

Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Minutes of a meeting of the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel held at the Maybin Room, One Angel Square, Angel Street, Northampton NN1 1ED on Thursday 16 December 2021 at 1.00pm.

Present Councillor Gill Mercer (Chair)
 Councillor Jon-Paul Carr
 Councillor Dorothy Maxwell
 Councillor Zoe McGhee
 Councillor Russell Roberts
 Councillor Winston Strachan
 Mrs Anita Shields [except for part of item 30]
 Miss Pauline Woodhouse

Also in Stephen Mold, Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner
attendance James Edmunds, Democratic Services Assistant Manager, West
 Northamptonshire Council
 Helen King, Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police, Fire & Crime
 Commissioner
 Nicci Marzec, Director for Early Intervention, Head of Paid Service and
 Monitoring Officer, Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner

25. Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Gonzalez De Savage, Pritchard and Smith.

26. Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

None received.

27. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

28. Chair's Announcements

The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting and made the following points:

- The meeting was being webcast live and participants were asked to use their microphones.
- The Chair had attended the annual national conference for Police & Crime Panels on 2nd November 2021 and had circulated a summary of proceedings to Panel members.

29. **Minutes**

RESOLVED that: the minutes of the Police, Fire & Crime Panel meeting held on 9th September 2021 be approved, subject to the addition of Councillor Russell Roberts to the list of Panel members who gave apologies for non-attendance.

Matters arising from the minutes

18/21 Police & Crime Plan Delivery Update

The Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (PFCC) confirmed that since the previous Panel meeting the Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (OPFCC) had secured £300,000 funding from round three of the Safer Streets Fund.

21-09/09/2021 Joint Independent Audit Committee Annual Report 2020/21

In response to a question the PFCC advised that the recent recruitment of two members of the Joint Independent Audit Committee was to fill vacancies resulting from existing appointments coming to an end, not to increase the size of the body.

30. **Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner's Draft Police, Fire & Crime Plan 2021-2026**

The PFCC presented the draft Police, Fire & Crime Plan, highlighting the following points:

- This was the first combined Police, Fire & Crime Plan for Northamptonshire but also in the country as a whole.
- The draft Plan set out his strategic priorities, not an exhaustive list of future actions.
- The strategic priorities in the draft Plan sought to protect and build on previous work and to give a renewed focus to the core objective of making Northamptonshire a safer place.
- The draft Plan identified key priorities for Northamptonshire Police, for Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service (NFRS), for joint working between the two services and for work with other partners. This reflected the PFCC's experience that some of the issues affecting safety in the county could not be solved by a single organisation.
- He was confident in the level of consultation carried out on the draft Plan and that the feedback obtained supported his proposed priorities.
- The new Plan would support continuing improvement in local services by challenging the force and NFRS to raise the bar still further. Previous investment had put the force on course to have more than 1,500 officers by 2023, the highest number ever, and had stabilised NFRS. The new Plan would help to use resources more effectively to meet the challenges of the future.
- He was confident that with effective working between organisations Northamptonshire would be made a safer place.

The Panel considered the draft Police, Fire & Crime Plan.

The Panel questioned the PFCC about the level of public support for the priorities set out in the draft Plan. Panel members made the following points:

- The 1,103 people who responded to the consultation survey on the draft Plan represented approximately 0.2 per cent of the population of Northamptonshire aged 20 years and over. The PFCC was questioned about whether he was confident that this represented an adequate sample size and how it could be increased in future.
- The PEEL 2021/22 inspection report on Northamptonshire Police had concluded that the force needed to improve its own community engagement.
- The demographic breakdown of responses to the consultation survey raised concerns about the level of engagement with people living in 'left behind' neighbourhoods in areas such as Corby and with people from black and minority ethnic community groups.

The PFCC made the following points in response:

- There was not a simple answer to improving public engagement. The OPFCC continued to look for new ways to do so and reviewed past consultation exercises to identify opportunities to improve.
- The priorities in the draft Plan reflected commitments he had made when standing for election in 2021. These had had been supported by over 102,000 voters in addition to the responses to the latest consultation exercise.

Panel members emphasised the increasing risk of cyber-related crime and fraud. This could be a hidden issue, which some victims were reluctant to report. There was scope to provide more information and support to people who were potentially vulnerable, such as older people living alone or people who were not confident using technology. The PFCC was challenged about whether cyber-related fraud should be more prominent in his new priorities.

The PFCC made the following points:

- The draft Plan did make specific reference to fraud rather than just general cyber-related crime. This continued to be an area of attention in Northamptonshire both in terms of enforcement and crime prevention. More general activity such as work to improve the force's digital capability would assist in this.
- Prospective changes to the law in 2022 requiring banks to reimburse people who have been victims of scams were also likely to increase the national focus on cyber-related fraud still further.

A Panel member emphasised that there was an increasingly blurred line between being a victim and a perpetrator of crime, particularly in relation to young people: a young person who had suffered from crime was at greater risk of becoming a perpetrator. Robust enforcement action by Northamptonshire Police on an issue such as knife crime should be done in way that would encourage members of the public to speak to the force. Generally, police officers should treat people in the way that they would want to be treated themselves.

The PFCC made the following points:

- He agreed with the principle that police officers should treat people in the way that they would want to be treated. This informed the priority to strengthen neighbourhood policing in the county.
- Neighbourhood policing aimed to work together with local communities. Linking youth teams with neighbourhood policing teams would also assist in this. This approach would help to support more locally-led, collaborative action on issues such as knife crime.
- Even once it had 1,500 officers the force could not make Northamptonshire a safer place without support and input from the community.

Panel members commented on the presentation of the Plan, making the following points:

- The 'Plan on a Page' graphic included in previous plans was helpful and the PFCC was encouraged to continue this approach.
- Confirmation was sought that the final version of the Plan would be available on the web and in accessible formats.

The PFCC advised that the format used for this draft Plan reflected that it included linked priorities for both the force and NFRS, which needed to be set out clearly. Once the final Plan had been approved it would be made available to members of the public on the OPFCC website, including in accessible formats.

A Panel member sought reassurance about how the PFCC was supporting the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer to enable the make-up of their respective organisations to become more representative of the communities they served. The PFCC made the following points:

- He did hold the two chiefs to account robustly on matters relating to recruitment, supported by better information that was now available to the OPFCC.
- He was satisfied that the force and NFRS were making genuine progress with regards to reflecting the communities that they served. Female officers made up 80 per cent of the force's latest intake of detectives and 40 per cent of the total number of officers recruited by the force in the current year: one of the highest percentages in the country.

A Panel member noted that the focus on prevention, partnership working and community engagement reflected in the draft Plan was welcome but would have resource implications and sought reassurance about how these would be met. The PFCC made the following points:

- He had previously been able to increase the resources available to support community safety in Northamptonshire, from both local and national sources. As an example, the budget for policing had risen from approximately £110m when he was elected in 2016 to approximately £150m in 2021.
- He would be able to raise the police precept by up to £10 for 2022/23; the Home Office was also in the process of reviewing the police funding formula.

- The draft Plan did not reflect an approach based solely on securing more money for Northamptonshire. It was essential that the force and NFRS worked as effectively as possible to make best use of available resources.

The Panel considered how the PFCC's priorities would contribute to support for vulnerable young people in Northamptonshire. Panel members made the following points:

- Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) represented a particularly vulnerable group in society. It was important that all relevant organisations, including the police, played a part in supporting their wellbeing.
- Work experience or employment opportunities for young people with the emergency services produced a benefit both for the individuals concerned but also by strengthening the relationship between those organisations and the wider community that they served.
- There were examples of good work being done in Northamptonshire but effective communication about available opportunities was essential: a young person in the NEET group, for example, needed to be engaged quickly with a view to understanding their interests.

The PFCC made the following points:

- Local authorities held the primary responsibility for safeguarding children. However, the OPFCC made various contributions to partnership working on this matter. The Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) team worked with schools to provide support to young people. Youth Services carried out community-based work that could help to identify and support young people who were not in school.
- The force carried out a range of activity that contributed directly or indirectly to the wellbeing of vulnerable young people.
- There could be many reasons for young people being in the NEET group and this was a complex issue. However, he remained committed to participating in the collective response to it in Northamptonshire.
- The age profile of Northamptonshire Police recruits tended to be slanted towards younger ages. The force currently had a significant proportion of young recruits and it could be counterproductive to go further in this direction: the attrition rate for younger recruits could be higher than for those coming into the police with more life experience. The force should also try to reflect the community in terms of including people at different ages as well as in other ways.
- The Emergency Services Cadets made a valuable contribution to build links with the local community.

[Mrs Shields left the meeting for part of the preceding section of the discussion].

The Panel considered its potential conclusions on the draft Police, Fire & Crime Plan. Panel members made the following points during the course of discussion:

- The draft Plan should be welcomed.
- The draft Plan would support a fresh approach that recognised the importance of partnership working and prevention activity in securing a safer community.

- If local communities were engaged appropriately they should be able to support activities intended to deliver the strategic priorities set out in the draft Plan.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The Panel endorses the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire's draft Police, Fire & Crime Plan 2021-26.**
- b) The Panel welcomes the focus on prevention and partnership working reflected in the draft Police, Fire & Crime Plan 2021-26.**

31. Fire & Rescue Plan Delivery Update

The PFCC presented the report, highlighting the following points:

- NFRS had increased its public-facing activity as the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic had improved. It had increased home fire safety checks four-fold, re-started visits to schools and provided fire safety advice to new students at the University of Northampton (UoN).
- The force and NFRS performance teams had just jointly purchased a new demographic data system. This was another example of the greater collaboration permitted by co-location at Darby House, which in-turn maximised the resources available for frontline services.

The Panel considered the report and members made the following points during the course of discussion:

- The report was very positive and activities detailed such as the provision of advice to students and the introduction of an accredited fire service wellbeing dog were excellent ideas.
- It was questioned whether there was scope to operate an emergency services cadets scheme for UoN students, given the range of other organisations and activities in which students could participate.
- The report demonstrated emerging improvements in local services, which were very welcome.
- The improvement in response times that had been achieved was impressive and those involved should be congratulated. The report also gave a positive picture on appliance availability.
- The new joint arson reduction strategy between the force and NFRS was impressive. It was questioned whether this would include communication with youth workers to help to address the issue of young people setting fires.
- It was questioned that NFRS did not seem to have the same level of engagement with the local authority building control function as in the past, which could increase fire safety risk in properties. The emergency services needed to be informed about proposals to avoid this situation.

The PFCC provided additional information in response to points raised by members during the course of discussion as follows:

- NFRS currently had two high-rise appliances and two more were on-order, although the current world situation would affect when they would be delivered.
- The provision of fire safety advice to students in conjunction with UoN was a good example of some simple partnership working that produced tangible benefits.
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) would review NFRS performance in detail but it was maintaining performance levels despite the challenges of the pandemic. The PFCC thanked the Northamptonshire MPs who had made representations to the government concerning the need for additional resources. The government now proposed to permit Fire & Rescue authorities in the lowest charging quartile to raise the precept by up to £5 at Band D in 2022/23.
- He sought to learn from the examples of wider joint working in other areas. He would be visiting Cornwall during the winter to see its tri-service emergency response scheme, which involved police community support officers, Fire & Rescue and ambulance service personnel. He would also be visiting Wales to see examples of well-established joint police and Fire & Rescue control rooms.
- Members should highlight any specific cases where NFRS had not been engaged in the building control process and he would look into these. A new White Paper on this matter was also due to be produced in the near future.

RESOLVED that: the Panel notes the report.

32. **Police & Crime Plan Delivery Update**

The PFCC presented the report, highlighting the following points:

- A range of significant work continued to support the delivery of his Police & Crime Plan priorities.
- The OPFCC had secured £300,000 from the Home Office Safety of Women at Night Fund to support local crime-fighting projects. This was the latest in a series of successful funding bids.
- The OPFCC had introduced a Safer Nights Out (SNO) van in Northampton in the previous week. The SNOvan provided support to people out at night-time and had engaged with other 100 people on its first night of operation.
- The breadth of early intervention activity in the county continued to deliver benefits. The Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) team had helped to support 1,800 young people from over 1,000 families since it was established in January 2021. This activity helped to prevent crime and to support young people to make better life choices.
- Two new neighbourhood Beat Buses now operating in the county were helping to support visible policing, public engagement with and confidence in the force.
- The OPFCC had obtained nearly £3m funding for Northamptonshire from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund. The resulting projects demonstrated the value of targeted work done in partnership with the force.

The Panel considered the report and members made the following points during the course of discussion:

- The new retail crime investigator post funded by the OPFCC was a positive development for Northamptonshire. Actions to enhance the local response to people with mental health needs were also welcome.
- The PFCC should seek to broaden the funding streams providing resources for Northamptonshire as far as possible.
- The focus on safety for women reflected in the report was supported.
- It was questioned how the issue of 'spiking' was being addressed in Northamptonshire. Brighton was an example of an area that seemed to employ more safety measures, such as metal detectors on the doors of licensed premises and the operation of a safety word scheme. It was questioned whether the PFCC was able to enforce good practice in this regard.
- Performance against the Police & Crime Plan outcome for victim satisfaction showed a 76.2 per cent overall satisfaction rate for the last 12-month period compared to 76.6 per cent for the same period in the previous year. Reassurance was sought that action was being taken to address this decrease.
- Reassurance was sought that the PFCC was holding to account the Chief Constable for the quality of court files produced by the force, given concerns on this point connected with the fact that the first-time guilty plea rate at Northampton Magistrates Court in September 2021 had been at the lowest level since 2018.
- The PEEL 2021/22 inspection report on Northamptonshire Police had raised the need for more investment in digital capability to address delays in investigating devices involved in crimes. It was questioned whether more additional resources were being provided for this purpose.
- Concern was raised that the PEEL 2021/22 inspection report stated that 42 per cent of Northamptonshire Police officers had left voluntarily before their expected retirement date compared to a national average of 28.3 per cent. The PFCC was challenged about what action he was taking to help the Chief Constable to retain officers.
- The employment package offered by the Metropolitan Police represented a challenge for Northamptonshire, given its proximity to London.
- It was questioned what impact the development of HMP Five Wells in Wellingborough would have on community safety in Northamptonshire.

The PFCC provided additional information in response to points raised by members during the course of discussion as follows:

- The force carried out targeted operations that would help to address 'spiking'. He was confident that the force had a robust strategy.
- His vision for the force since he had been elected was that it should make Northamptonshire a place in which a young woman could go out and about in safety.
- Pubwatch was quite well-supported in Northamptonshire but was a voluntary scheme. Local discussion about safety in the night-time economy had identified

those additional measures used in other areas. However, these could not be imposed by the force.

- The SNOvan was a trial project and he would aim to roll it out to other parts of Northamptonshire if it was successful in Northampton.
- One of his current concerns was regarding the issue of victim and witness attrition. The backlog in the justice system could encourage some defendants to enter a not guilty plea with a view just to lengthening proceedings. This could create a difficult situation for victims and witnesses who wanted to be able to move on with their lives. He considered that a defendant who took this approach and was convicted should receive a higher tariff.
- Factors contributing to victim satisfaction needed to be kept under constant review to ensure an effective approach. At the same time, the PFCC was not solely responsible for issues that could have an effect: the OPFCC was currently providing additional resources for the Sunflower Centre as local authority funding had not been increased despite a previous agreement to do so.
- HMICFRS had previously concluded that Northamptonshire Police did not have enough qualified detectives but he was confident that the force was now in a better position. He did challenge the Chief Constable robustly to improve performance in areas where this was shown to be necessary.
- The PEEL 2021/22 inspection report on the force had been frustrating as it did not seem to acknowledge improvements that had already been made in areas including digital capability. The force had just made the largest ever drugs bust in its history. This had resulted from an effective proactive approach to intelligence-gathering and the use of digital capability.
- The PEEL 2021/22 inspection report was based on a particular point in time. The force had faced challenges in 2019 relating to attrition that were no longer the case. This related to the Police Education Qualifications Framework lowering the age of recruits.
- He was very conscious of how police recruitment in Northamptonshire could be affected by the proximity to London and had raised this in discussions with the Home Office about the funding formula. The fact that Northamptonshire had good transport links not only assisted people to work in other areas but could also bring crime into the county. He was currently working with West Northamptonshire Council on a future residential accommodation facility for police officers working in Northamptonshire.
- He commended the approach being taken by the HMP Five Wells management team and was working with them to manage the effect it would have on the county.

RESOLVED that: the Panel notes the report.

33. **Fire & Rescue Authority Budget Update**

The PFCC presented the report setting out the latest forecast outturn position and future financial challenges, highlighting the following points:

- He continued to work with Northamptonshire MPs and the Home Office to highlight the challenges relating to the Fire & Rescue Authority budget. The fact that the PFCC would be permitted to raise the Fire precept by up to £5 at Band D in 2022/23 demonstrated that this effort was having an effect.
- Further funding was still being sought for the capital programme. The Home Office had responded positively to the case being made.

The Panel considered the report and members made the following points during the course of discussion:

- Reassurance was sought about the budget provision for firefighters' protective equipment in the county. NFRS should be able to provide its personnel with the best possible safety equipment.
- Further information was sought about the provision in the Fire & Rescue Authority budget for the Firefighters' Pension Scheme and costs arising from firefighters being injured on duty. It was noted that the Spending Review 2021 did not address the potential future impact of actuarial reviews.
- Northamptonshire had set a good example as one of the first areas that had implemented the Commissioner Fire & Rescue Authority model.
- The report gave confidence that a good service was being provided to Northamptonshire even with a low level of funding.
- It was questioned whether any work was being done in Northamptonshire to remove unsafe cladding using funding announced by the government.

The PFCC made the following points during the course of discussion:

- The Police and Firefighters' pension schemes were both very good unfunded schemes. Pensions was a complex and emotive area. Legislation was due in the next year. The implications of this would need to be addressed: pensions contributions represented a significant portion of the police and Fire & Rescue authority budgets.
- He agreed that NFRS personnel needed to be well-equipped, but he had to operate within finite resources. He was committed to firefighter safety and would like to hear of any specific concerns in this regard.
- Fire & Rescue services were not responsible for work to remove unsafe cladding. He considered that houses in multiple occupation represented a greater risk area in Northamptonshire than high rise buildings.

In response to questions the Chief Finance Officer advised the Panel that the opportunity to raise the Fire precept by £5 at Band D would make a significant difference to financial challenges in 2022/23 outlined in the report. However, inflation would remain a significant pressure in the medium term.

The PFCC subsequently returned to a point raised earlier in the meeting, clarifying that the reference in the PEEL 2021/22 inspection report on the force to 42 per cent of officers leaving before their expected retirement age related to a particular group of 46 officers, not to officers as a whole.

RESOLVED that: the Panel notes the report.

34. **Policing Budget Update**

The PFCC presented the report setting out the latest forecast outturn position and future financial challenges, highlighting the following points:

- The current forecast outturn was for an underspend of £733,000. If there was an underspend at the end of the financial year he would consider options for using this, including to support the capital programme, investment or one-off pressures.
- He was underwhelmed by the prospective financial settlement from the government based on current information. He continued to make the case for fairer funding for Northamptonshire that better reflected local population growth.

The Panel considered the report and members made the following points during the course of discussion:

- Further information was sought about the budget for police vehicles in Northamptonshire, the size of the force's vehicle fleet and the costs of accidents and maintenance. The number of vehicles available to the force contributed to its ability to identify crime and to carry out visible policing.
- Auditors would consider that the current forecast outturn effectively represented a balanced position at this point in the financial year.
- The PFCC was challenged on the relationship between the positive position presented in the report and issues such as the continuing level of knife crime in the county. Residents did not see crime as decreasing but could see examples of it happening widely in the open. Wholesale social change was needed to address this.

The PFCC made the following points during the course of discussion:

- The current forecast underspend was a one-off underspend relating to the timing of spending in one area. The overall medium term financial position showed a structural deficit in future years.
- Further information could be provided about the budget for the force's vehicle fleet if requested. The roll-out of telematics vehicle tracking to the fleet was 50 per cent complete and gave good data about vehicle usage. The force was also able to monitor and manage accidents effectively. The force currently had approximately 450 vehicles but it was essential to ensure that this was the right number to meet future demands. A briefing on the police fleet and the telematics system might be helpful for the Panel.
- Decisions on vehicle purchasing considered reliability as a key factor. However, this could be a complex and changing area: petrol and diesel vehicles would not be sold from 2030 but it currently took less energy to run Darby House than to charge to full some electric cars.

- The forecast overspend of £35,000 on the force budget was a fraction of the overall total and represented commendable performance that other forces were challenged to emulate.
- The forecast underspend on the reducing reoffending budget resulted from government requirements not being implemented when anticipated. This was a case where a saving might be re-used and this would be considered as part of the development of 2022/23 budget proposals.
- The £351,000 forecast pressure on the force control room budget reflected that budget delivery was affected by any differences between anticipated and actual staff departures. Staffing needed to be managed to ensure that the control room was never under-staffed, particularly given increased demand during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It was important that members of the public felt confident to report crime. Crime statistics also did not convey the impact of different types of offences. The most meaningful performance measures were the number of victims of crime and the seriousness of harm from crime, as used in the Cambridge Harm Index.

RESOLVED that: the Panel notes the report.

35. Police, Fire & Crime Panel Work Programme 2021/22

The Democratic Services Assistant Manager presented the report setting out the latest version of the Panel's work programme, highlighting the following points:

- Briefing sessions with the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer and the tour of Darby House originally due to take place on 22nd November 2021 needed to be rescheduled.
- The Panel had not yet set a date for the requested report on action being taken in Northamptonshire in response to the outcomes of the Kerslake Report and Public Inquiry on the Manchester Arena attack.

The Panel considered the report.

The Chair noted that the PFCC had highlighted fire safety risks connected with HMOs as an area of concern in Northamptonshire. The Panel could consider adding an item on home fire safety risks, including those relating to HMOs, to its work programme.

The Panel considered the potential to request a workshop session with the PFCC on performance against key priorities, to provide more time to raise questions on the latest update reports. It was subsequently highlighted that there was scope for members to request information from, or ask questions to, the PFCC between Panel meetings in order to support scrutiny at formal meetings. This should be centrally coordinated appropriately through the Secretariat.

The Chair raised the need for the Panel to take further action regarding the appointment of substitute members by the constituent local authorities. The Chair could play a role in liaising with political groups regarding substitution but had better

contacts at North Northamptonshire Council than West Northamptonshire Council. The Democratic Services Assistant Manager subsequently made the following points:

- The current state of the pandemic did increase practical issues relating to attendance and substitution at committee meetings.
- The Panel would need to take account of the constituent authorities' approach to substitution. West Northamptonshire Council did not currently appoint specific substitutes for committees.
- The Panel's Rules of Procedure meant that if the Chair and Deputy Chair were both councillor members they would each come from a different constituent authority.

The Panel considered the potential for it to carry out some in-depth scrutiny work on the issue of young people's involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour in Northamptonshire. Panel members made the following points during discussion:

- The risk to young people of becoming involved in crime was growing. Vulnerable young people needed to be supported effectively and not fall through the gaps between different services.
- The Panel could consider holding an information-gathering workshop with young people, youth service representatives and the PFCC. Scrutiny by the Panel could help to ensure that local services were joined-up.
- Local authorities were primarily responsible for safeguarding young people. Any work on this topic should reflect that the Panel's role was to scrutinise and support the PFCC.
- It could be helpful for members to set out the particular issues that they thought the Panel should scrutinise. These could be raised with the PFCC in the first instance. The Panel might then hold a workshop if it was not satisfied with the response.
- Some young people who needed support had been missed by service providers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- An information-gathering workshop could represent a different way for the Panel to consider an issue affecting Northamptonshire.

The Democratic Services Assistant Manager made the following points:

- The Panel's remit in its broadest sense included scrutinising decisions and actions by the PFCC. Proposed work would need to reflect this focus. However, the PFCC did have priorities in his Police, Fire & Crime Plan relating to young people and anti-social behaviour. The proposed work could therefore be done in principle. The key task would be to define the purpose and scope.
- A topic such as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people in Northamptonshire would be a massive one to scrutinise. The Panel should consider the practicalities involved in any potential in-depth scrutiny work.

A Panel member suggested that it could be helpful for future Panel meeting agendas to include guide times for individual items, to assist in managing business.

RESOLVED that:

- a) **The Panel requests to receive a report to its meeting on 14th April 2022 on priorities in Northamptonshire with regard to managing fire safety risks in residential properties, to include risks associated with houses in multiple occupation.**
- b) **The Panel agrees that Panel members should be able to make requests for information to the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner between Panel meetings, on the following basis:**
 - **Requests should be sent to the Panel Secretariat to forward to the Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner**
 - **Requests should be circulated by the Secretariat to all Panel members and substitute members for information.**
- c) **The Panel identifies the involvement of children and young people in crime and anti-social behaviour in Northamptonshire as a potential topic for scrutiny as part of its future work programme, subject to further consideration of the practicalities involved.**
- d) **The Panel agrees that its meeting agendas should include guide timings for individual agenda items in future.**

36. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

The Chair offered best wishes to Panel members for Christmas and the New Year.

The meeting closed at 4.40pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____