

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE, FIRE & CRIME PANEL

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Report Title	Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel Work Programme
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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Outline Work Programme 2021/22

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The report is intended to enable the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel to review progress with the development and delivery of its 2021/22 work programme and to identify any matters that it wishes to highlight for potential inclusion in the 2022/23 work programme.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The report invites the Panel to review the latest version of its outline work programme for 2021/22 and to endorse this subject to any changes that the Panel considers to be necessary.
- 2.2. The report also invites the Panel to identify any matters that it wishes to highlight for potential inclusion in the outline work programme that will be agreed by the Panel at the start of 2022/23.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel:
- Endorses its outline work programme for 2021/22, subject to any changes that the Panel considers to be necessary.

b) Identifies any matters that it wishes to highlight for potential inclusion in the outline work programme for 2022/23.

3.2 Reasons for Recommendation(s) – The recommendations are intended to support the effective operation of the Panel and the delivery of its statutory responsibilities during 2021/22 and into 2022/23.

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 standard practice for the Panel to agree a work programme that provides a framework within which it carries out its functions and the practical tasks these involve. The work programme is made up of a combination of statutory and discretionary scrutiny work; matters relating to the operation of the Panel; and any supporting activities such as briefings or training. The work programme covers a rolling 12-month period. The work programme is considered at the first Panel meeting in the municipal year. It is then kept under regular review by the Panel and modified or updated as necessary, with a view to ensuring that it is focussed on the aim of using available capacity to best effect.

5. Issues and Choices

5.1 The Panel considered its outline work programme at its meeting on 17th June 2021 and identified items of business that it wished to consider during the year ahead alongside its mandatory tasks. The resulting outline work programme is included with this report (at Appendix A).

- 5.2 The work programme should not be seen as fixed and it is open to the Panel to review and modify it at any time as the municipal year progresses. The work programme can be informed by input from a range of sources, including suggestions from individual Panel members and from the PFCC. The Panel should consider suggested business from all sources on its merits, with a view to maintaining a work programme that reflects the Panel's remit, has the support of Panel members, is realistically deliverable within available resources and has the potential to produce the most worthwhile outcomes.
- 5.3 As this is the final Panel meeting in the current municipal year there is also an opportunity for the Panel to identify any matters that it wishes to highlight for potential inclusion in the outline work programme for 2022/23. In practice, this new work programme may largely represent a continuation of its predecessor: the Panel will have the same core functions; there is likely to be some continuity in Panel membership between 2021/22 and 2022/23; and the Panel already operates a rolling 12-month work programme. However, the Panel that is appointed for 2022/23 should set its own work programme. A draft outline work programme will be presented to the first Panel meeting in 2022/23 as a starting point for consideration. This draft outline work programme can include any matters that may be highlighted by the current Panel.

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 its work programme and operating arrangements enable it to carry out its statutory role and functions effectively. Factors that might represent a risk to this could include setting a work programme that was unfocussed, that included too much business to be realistically deliverable, or that was not sufficiently flexible. These risks should be mitigated by the Panel reviewing its work programme and any associated matters at each of its normal meetings during the municipal year. This will enable the Panel to consider any changes to existing arrangements that may seem necessary, with a view to ensuring that the work programme and the specific activities contained within it remain deliverable within the Panel's overall capacity and the resources available to support it.

7. Background Papers

Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011

Policing & Crime Act 2017

Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel Rules of Procedure