



Cllr. Gill Mercer
Chairman – Northants Police, Fire and Crime Panel
c/o West Northamptonshire Council
One Angel Square
Angel Street
Northampton
NN1 1ED

17th January 2022

Dear Gill,

Following the publication of your review of my proposed Police, Fire and Crime Plan on the 7th January 2022, I am pleased to respond to the Panel in accordance with Section 5 (6) (d) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

As you know, the draft Plan sets out my 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 reflects my experience that some of the issues affecting safety in the county could not be solved by a single organisation.

Policing a large county like ours is complex with competing needs and expectations across our communities. This is why we have emphasised the importance on strengthening neighbourhood policing across the county. Under our new plan, neighbourhood policing will work more closely together with local communities. Linking youth teams with neighbourhood policing teams would also assist in this. As I explained, this approach would also help to support more locally led collaborative action on issues such as knife crime. Even with 1,500 officers, the force could not make Northamptonshire a safer place without support and input from the community.

I agreed with the Panel's view in relation to producing a 'Plan on a Page' graphic, which was included in previous plans. As I explained at the meeting, once the final Plan had been approved it would be made available to members of the public on his website, including in accessible formats. I will of course circulate a copy to the Panel once it has been finalised.

I welcome the panel's view that the Plan supports a fresh approach that recognises the importance of partnership working and prevention activity in securing a safer community. I agree that if local communities were engaged appropriately, they should be able to support activities intended to deliver the strategic priorities set out in the Plan. Delivering this plan cannot be undertaken in a vacuum as it requires a much more integrated and joined up approach to protecting our communities and making Northamptonshire safer.

The Police, Fire and Crime Plan has been the product of a great deal of work from colleagues in the Force, the Fire and Rescue Service and from within my office. I would like to thank the Panel on their behalf for the support you have given to this plan and for your considered and constructive feedback.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Mold', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Mold
Northamptonshire Police & Fire Commissioner

C.C. James Edmunds