

## EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

---

**Report of a meeting of the East Sussex Fire Authority held at County Hall, St. Anne's Crescent, Lewes BN7 1UE at 10:30 hours on Wednesday, 3 July 2019.**

Present: Councillors Galley (Chairman), Lambert (Vice-Chair), Barnes, Boorman, Dowling, Ebel, Evans, Grimshaw, Osborne, Powell, Pragnell, Scott, Smith, Taylor and Theobald

N.B. Apologies were received from Councillors Earl-Williams, Hamilton, Peltzer Dunn and Tutt. Cllr Grimshaw was attending as substitute for Cllr Hamilton.

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 RESTRICTING EXIT PAYMENTS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR – CONSULTATION ON DRAFT REGULATIONS**

- 1.1 The Fire Authority received a report informing them of the Government's proposal to introduce a cap on exit payments in the public sector. A revised draft response to the consultation on the regulations to implement the cap was circulated at the meeting.
- 1.2 The Authority were informed that this was a nationwide consultation and that responses had been submitted by many organisations including local authorities, the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and Trade Unions. The Authority were informed that the consultation did not include the level at which the cap would be set as this was already set in legislation, but the consequences of capping too low were recognised. The reasons why the cap was not supported were outlined within the report. The Authority raised many concerns about the cap, including the potential effect on those who might need to retire early due to ill-health and the impact that the cap might have on both recruitment and retention of staff.
- 1.3 It was questioned whether the proposal affected too many employees and not just those in receipt of the highest salaries, Authority felt that the cap had been set too low and there were some things that should not be included in it at all. It was agreed that it was essential the response clearly addressed why the cap was thought inappropriate and should be more closely targeted and set at a much higher rate. It was generally felt that the introduction of a pay cap at this level was wrong and that the intention behind the original proposal had been forgotten, initially it was felt the aim had been to address large payments to higher earners. There were concerns that the attempt to make it apply to all was not appropriate.

- 1.4 That the Fire Authority agreed to note the Government's proposal to implement a Public Sector Exit Payment Cap and agreed the proposed draft response to the consultation on the regulations to implement the cap and delegate authority to the Assistant Director HR, OD, Training & Assurance to respond to the consultation, reflecting the Authority's views.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

The Fire Authority agreed that item no. 9 be exempt under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 and accordingly is not open for public inspection on the following grounds: it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**2 SUSSEX CONTROL CENTRE PROJECT & FUTURE MOBILISING OPTIONS  
PROGRESS UPDATE**

- 2.1 The Authority considered a report which presented Members with a confidential update on the current status of the Sussex Control Centre (SCC) mobilising project, the progress to terminate the current joint mobilising partnership with West Sussex County Council and the current work to identify options for the Authority's future mobilising arrangements.

**COUNCILLOR ROY GALLEY**  
**CHAIRMAN OF EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY**  
3 July 2019