

## EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

**Date:** 15 June 2023  
**Title:** Election of Chairperson  
**By:** Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis, Monitoring Officer  
**Lead Officer:** Abigail Blanshard, Democratic Services Manager

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**Background Papers:** Previous Report - 9 June 2022  
East Sussex Fire Services (Combination Scheme) Order 1996  
East Sussex Fire Authority Constitution

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**Appendices:** None

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### Implications:

<b>CORPORATE RISK</b>		<b>LEGAL</b>	
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>		<b>POLICY</b>	
<b>EQUALITY IMPACT</b>	✓	<b>POLITICAL</b>	✓
<b>FINANCIAL</b>		<b>OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)</b>	
<b>HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</b>		<b>CORE BRIEF</b>	
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>			

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**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** To invite the Fire Authority to elect a Chairperson and to request the Chairperson, once elected, to advise on their preferred title.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** The report presented to the Fire Authority on 9 June 2022 set out the background information in relation to the procedures for the election of a Chairperson and, if desired, a Vice-Chairperson.

The Fire Authority duly elected a Chairperson to serve for a period of one year from the date of the meeting. This report seeks approval to appoint a Chairperson to the Fire Authority.

The rules governing the election are contained within the report.

The Fire Authority has previously agreed that it was appropriate to invite the Chairperson, once elected, to advise on their preferred choice of title.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Fire Authority is asked to:

- i. appoint a Chairperson; and
  - ii. invite the Chairperson to advise on their preferred title.
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**1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

1.1 The report presented to the Fire Authority on 9 June 2022 set out the background information in relation to the procedures for the election of a Chairperson and, if desired, a Vice-Chairperson. The Fire Authority duly elected a Chairperson in June 2022 to serve for a period of one year, after which a new election would need to be considered. This report seeks approval to appoint a Chairperson to the Fire Authority.

1.2 The Combination Order for the creation of the East Sussex Fire Authority sets down the following procedures:

*17 (1) The Authority shall elect a Chairman, and may elect a Vice-Chairman, from amongst its members.*

*17 (2) The Chairman, and if a Vice-Chairman is elected, the Vice-Chairman, shall, subject to paragraphs 13–16, hold office for a period of one year from the date of their election.*

*17 (3) Sub-paragraph (2) shall not prevent a person who holds, or has held, office as Chairman, or Vice-Chairman, as the case may be, from being elected or re-elected to either of those offices.*

*17 (4) On a casual vacancy occurring in the office of Chairman or, if a Vice-Chairman has been elected, the Vice-Chairman, the Authority shall elect from its members a person to replace the Chairman, and may so elect a person to replace the Vice-Chairman, as the case may be.*

*17 (5) The election to replace the Chairman under sub paragraph (4) above shall take place not later than the next following ordinary meeting of the Authority.*

1.3 The Standing Orders of the Fire Authority state:

*9. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.*

*9.1 The Authority shall at the annual meeting elect a Chairman and may elect a Vice-Chairman or Vice-Chairmen from among its members as the first item of business.*

*9.2 On a casual vacancy occurring in the office of Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Authority shall elect from its members a person to replace the Chairman*

*and may so elect a person to replace the Vice-Chairman as the case may be.*

*9.3 The Authority, when deciding to elect a Vice-Chairman, should consider an appropriate representative balance between the two constituent authorities such that the Vice-Chairman, unless the Fire Authority specifically determine otherwise, should be a Member from the other constituent authority to that of the newly elected Chairman.*

1.4 Under Standing Order 23.1, if more than one person is nominated, there is a procedure for voting by roll call which applies unless otherwise agreed. Previously, the Authority has agreed to appoint the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson by a show of hands. A third alternative would be to hold a ballot.

1.5 When the Fire Authority was first constituted, it was agreed that its 'Chairman' would be formally called as such, as opposed to the title 'Chair' or alternatively, 'Chairman or Chairwoman.' The Fire Authority has previously agreed that it was appropriate to invite the Chairperson, once elected, to advise on their preferred choice of title.