

## EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

**Date:** 13 June 2019  
**Title:** Election of Chairman  
**By:** Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis, Monitoring Officer  
**Lead Officer:** Abigail Blanshard, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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**Background Papers:** Previous Report - 14 June 2018  
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 Chairman and to request the Chairman, once elected, to advise on their preferred title.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** The report presented to the Fire Authority on 14 June 2018 set out the background information in relation to the procedures for the election of a Chairman and, if desired, a Vice-Chairman.

The Fire Authority duly elected a Chairman to serve for one year, until 13 June 2019. This report seeks approval to appoint a Chairman 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 Chairman, once elected, to advise on their preferred choice of title.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Fire Authority is asked to:

- i. appoint a Chairman; and
  - ii. invite the Chairman to advise on his/her preferred title.
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**1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 1.1 The report presented to the Fire Authority on 14 June 2018 set out the background information in relation to the procedures for the election of a Chairman and, if desired, a Vice-Chairman. The Fire Authority duly elected a Chairman on 14 June 2018 to serve for a period of one year, or until the date of the next AGM, when a new election would need to be considered. This report seeks approval to appoint a Chairman 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 Chairman and Vice-Chairman 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 Chairman, once elected, to advise on their preferred choice of title.