

Sussex & Brighton | Strategic Authority

a Combined County Authority

The Strategic Authority Board		Agenda Item 2	
Title:		Appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair(s)	
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	Appoint Councillor Keith Glazier (lead appointment of East Sussex County Council) as the Chair of the Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority		
B	Appoint Councillor Paul Marshall (lead appointment of West Sussex County Council) and Councillor Bella Sankey (lead appointment of Brighton & Hove City Council) as Vice-Chairs of the Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority		

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to appoint the Chair of the Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority as required under the *Sussex and Brighton Combined County Authority Regulations 2026*. The report also seeks to appoint to the position of Vice-Chair of the Strategic Authority.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 This report sets out the proposed appointments to the roles of Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority, in accordance with the requirements of the *Sussex and Brighton Combined County Authority Regulations 2026*. The Regulations require the Strategic Authority to appoint a Chair and at least one Vice-Chair from among its members at its first formal meeting, prior to the election of the Mayor.

2.2 Following engagement with the Leaders and Chief Executives of the Constituent Councils, formal nominations have been brought forward for these key leadership roles. The recommended appointments are:

- Councillor Keith Glazier as Chair;
- Councillor Paul Marshall and Councillor Bella Sankey as Vice-Chairs

2.3 These appointments form a critical early step in establishing the governance and leadership arrangements of the new Strategic Authority, ensuring that it is properly constituted and able to discharge its statutory and strategic responsibilities from inception. The Chair and Vice-Chairs will play a central role in guiding the Authority’s early decision making, shaping its programme of work, and representing the organisation within the region and at a national level.

3. Appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chairs to the Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority

3.1 The *Sussex and Brighton Combined County Authority Regulations 2026* state within the Schedule the following:

Chair and Vice-Chair

2. – (1) Before the election for the return of the Mayor, the Combined County Authority must appoint a Chair and a Vice-Chair from amongst its members and these appointments are to be the first business transacted after the appointment of members of the Combined County Authority, at the first meeting of the Combined County Authority.

3.2 It is proposed that the following appointments are made by the Board:

Chair of the Strategic Authority:	Councillor Keith Glazier
Vice-Chairs of the Strategic Authority:	Councillor Paul Marshall Councillor Bella Sankey

4. Background

4.1 The Leaders of each Constituent Council have been engaged on the development of these recommendations.

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 recommendation in the report.				
8. Legal Implications					
8.1	<p>The Statutory Instrument states the following (noting reference to Combined County Authority in the regulations is the Strategic Authority):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A person ceases to be Chair or Vice-Chair of the Combined County Authority if they cease to be a member of the Combined County Authority 				
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.				