

Sussex & Brighton | Strategic Authority

a Combined County Authority

The Strategic Authority Board		Agenda Item 1	
Title:		Appointment of Members of the Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority	
Date		15 April 2026	
Accountable Chief Officer:		Jodie Townsend Strategic Governance and Assurance Lead	
Accountable Employee:		Jodie Townsend Strategic Governance and Assurance Lead	
Public Report	Yes X	No	The Strategic Authority is committed to transparency and accountability. Accordingly, reports and associated documentation will ordinarily be published and made publicly accessible.
Voting Arrangements:		The Board will work to progress decisions via consensus, if a vote is required then it is by simple majority	
Recommendation(s)			
The Strategic Authority is recommended to:			
A	Note the Members of the Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority appointed by each Constituent Council as set out in paragraph 3.3		

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to receive the appointments to the Sussex and Brighton Strategic Authority by the Constituent Councils of East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council as required to do so under the Sussex and Brighton Combined County Authority Regulations 2026.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report presents the formal appointments made by East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton & Hove City Council to the Sussex and Brighton Strategic Authority (SBSA), as required under the *Sussex and Brighton Combined County Authority Regulations 2026*.
- 2.2 These appointments are a statutory step in establishing the new Authority and ensuring it is properly constituted from its inception.
- 2.3 Each Constituent Council has completed its internal democratic processes to confirm its nominated members. By receiving and recording these appointments, the Strategic Authority can move forward with its initial decision-making, governance, and operational responsibilities.
- 2.4 The appointment of members provides the foundation for effective joint working, enables the Authority to hold meetings lawfully, and ensures that the SBSA can begin delivering its functions

3. Appointments to the Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority

- 3.1 The Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority came into being on 25 March 2026. *The Sussex & Brighton Combined County Authority Regulations 2026* sets out the requirements for membership of the Strategic Authority in its Schedule.
- 3.2 The Schedule to the Regulations state in [Part 1. Membership](#) the following:
- (1) Each constituent council must appoint two of its elected members to be members of the Combined County Authority.

Appointments by the Constituent Councils

- 3.3 The following appointments have been made to the Strategic Authority:

Constituent Council	Lead Appointment	Appointment
East Sussex County Council	Councillor Keith Glazier	Councillor Nick Bennett
West Sussex County Council	Councillor Paul Marshall	Councillor Deborah Urquhart
Brighton & Hove City Council	Councillor Bella Sankey	Councillor Jacob Taylor

- 3.4 The Board is asked to receive these appointments.

4. Background

4.1 Officers across East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton & Hove City Council have worked together to ensure that appointments have been made in accordance with *the Sussex and Brighton Combined County Authority Regulations 2026*, and that each council’s internal democratic and constitutional processes have been fully observed.

5. Partnership & Engagement

5.1 The process for confirming appointments to the Sussex and Brighton Strategic Authority has been shaped by close collaboration between the Constituent Councils and the programme governance arrangements supporting the establishment of the new Authority.

5.2 Engagement has taken place through regular programme-level coordination meetings, supported by the Governance and Assurance workstream, which has provided advice, clarification, and consistency throughout the appointment process.

6. Appendices

6.1 There are no appendices to this report.

Board is requested to consider the following identified implications:

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no direct financial implications from the recommendations contained in the report.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 This report complies with the provisions set out in the Sussex and Brighton Combined County Authority Regulations 2026.

9. Equality & Diversity Implications

9.1 There are no negative equality or diversity implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

10. Other Significant Implications
(Tick other implications provided and provide detail in box below)

Risk		Assurance Framework		Procurement	
Improvement		Environment		HR & IT	

10.1 No other significant implications are identified within the contents of this report.