



**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**  
POLICE, FIRE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER

**Stephen Mold**

Darby House, Darby Close,  
Park Farm Industrial Estate,  
Wellingborough, NN8 6GS

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

9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Gill,

Following the publication of your response to my Annual Report, I am pleased to respond to the Panel in accordance with Section 28 (4) of Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

I was pleased that the Panel recognise the wide breadth of work that is undertaken by the OPFCC and the positive benefits it is bringing to communities across Northamptonshire. For example, we have just been successful for the fifth time in securing funding through seven bids over three years to the Safer Streets Fund, which also included the Safety of Women at Night fund. This has helped to bring an additional £.4.2 million of funding to the county which has enabled us to invest in schemes to keep communities safer. This money is also helping us to deliver a robust approach to tackling violence against women and girls which is key a strategic priority in my Police, Fire and Crime Plan.

Delivering our Estates Strategy is helping us to deliver an estate that is capable of delivering sustainable and effective policing and fire and rescue services for a growing county well into the future. This is clearly not without its challenges, but with our Enabling Services Team in place, I am confident we have the skills and talent to deliver this far reaching and ambitious strategy. This team is also helping to enhance our in-house skills and capabilities which is delivering value for money and gives us more control and oversight of Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Rescue and the OPFCC. By working more closely together, we work more efficiently which helps to free up resources we can reinvest into the front line.

I am proud that since taking office, the number of police officers has increased from 1170 to 1460 – the most the Force has ever had, and we are on track to increase that number even further to 1500 during 2023. Since 2016 we have had an increase of nearly 350 police officers and that is starting to have a real impact on the front line. For example, we have seen an increase in the amount of time officers spend out in the community and an increase in the amount of time officers spend in areas that are classed as priority locations, as well as an increase in officers in Neighbourhood Policing Teams

I will continue to work closely with the Chief Constable to ensure that the force is able to get officers and resources out into our communities to increase their visibility. Many people have already commented positively on our how our focus on neighbourhood policing is making a real difference and that the force is now more accessible and able to respond to local concerns and issues.

As an office, we are very outward looking and committed to continually learning and seeking out best practice. The Annual Report sets out the work we have undertaken to deliver the priorities in my previous Police and Crime Plan. This has now been superseded by my new Police, Fire and Crime Plan and panel members will receive regular updates on the work being undertaken to deliver my priorities across policing, fire and rescue and the wider criminal justice system. This will mean the update reports to the Panel will change and develop to ensure I provide you with the information you require to undertake your statutory role in holding me to account.

Finally, I would like to put on record my thanks to panel members who have been supportive and understanding of the work we have undertaken over the last year.

Yours sincerely,



Northamptonshire Police & Fire Commissioner

C.C. James Edmunds

