

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL

6 FEBRUARY 2024

Report Title	Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel meeting dates for 2024/25
Report Author	James Edmunds, Democratic Services Assistant Manager, West Northamptonshire Council James.edmunds@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers		
West MO (for West and joint papers)	Catherine Whitehead	29/01/2024

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The report is intended to enable the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel to agree its meeting dates for the 2024/25 civic year.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The report invites the Panel to consider a proposed schedule of meeting dates for 2024/25 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 and Crime Panel agrees the following meeting dates for 2024/25:
- 13 June 2024
 - 5 September 2024
 - 5 December 2024
 - 5 February 2025
 - 19 February 2025 (Reserve)
 - 13 March 2025

All meetings to start at 12.30pm. 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 2024/25 and the delivery of its statutory responsibilities.

4. Report Background

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

- Scrutinising and reporting on the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC)’s proposed Police and Fire and Rescue precepts
- Scrutinising and reporting on the PFCC’s Police and Crime Plan and Fire and Rescue Plan
- Scrutinising and reporting on the PFCC’s Annual Report on the delivery of Police and Crime Plan objectives and on the annual Fire and Rescue Statement reporting compliance with the Fire and 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 and 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.
- 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 2025 reflect the statutory requirements on the Panel concerning scrutiny of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner’s proposed policing and Fire and Rescue precepts: the Panel must scrutinise and make a report on the proposed precepts

by 8 February and, if necessary following a veto of the proposed precepts, scrutinise and make a report on revised precepts by 22 February.

- The date for the meeting in March 2025 is earlier than normal for the final regular Panel meeting in the civic year to reflect the elections to North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire councils on 1 May 2025. The pre-election period for these elections must start by 25 March 2025.
- 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 2024/25 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 2024/25 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 2024/25 that builds on previous practice and that reflects priorities that the Panel has identified.

7. Background Papers

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

Policing and Crime Act 2017

Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel Rules of Procedure