

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE, FIRE & CRIME PANEL

2 FEBRUARY 2023

Report Title	Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel meeting dates for 2023/24
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List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The report is intended to enable the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel to agree its meeting dates for the 2023/24 civic year.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The report invites the Panel to consider a proposed schedule of meeting dates for 2023/24 and to agree this subject to any changes that the Panel considers to be necessary.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel agrees the following meeting dates for 2023/24:
- 15th June 2023
 - 7th September 2023
 - 30th November 2023
 - 6th February 2024

- 20th February 2024 (Reserve)
- 18th April 2024

All meetings to start at 1.00pm. All meetings to take place at local authority venues in Northampton.

- 3.2 Reasons for Recommendation(s) – The recommendations are intended to support the effective operation of the Panel during 2023/24 and the delivery of its statutory responsibilities.

4. Report Background

4.1 The Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Policing & Crime Act 2017 and supporting legislation give various specific responsibilities to the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel (“the Panel”). These are principally as follows:

- Scrutinising and reporting on the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (PFCC)’s proposed Police and Fire & Rescue precepts
- Scrutinising and reporting on the PFCC’s Police & Crime Plan and Fire & Rescue Plan
- Scrutinising and reporting on the PFCC’s Annual Report on the delivery of Police & Crime Plan objectives and on the annual Fire & Rescue Statement reporting compliance with the Fire & Rescue National Framework
- Scrutinising and reporting on proposed appointments by the PFCC to certain positions (: Deputy PFCC; Chief Executive; Chief Finance Officer; Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police; and Chief Fire Officer of Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service)
- Dealing with complaints from members of the public about the conduct of the PFCC.

4.2 In addition, the legislation referred to in paragraph 4.1 above gives the Panel the general responsibility to review and scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the PFCC in connection with the discharge of his functions and to make reports or recommendations to the PFCC with respect to these matters. The Panel is required to carry out its role with a view to supporting the PFCC in effectively exercising his functions.

4.3 It is good practice for the Panel to agree an annual schedule of meetings before the start of the relevant civic year. This assists with the planning and delivery of the tasks that the Panel is required or chooses to undertake and therefore supports the Panel in carrying out its formal responsibilities as effectively as possible.

5. Issues and Choices

5.1 The Panel Secretariat has taken account of various factors in drawing up the proposed meeting dates and associated arrangements set out in paragraph 3.1 above, as follows:

- The proposed scheduling of Panel meetings through the civic year, the day of the week used and the start time for meetings reflects previous practice both before and after local government reorganisation in Northamptonshire.
- The proposed meeting dates seek to take account of local authority meetings in Northamptonshire and other relevant events and avoid clashes as far as possible.

- The dates for the meetings in February 2023 reflect the statutory requirements on the Panel concerning scrutiny of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner’s proposed policing and Fire & Rescue precepts: the Panel must scrutinise and make a report on the proposed precepts by 8th February and, if necessary following a veto of the proposed precepts, scrutinise and make a report on revised precepts by 22nd February.
- The Panel agreed in 2021/22 that local authority venues in Northampton should be the normal location for its meetings. The Panel considered that this was most conducive to supporting its stated priorities relating to meetings, which were a location that offers the ability to webcast and that is central in Northamptonshire and accessible to participants.

5.2 It is open to the Panel to consider amending the proposed schedule should it identify the need to do so at this point. The Panel will also be able to maintain an overview of its meeting schedule as it moves through 2023/24 and to respond to any issues that arise that may require it to consider amending planned meeting dates.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

6.1.1 There are no specific resources or financial implications associated with this report. The normal operation of the Panel is supported by grant funding that the Panel’s host authority can claim from the Home Office for the purpose of maintaining a panel for the Northamptonshire Police area.

6.2 Legal

6.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposal.

6.3 Risk

6.3.1 The Panel should ensure that it agrees meeting dates for 2023/24 that can be delivered within available resources and that will enable it to carry out its role. It is proposed that the prospective meeting dates set out in this report do not involve any specific risks in this regard, as they represent a realistic schedule of meetings for 2023/24 that builds on previous practice and that reflects priorities that the Panel has identified.

7. Background Papers

Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011

Policing & Crime Act 2017

Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel Rules of Procedure