

Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel – Outline Work Programme

MEETING DATE	STATUTORY BUSINESS	DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS	BUSINESS RELATING TO PANEL OPERATION	OTHER BUSINESS
14 March 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PFCC’s Delivery update</li> <li>- PFCC’s Finance updates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work programme</li> <li>- Complaints and conduct matters update</li> </ul>	
13 June 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction to the PFCC elected in May 2024 and their priorities</li> <li>- Draft report from task and finish scrutiny of support for early intervention activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appointment of Panel Chair and Deputy Chair</li> <li>- Appointment of independent co-opted members</li> <li>- Work programme</li> <li>- Appointment of Complaints Sub Committee members</li> </ul>	
5 September 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Joint Independent Audit Committee annual report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work programme</li> <li>- Complaints and conduct matters update</li> </ul>	
5 December 2024			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work programme</li> </ul>	
5 February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PFCC’s proposed Police precept for 2025/26</li> <li>- PFCC’s proposed Fire and Rescue precept for 2025/26</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work programme</li> <li>- 2024/25 meeting dates</li> </ul>	

19 February 2025 (Reserve meeting)	- PFCC's revised Police precept for 2025/26 [if required] and/or - PFCC's revised Fire and Rescue precept for 2025/26 [if required]		-	
13 March 2025			- Work programme - Complaints and conduct matters update	

### **Additional topics not yet scheduled**

The Panel agreed at previous meetings that its work programme should include reports from the PFCC on the following matters:

Topics identified at the Panel meeting on 15 June 2023

- (A) Action plans developed to address areas for improvement in service delivery by Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service as identified in the HMICFRS 2021/22 inspection.
- (B) The outcomes of the IPSOS Mori public consultation exercise on community safety in Northamptonshire carried out in 2022/23
- (C) The latest version of the PFCC's full Estates Strategy
- (D) The local impact of implementing the Serious Violence Duty under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022
- (E) The local impact of delays in the Criminal Justice System

The Panel also agreed at its meeting on 30 November to review on a regular basis the progress with actions taken in response to its recommendations resulting from scrutiny of decisions by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner connected with the appointment of an interim Chief Fire Officer.

### **Scrutiny of support for early intervention activity**

The Panel agreed in 2022/23 to carry out a piece of task-and-finish scrutiny work on early intervention activity with young people at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity in Northamptonshire. A working group was appointed for this purpose and met three times during the first half of 2023. The Panel agreed at its meeting on 15 June 2023 that the work should be progressed in order to produce a report back to the Panel as soon as possible. The Panel subsequently needed to give its overriding attention to other matters during the second half of 2023, which meant that the scrutiny work on early intervention was in abeyance during this period. The Panel agreed at its meeting on 30 November 2023 that this work should be resumed. An updated version of the terms of reference was agreed by the Panel at its meeting on 6 February 2024, which involved the work being concluded in order to report back to the Panel at its first meeting in 2024/25.

### **Briefings / Training (open to all Panel members)**

#### **(A) Briefing sessions with the Chief Constable and with the Chief Fire Officer**

The Panel generally includes in its work programme briefing sessions, held at least annually, with the Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police and the Chief Fire Officer of Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service. These sessions are intended to give an overview of the operating environment for the two organisations and their key priorities and challenges, to help to inform the Panel in carrying out its role of scrutinising and supporting the PFCC. The Panel last met with both chiefs on 27 May 2022 and again with the Chief Constable on 1 December 2022. The Panel agreed at its meeting on 15 June 2023 to continue this approach. The ability to organise a briefing session has since been affected by issues relating to each position. The Panel resolved again at its meeting on 6 February 2024 that these briefings sessions should be sought.

#### **(B) A briefing session on action being taken in Northamptonshire to address domestic violence and the outcomes produced**

The Panel agreed at its meeting 30 November 2023 to request that a briefing session on this topic be organised.

#### **(C) Training for Panel members**

The Panel discussed the potential to organise more training for Panel members at its meeting on 15 June 2023. A training session on effective scrutiny by Police, Fire and Crime panels was held on 22 November 2023.

## Further Information

### (A) Statutory Business

**PFCC's Annual Report and Fire and Rescue Statement** – The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) is required to produce an Annual Report on the exercise of the PFCC's police and crime functions during the previous financial year and the progress made in meeting objectives set out in the PFCC's Police and Crime Plan. The PFCC is also required to publish an annual statement of assurance of compliance with the priorities set out in the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England. The Panel must review and report on both the Annual Report and Fire and Rescue Statement as soon as practicable after they are received.

**PFCC's proposed Police and Fire and Rescue precepts** – The PFCC's proposed precepts must be reviewed and reported on by the Panel before they can be issued. The Panel has the power to veto a proposed precept, in which case the PFCC is required to produce a revised proposal that must also be reviewed by the Panel at the reserve meeting included in the outline work programme (if the Panel does not veto either of the proposed precepts the reserve meeting will not be held). The steps involved in this process must take place by specific deadlines set in legislation.

### (B) Discretionary Business

**PFCC's Delivery Update** – This is a regular report setting out actions by the PFCC supporting progress towards the delivery of the strategic outcomes set out in his Police, Fire and Crime Plan. The Delivery Update also includes contextual information about Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service performance.

**PFCC's Finance Updates** – These are two regular reports setting out the latest in-year position for the budgets for policing and the Office of the PFCC and for the budget for the Northamptonshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority.

**Joint Independent Audit Committee Annual Report** – The Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) is responsible for providing independent assurance of the corporate governance, risk management and financial control arrangements operated by the PFCC and the Chief Constable. The JIAC's Annual Report is customarily presented by its Chair to the Panel, to reflect the complementary roles of the two bodies.

### (C) Business relating to Panel operation

**Complaints and conduct matters update** – The Panel has adopted specific arrangements to carry out its responsibilities for dealing with complaints and conduct matters relating to the PFCC. These include the provision by the host authority Monitoring Officer of a half-yearly monitoring report about all matters dealt with in the preceding period. In this way the Panel is able to monitor the operation of the arrangements it has made to deliver this aspect of its statutory responsibilities.