

## **EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY**

**NON-CONFIDENTIAL Minutes of the meeting of the SCRUTINY & AUDIT PANEL held at County Hall, St. Anne's Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex at 10:00 hours on Thursday, 13 September 2018.**

**Members Present:** Councillors Peltzer Dunn (Chairman elect), Barnes, Osborne, Sheppard and Tutt.

**Also Present:** M O'Brien (Deputy Chief Fire Officer), M Andrews (Assistant Chief Fire Officer), D Savage (Assistant Director Resources/Treasurer), L Ridley (Assistant Director Planning and Improvement), L Woodley (Deputy Monitoring Officer), P King (Ernst & Young), A Blanshard (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Z Downton (Democratic Services Officer)

### **178      DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

- 178.1      It was noted that, in relation to matters on the agenda, no participating Member had any interest disclosable in accordance with the provisions of the Fire Authority's Code of Conduct for Members.

### **179      ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

- 179.1      It was proposed by Councillor Barnes and seconded by Councillor Sheppard that Councillor Peltzer Dunn be elected as Chairman of the Panel for this meeting.

### **180      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 180.1      Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors R Galley (Chairman), C Lambert, C Penn and B Taylor. It was noted that Councillor Barnes was substituting for Councillor Galley and Councillor Tutt was substituting for Councillor Lambert.

### **181      URGENT ITEMS AND CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

- 181.1      There were none.

### **182      NON-CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY & AUDIT PANEL MEETING HELD ON 26 JULY 2018**

- 182.1      **RESOLVED** – That the non-confidential minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny & Audit Panel held on 26 July 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (*Copy in Minute Book*)

### **183      CALLOVER**

- 183.1      Members reserved the following item for debate:

184      Annual Audit Letter for the year ended 31 March 2018

**RESOLVED** – That all other reports be resolved in accordance with the recommendations as detailed below.

**184      ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

- 184.1      The Panel considered the report of the Assistant Director Resources/Treasurer (ADR/T) which set out the recently published Annual Audit Letter that summarised the work of the Authority's external auditor, Ernst & Young (EY), relating to 2017/18. (*Copy in Minute Book*)
- 184.2      The Panel extended its thanks to Paul King (EY), who was in attendance for the last time in his capacity as engagement lead. Mr King explained that there was to be a rotation of engagement lead only and the rest of the team would remain unchanged. He extended his appreciation to Members and Officers, in particular to the ADR/T for his support, and wished his successor (Helen Thompson) well.
- 184.3      The ADR/T thanked Mr King for his pragmatic approach and wished him well. He clarified that EY would continue to be the Authority's external auditors.
- 184.4      The Deputy Chief Fire Officer extended thanks to Mr King, on behalf of the Chief Fire Officer for all the work which he had undertaken for the Authority.
- 184.5      **RESOLVED** – That the Panel considered and approved, on behalf of the Fire Authority, the recently published Annual Audit Letter 2017/18.

**185      2017/18 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ESFRS LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION BOARD**

- 185.1      The Panel received the report of the Assistant Director Human Resources & Organisational Development (ADHR&OD) which informed Members of the matters considered by the Pension Board during 2017/18. (*Copy in Minute Book*)
- 185.2      **RESOLVED** – That the Panel noted the annual report of the Pension Board for 2017/18 and that the Board had not identified any matters of concern in the administration of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme.

**186      EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Panel considered, that in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceeding, the press and public should be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that, if the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

**187      CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE LAST SCRUTINY & AUDIT PANEL MEETING HELD ON 26 JULY 2018**

- 187.1      **RESOLVED** – That the confidential minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny & Audit Panel held on 26 July 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (*Copy in Minute Book*)

The meeting concluded at 10.10am

Signed

Chairman

Dated this

day of

2018

**ABRAHAM GHEBRE-GHIORGHIS**  
**Monitoring Officer**  
**East Sussex Fire Authority**  
**c/o Brighton & Hove City Council**

