

---

**EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY**

---

---

**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 Thursday, 13 June 2019.**

Present: Councillors Galley (Chairman), Lambert (Vice-Chair), Barnes, Earl-Williams, Ebel, Evans, Hamilton, Osborne, Powell, Pragnell, Scott, Smith, Taylor, Theobald, Tutt, Belsey, Bowdler and Nemeth

N.B. Apologies were received from Councillors Boorman, Peltzer Dunn and Dowling.

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 2019-20.

**2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

- 2.1 Members resolved to appoint Councillor Carolyn Lambert as Vice-Chair of the Fire Authority for the year 2019-20.

**3 URGENT ITEMS AND CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

- 3.1 Following the Brighton & Hove City Council Elections, the Chairman welcomed the newly appointed Members of the Fire Authority, namely Cllr Marianna Ebel, Cllr Amanda Evans, Cllr Les Hamilton and Cllr Steph Powell. The Chairman also welcomed back Cllr Garry Peltzer Dunn and Cllr Carol Theobald who had been re-appointed by Brighton & Hove City Council.
- 3.2 The Authority welcomed back Cllr Peter Pragnell who had been recently appointed by East Sussex County Council following a change in their Outside Body appointments.
- 3.3 The Chairman asked that the Fire Authority formally record its thanks to Cllr Lizzie Deane, Cllr Adrian Morris, Cllr Jackie O'Quinn, Cllr Nancy Platts and Cllr Simon Elford. The Fire Authority thanked them all for their dedicated service during their time as Members. The Authority was grateful for their contributions to the Fire Authority's work and wished them well in the future. Each of these departing Members would be written to individually to thank them.

3.4 The Chairman thanked Cllr John Barnes for his service to the Fire Authority during his time as Chairman. The Authority had benefitted greatly from his knowledge, kindness and service during his tenure as Chairman. As a token of thanks the Authority presented him with a set of East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service cufflinks.

3.5 Thanks were given to Cllr Carol Theobald for her support to the Authority during her time as Vice-Chairman.

#### **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 Following the elections at Brighton & Hove City Council in May 2019 there were now four political groups on the Fire Authority, namely Conservative, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat, previously there had been three. There was also one Independent Member of the Fire Authority but single members cannot constitute a political group. As a result of this increase in political groups, the allocations to panel memberships had altered with the proposed political proportionality for 2019/20.

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 2019 and 2020.

#### **6 MEMBER ATTENDANCE 2018/19**

6.1 The Authority considered the report of the Senior Democratic Services Officer which presented for monitoring purposes the Member attendance at formal East Sussex Fire Authority meetings for 2018-19.

- 6.2 Overall the report was welcomed by Members, and whilst it was appreciated that at times it is difficult to attend meetings, it was felt that the report was a way of reinforcing the importance of attendance. Members were assured that all apologies were noted and that it was understood and appreciated that there were times when non-attendance was unavoidable, these were recorded but not included in this report as it would have involved sharing personal information which would not have been appropriate.
- 6.3 A discussion followed during which comment was made on the presentation of the data with suggestions for future reports including the inclusion of a column referencing the appointment of substitutes. The Authority were reminded that this was the first report of its type and the intention was that it would grow to include not only formal meetings of the Authority and its Panels but also attendance at open days, seminars, additional meetings and one off events. This would provide in future a fuller picture as attendance at formal meetings is only partially representative of a Fire Authority Members commitment.
- 6.4 The Authority noted the summary of Members attendance at formal Authority meetings for 2018-2019 as set out at Appendix A to this report. They agreed that from June 2019 Member attendance at formal meetings will be published on the Fire Authority's website, and that Member attendance will be reported annually to the Scrutiny & Audit Panel for monitoring purposes.

## **7 TREASURY MANAGEMENT – STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2018/19**

- 7.1 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 2018/19 and compliance with Prudential Indicators. The Fire Authority noted the Treasury Management Performance for 2018/19.

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

13 June 2019

