in determining proposals for future service provision within East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove, the following proposals be approved:

4.4.1 the removal of one firefighting appliance from the City, leaving 4 whole time pumps, crewed 24 hours a day and the provision of additional community safety officers in the City of Brighton & Hove to help offset the loss of the fire fighting appliance;

4.4.2 the removal of the retained appliance at The Ridge and the associated establishment, the savings from which to be used to support the provision of sufficient crewing of the whole time appliance at Battle on weekends utilising Retained Duty System staff; and

4.4.3 the introduction of Day Crewed Plus at Roedean and The Ridge Fire Station.

3 July 2014

COUNCILLOR PHILIP HOWSON
Chairman of East Sussex Fire Authority