

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE, FIRE & CRIME PANEL

17 JUNE 2021

Report Title	Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel's statutory responsibilities relating to review of the Annual Report for 2020/21 produced by the Police, Fire & 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 & Crime Panel to review the Annual Report for 2020/21 produced by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The report summarises the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel's statutory responsibilities relating to reviewing and making a report on the Annual Report for 2020/21 produced by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire. This Annual Report 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 & Crime Panel reviews the Annual Report for 2020/21 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 Annual Report effectively at the current meeting.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011 (sections 12 and 28) states that a Police & Crime Commissioner must produce an “annual report”.
- 4.2 The annual report must report on:
- a) the exercise of the Police & Crime Commissioner’s functions in the financial year, and
 - b) the progress which has been made in the financial year in meeting the police and crime objectives in the police and crime plan.
- 4.3 The annual report must be sent to the relevant Police & Crime Panel as soon as practicable following its publication by the Police & Crime Commissioner.
- 4.4 The Police & Crime Panel must arrange a public meeting of the Panel to be held as soon as practicable after the Panel receives the annual report.
- 4.5 The Police & Crime Commissioner must attend the relevant meeting of the Panel to present the report and to answer such questions from the Panel about the report as the Panel members think appropriate.
- 4.6 The Police & Crime Panel must then review the annual report and make a report outlining any recommendations to the Police & Crime Commissioner. The report or recommendations of the Panel must also be published.
- 4.7 The Police & Crime Commissioner must provide a response to the panel and must also publish that response.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 The current Panel meeting is the first to take place in the 2021/22 municipal year and following the re-election of Mr Stephen Mold to serve as the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire for the next three years. Mr Mold has now produced an Annual Report for 2020/21 and 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 Annual Report is a mandatory task for the Panel. Local Government Association guidance for panels on policing and fire governance gives the following advice on good practice in this regard:

Scrutiny of the annual report should focus on:

- *understanding whether the objectives set out in the police and crime plan have been met*
- *using panel members' own insight and independently gathered evidence to evaluate whether the commissioner's conclusions on this matter are robust, and*
- *supporting the commissioner to hold the chief constable to account on operational delivery.*

An effective panel annual report session should use the report as a tool to carry out an annual review of the commissioner's activities, looking back at the last year's successes and challenges, and forward to the next year's opportunities and priorities.

A less beneficial session could involve the panel highlighting apparent factual inaccuracies in the annual report, asking for additional narrative information on details or pointing out typographical or grammatical errors. None of these would add value to the effective scrutiny of the commissioner and all of them would represent a poor use of time for everyone involved.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

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

Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011

Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel Terms of Reference.

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