

# NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE, FIRE & CRIME PANEL

19 JULY 2022

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| <b>Report Title</b>  | Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel's statutory responsibilities relating to review of the Fire & Rescue Statement for 2021/22 produced by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire. |
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## List of Appendices

None

### 1. Purpose of Report

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- 1.1. The report is intended to set out the statutory requirements on the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel to review the Fire & Rescue Statement for 2021/22 produced by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire.

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 The report summarises the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel's statutory responsibilities relating to reviewing and making a report on the Fire & Rescue Statement for 2021/22 produced by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire. This Fire & Rescue Statement appears on the agenda for the current Panel meeting as the next item of business.

### **3. Recommendations**

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- 3.1 It is recommended that the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel reviews the Fire & Rescue Statement for 2021/22 produced by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire.
- 3.2 Reasons for Recommendation(s) – The recommendation is intended to enable the Panel to carry out its statutory responsibilities relating to scrutiny of the Fire & Rescue Statement effectively at the current meeting.

### **4. Report Background**

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- 4.1 The Fire & 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 (“the Fire & Rescue Statement”). This requirement applies to Police & Crime commissioners who take on the functions of a fire and rescue authority under the provisions of the Policing & Crime Act 2017, as is the case in Northamptonshire.
- 4.2 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (sections 12 and 28) as amended by the Policing & Crime Act 2017 Schedule 1 requires that the Fire & Rescue Statement published by a Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner must be subject to scrutiny by the relevant Police, Fire & Crime Panel.
- 4.3 The Fire & Rescue Statement must be sent to the relevant Police, Fire & Crime Panel as soon as practicable following its publication by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner.
- 4.4 The Police, Fire & Crime Panel must arrange a public meeting of the Panel to be held as soon as practicable after the Panel receives the Fire & Rescue Statement.
- 4.5 The Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner must attend the relevant meeting of the Panel to present the Fire & Rescue Statement and to answer such questions from the Panel about it as the Panel members think appropriate.
- 4.6 The Police, Fire & Crime Panel must then review the Fire & Rescue Statement and make a report outlining any recommendations to the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner. The report or recommendations of the Panel must also be published.
- 4.7 The Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner must provide a response to the panel and must also publish that response.

## **5. Issues and Choices**

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- 5.1 The Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire has now produced a Fire & Rescue Statement for 2021/22. This has been sent to the Panel to review, reflecting the requirements summarised in section 4 of this report.
- 5.2 Reviewing and reporting on this Fire & Rescue Statement is a mandatory task for the Police, Fire & Crime Panel. The Panel should seek to carry it out in accordance with its overall role of scrutinising and supporting the effective exercise by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner of his responsibilities.

## **6. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **6.1 Resources and Financial**

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

### **6.2 Legal**

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

### **6.3 Risk**

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

## **7. Background Papers**

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Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011

Policing & Crime Act 2017

Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel Terms of Reference

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