

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL

12 JULY 2024

Report Title	Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel's statutory responsibilities relating to review of the Fire and Rescue Statement for 2023/24 produced by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire.
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List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The report is intended to set out the statutory requirements on the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel to review the Fire and Rescue Statement for 2023/24 produced by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The report summarises the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel's statutory responsibilities relating to reviewing and making a report on the Fire and Rescue Statement for 2023/24 produced by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire. This Fire and Rescue Statement appears on the agenda for the current Panel meeting as the next item of business.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel reviews the Fire and Rescue Statement for 2023/24 produced by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The recommendation is intended to enable the Panel to carry out its statutory responsibilities relating to scrutiny of the Fire and Rescue Statement effectively at the current meeting.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England sets out the government's priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities. Every fire and rescue authority must have regard to the National Framework in carrying out its functions. Every authority must publish an annual statement of assurance of compliance with the National Framework, referred to as "the Fire and Rescue Statement". This requirement applies to Police and Crime commissioners who take on the functions of a fire and rescue authority under the provisions of the Policing and Crime Act 2017, as is the case in Northamptonshire.
- 5.2 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (sections 12 and 28) as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2017 Schedule 1 requires that the Fire and Rescue Statement published by a Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is subject to scrutiny by the relevant Police, Fire and Crime Panel.
- 5.3 The Fire and Rescue Statement must be sent to the relevant Police, Fire and Crime Panel as soon as practicable following its publication by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.
- 5.4 The Police, Fire and Crime Panel must arrange a public meeting of the Panel to be held as soon as practicable after the Panel receives the Fire and Rescue Statement.
- 5.5 The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner must attend the relevant meeting of the Panel to present the Fire and Rescue Statement and to answer such questions from the Panel about it as the Panel members think appropriate.
- 5.6 The Police, Fire and Crime Panel must then review the Fire and Rescue Statement and make a report outlining any recommendations to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. The report or recommendations of the Panel must also be published.
- 5.7 The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner must provide a response to the panel and must also publish that response.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire has produced a Fire and Rescue Statement for 2023/24. This has been sent to the Panel to review, reflecting the requirements summarised in section 5 of this report.
- 6.2 Reviewing and reporting on the Fire and Rescue Statement is a mandatory task for the Panel. The Panel should seek to carry out this task in accordance with its overall role of scrutinising and supporting the effective exercise by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner of their responsibilities.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposal.

7.2 Legal

- 7.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposal.

7.3 Risk

- 7.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendation in this report.

8. Background Papers

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

Policing and Crime Act 2017

Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel Terms of Reference.

Policing and fire governance – Local Government Association guidance for police and crime panels (2019)