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## FIRE AUTHORITY

**Minutes of the meeting of the FIRE AUTHORITY held at Council Chamber, County Hall, East Sussex County Council, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes at 10.30 am on Tuesday, 15 June 2021.**

Present: Councillors Galley (Chairman), Lambert (Vice-Chair), Azad, Dowling, Evans, Geary, Hamilton, Maples, Marlow-Eastwood, Osborne, Peltzer Dunn, Powell, Redstone, Taylor, Theobald and Tutt

Also present: D Whittaker (Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive), M O'Brien (Deputy Chief Fire Officer), M Matthews (Assistant Chief Fire Officer), A Ghebre-Ghiorghis (Monitoring Officer), D Savage (Assistant Director Resources/Treasurer), L Woodley (Deputy Monitoring Officer), L Ridley (Assistant Director Planning & Improvement), E Simpkin (Democratic Services Officer) and A Blanshard (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

### **39       Declarations of Interest**

There were none

### **40       Election of Chairperson**

The Fire Authority considered the report of the Monitoring Officer inviting the Fire Authority to elect a Chairperson and to request, once elected that they advise on their preferred title. (*Copy in Minute Book*)

The Combination Order for the creation of the East Sussex Fire Authority set down the procedures for the election of the Chairperson of the Authority.

The Standing Orders of the Fire Authority required a Chairperson to be elected from its Members as the first item of business at the annual meeting.

**RESOLVED** – That the Fire Authority:

- i.   appointed Councillor Roy Galley as Chairperson of the Authority; and
- ii.   the Chairperson advised that his preferred title was that of 'Chairman'

### **41       Election of Vice-Chairperson**

The Fire Authority considered the report of the Monitoring Officer inviting them to elect a Vice-Chairperson for the forthcoming year and, once elected to ask the Vice-Chairperson to advise of their preferred title. (*Copy in Minute Book*)

**RESOLVED** – That the Fire Authority:

- i.   appointed Councillor Carolyn Lambert as Vice-Chairperson of the Authority; and

## **Unconfirmed minutes – to be confirmed at the next meeting of the Fire Authority**

- ii. the Vice-Chairperson advised that her preferred title was that of 'Vice-Chair'

### **42 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Scott and West

### **43 Notification of items which the Chairperson considers urgent and proposes to take at the end of the agenda/Chairperson's business items**

The Chairman of the Fire Authority introduced all Members and Officers in attendance.

Following the East Sussex County Council elections the Chairman welcomed the newly appointed Members of the Fire Authority, namely Cllr Abul Azad, Cllr Nuala Geary, Cllr Wendy Maples, Cllr Sorrell Marlow-Eastwood and Cllr Paul Redstone.

The Chairman also welcomed back Cllr Chris Dowling, Cllr Carolyn Lambert, Cllr Sarah Osborne, Cllr Phil Scott, Cllr Barry Taylor and Cllr David Tutt who have been reappointed by East Sussex County Council.

The Chairman asked that the Fire Authority record its thanks to Cllr John Barnes, Cllr Ruth O'Keeffe, Cllr Peter Pragnell, Cllr Jim Sheppard and Cllr Andy Smith. 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, all these Councillors will be written to individually to thank them.

### **44 To consider any public questions**

There were none

### **45 To receive any petitions**

There were none

### **46 Non-confidential Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman (*Copy in Minute Book*)

### **47 Callover**

Members reserved the following items for debate:

48 Political Representation on the Panels of the Fire Authority

49 Fire Authority and Panel Meetings 2021-2023

## **Unconfirmed minutes – to be confirmed at the next meeting of the Fire Authority**

### **48 Political Representation on the Panels of the Fire Authority**

The Fire Authority received the report of the Monitoring Officer (MO) seeking to secure political balance on Panels in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and agree the resultant membership to the Panels of the Fire Authority. (*Copy in Minute Book*)

The Fire Authority was required to keep under review the allocations 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.

There are four political groups on the Fire Authority: Conservative, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat. Following the East Sussex County Council Elections on 6 May 2021, the Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties now had equal representation on the Fire Authority.

The Panels are the Authority's committees set up in accordance with Standing Order 41 and their terms of reference are shown in the Constitution. The size of each Panel is not constituted and could be agreed by the Fire Authority. To ensure that each Panel was properly representative of the overall membership of the Fire Authority it was agreed that the size of each Panel be reduced to 6 Members from the current 7, enabling each Panel, apart from the Principal Officers Appointments Panel, to become an exactly proportionate replica of one third of the Fire Authority.

The Membership of each Panel was confirmed to the meeting, and it was agreed that the Authority would elect a Chairperson of each Panel at this meeting.

Councillor Maples was nominated as Chairperson of the Scrutiny & Audit Panel by Cllr Powell, seconded by Cllr Evans. The nomination was uncontested and passed by the Authority.

Councillor Peltzer Dunn was nominated as Chairperson of the Policy & Resources Panel by Cllr Galley, seconded by Cllr Powell. The nomination was uncontested and passed by the Authority.

Councillor Geary was nominated as Chairperson of the Human Resources Panel by Cllr Galley, seconded by Cllr Azad. The nomination was uncontested and passed by the Authority.

Councillor Lambert was nominated as Chairperson of the Urgency Panel by Cllr Galley, seconded by Cllr Peltzer Dunn. The nomination was uncontested and passed by the Authority.

Councillor Tutt was nominated as Chairperson of the Pensions Board by Cllr Lambert, seconded by Cllr Galley. The nomination was uncontested and passed by the Authority.

## Unconfirmed minutes – to be confirmed at the next meeting of the Fire Authority

The Authority agreed that Councillor Galley would remain as Chairperson of the Principal Officer Appointments Panel.

	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Green
<b>SCRUTINY &amp; AUDIT (6)</b>	<b>3</b> Azad Redstone Theobald	<b>1</b> Scott	<b>1</b> Lambert	<b>1</b> Maples ( <i>Ch</i> )
<b>POLICY &amp; RESOURCES (6)</b>	<b>3</b> Peltzer Dunn ( <i>Ch</i> ) Galley Taylor	<b>1</b> Evans	<b>1</b> Lambert	<b>1</b> Powell
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES (6)</b>	<b>3</b> Azad Geary ( <i>Ch</i> ) Marlow- Eastwood	<b>1</b> Scott	<b>1</b> Osborne	<b>1</b> West
<b>URGENCY (6)</b>	<b>3</b> Dowling Galley Geary	<b>1</b> Scott	<b>1</b> Lambert ( <i>Ch</i> )	<b>1</b> Powell
<b>PRINCIPAL OFFICER APPOINTMENTS PANEL (5)</b>	<b>2</b> Galley ( <i>Ch</i> ) Theobald	<b>1</b> Evans	<b>1</b> Lambert	<b>1</b> Powell
<b>PENSIONS BOARD (4)</b>	Taylor, Hamilton, Tutt ( <i>Ch</i> ), West			

The Authority also agreed to the appointment of the following Member Lead roles:

Health & Safety – Cllr Maples

Assurance & Peer Review – Cllr Redstone

Inclusion & Diversity – Cllrs Powell and Evans

IT – Cllr Tutt

Estates – Cllr Peltzer Dunn

It was proposed that an additional Lead Member role of Environment & Sustainability be created. There was a discussion during which the Authority considered some concerns and potential benefits surrounding the creation of an additional lead. The predominant opinion from those present was that a Lead Member in this subject would be in line with the direction being taken by neighbouring authorities and that they may be a useful political consultee and spokesperson for future decisions.

The Authority agreed to create the additional role of Lead Member for Environment & Sustainability and to the appointment of Cllr West to the role.

## **Unconfirmed minutes – to be confirmed at the next meeting of the Fire Authority**

**RESOLVED** – That the Fire Authority:

- i. confirmed the Panel arrangements and political representation as set out in the Report;
- ii. agreed (with no Member voting against) that the political balance provisions should not apply to the membership of the Principal Officer Appointments Panel; and
- iii. appointed the following Members to the role of Panel Chairperson - Cllr Maples (Scrutiny & Audit), Cllr Peltzer Dunn (Policy & Resources), Cllr Geary (Human Resources), Cllr Lambert (Urgency), Cllr Tutt (Pension Board) and Cllr Galley (Principal Officer Appointments Panel) in accordance with Standing Order 41.13.

### **49 Fire Authority and Panel Meetings 2021-2023**

The Fire Authority received the Report of the Senior Democratic Services Officer which informed the Members of the dates of meetings of the Fire Authority and Panels for the remainder of 2021 through to April 2023.

**RESOLVED** – That the Fire Authority noted the dates of meetings of the Fire Authority and Panels through to April 2023.

The meeting concluded at 11.00 am

Signed

Chairman

Dated this

day of

2019

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