

EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

Report of a virtual meeting of the East Sussex Fire Authority held at 10:30 hours on Thursday, 11 June 2020.

Present: Councillors Galley (Chairman), Lambert (Vice-Chair), Barnes, Dowling, Evans, Hamilton, Osborne, Peltzer Dunn, Powell, Pragnell, Scott, Sheppard, Smith, Taylor, Theobald, Tutt and West

N.B. Apologies were received from Councillor O'Keeffe

The agenda and non-confidential reports can be read on the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service's website at <http://www.esfrs.org/about-us/east-sussex-fire-authority/fire-authority-meetings/> A brief synopsis and the decisions relating to key items is set out below.

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

- 1.1 Members resolved to appoint Councillor Roy Galley as Chairman of the Fire Authority for the year 2020-21.

2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

- 2.1 Members resolved to appoint Councillor Carolyn Lambert as Vice-Chair of the Fire Authority for the year 2020-21.

3 URGENT ITEMS AND CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

- 3.1 The Chairman informed the Authority that Councillor Ebel had resigned her position on the Authority and thanked her for her hard work during her membership. He then welcomed Councillor Pete West who would be taking the newly vacant position on the Fire Authority as a representative of Brighton & Hove City Council.

4 POLITICAL REPRESENTATION ON THE PANELS OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY

- 4.1 The Authority received a report seeking to secure political balance on its Panels in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and agree to the resultant Membership to the Panels of the Fire Authority.
- 4.2 The Authority was required to keep under review the allocation of seats on Committees and other bodies to ensure, so far as practicable, that they reflected the political groups on the Authority. The rules governing this representation were outlined in the report.

- 4.3 There were four political groups on the Fire Authority, namely Conservative, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat. There was also one Independent Member of the Fire Authority but single members cannot constitute a political group. The allocations to panel memberships had not altered and the proposed political proportionality for 2020/21 remained unchanged.
- 4.4 The Authority confirmed the Panel arrangements and political representation as set out in the report. They agreed that the political balance provisions shall not apply to the membership of the Principal Officer Appointments Panel. The Authority agreed the appointment of Cllr Peltzer Dunn as Chairman of the Policy & Resources Panel and Cllr Barnes as Chairman of the Scrutiny & Audit Panel in accordance with Standing Order 41.13 and agreed that the appointment of the Chairman of the remaining Panels be made by the Panels at their first meeting in accordance with Standing Order 41.14.

5 FIRE AUTHORITY AND PANEL MEETINGS 2019/20

- 5.1 The Fire Authority received and noted the dates of meetings of the Fire Authority and Panels for the remainder of 2020 and 2021.

6 TREASURY MANAGEMENT – STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2018/19

- 6.1 The Fire Authority received the Report of the Assistant Director Resources/Treasurer. The Annual Treasury Management Stewardship Report is a requirement of the Fire Authority's reporting procedures and informed Members of Treasury Management Performance for 2019/20 and compliance with Prudential Indicators. The Fire Authority noted the Treasury Management Performance for 2019/20.

7 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY

- 7.1 The Fire Authority considered the report of the Monitoring Officer (MO) which informed Members of the first stage of a review of the Fire Authority's constitutional arrangements and to propose some minor amendments to the Constitution of the Authority.
- 7.2 A project to review and update the Authority's constitutional arrangements had been initiated and was being undertaken by Legal officers at Brighton & Hove City Council. The report sought approval for a series of minor amendments to the Constitution as part of stage 1 of the review. It was proposed that additional amendments to the Constitution be put to the Authority in due course as part of a second stage following consideration and input from a Member Working group.
- 7.3 The Fire Authority approved with immediate effect the changes to the East Sussex Fire Authority's Constitution outlined in the report and appendices. They authorised the Authority's Chief Fire Officer to take all steps necessary or incidental to the implementation of the changes agreed by the Authority, and to amend and re-publish the constitutional documents to reflect those amendments and noted the intention to form a Constitution Working Group, with Fire Authority Member attendance, who would work to create a further Report to the Authority proposing additional updates to the Constitution.

8 REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND PRINCIPAL OFFICER APPOINTMENT PANELS

- 8.1 The Fire Authority considered the report of the Monitoring Officer (MO) proposing changes to the Terms of Reference of the Human Resources and Principal Officer Appointment Panels. The Service's Disciplinary Procedures were incompatible with the Gold Book Terms and Conditions of Service, under which the Principal Officers were employed. The proposed minor changes to the Terms of Reference of both the Human Resources and Principal Officer Appointment Panels would address this issue.
- 8.2 The Fire Authority approved with immediate effect the amended Terms of Reference for the Human Resources and Principal Officer Appointment Panels and authorised the Assistant Director Planning & Improvement to amend and re-publish Section B of the Constitution to reflect those amendments.

**COUNCILLOR ROY GALLEY
CHAIRMAN OF EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY**

11 June 2020