

Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel – Outline Work Programme 2021/22

MEETING DATE	STATUTORY BUSINESS	DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS	BUSINESS RELATING TO PANEL OPERATION	OTHER BUSINESS
17 June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PFCC’s Annual Report on Policing for 2020/21 - PFCC’s Fire & Rescue Statement for 2020/21 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appointment of Panel Chair and Deputy Chair - Work programme - Appointment of Complaints Sub Committee members 	
9 September 2021		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PFCC’s Delivery updates - PFCC’s Budget updates - Joint Independent Audit Committee Annual Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work programme - Complaints monitoring report 	
9 December 2021		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PFCC’s Delivery updates - PFCC’s Budget updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work programme 	
3 February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PFCC’s proposed Police precept and budget for 2022/23 - PFCC’s proposed Fire & Rescue precept and budget for 2022/23 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work programme 	

MEETING DATE	STATUTORY BUSINESS	DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS	BUSINESS RELATING TO PANEL OPERATION	OTHER BUSINESS
17 February 2022 (Reserve meeting)	- PFCC's revised Police precept and budget for 2022/23 [if required] and/or - PFCC's revised Fire & Rescue precept and budget for 2022/23 [if required]			
14 April 2022		- PFCC's Delivery updates - PFCC's Budget updates	- Work programme - 2022/23 meeting dates - Complaints monitoring report	

Further Information

(A) Statutory Business

PFCC's Annual Report and Fire & Rescue Statement – The Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (PFCC)'s responsibility for producing these items and the Panel's role in reviewing and reporting on them are summarised in separate reports on the agenda for the current Panel meeting.

PFCC's proposed Police and Fire & Rescue precepts – The PFCC's proposed precepts must be reviewed and reported on by the Panel before they can be issued. The Panel has the power to veto a proposed precept, in which case the PFCC is required to produce a revised proposal that must also be reviewed by the Panel at the reserve meeting included in the outline work programme (if the Panel does not veto either of the proposed precepts the reserve meeting will not be held). The steps involved in this process must take place by specific deadlines set in legislation.

PFCC's Police & Crime Plan and Fire & Rescue Plan – The PFCC is required to issue a Police & Crime Plan setting out his police and crime objectives and associated matters during the financial year following an election. The PFCC is also expected to issue a Fire & Rescue Plan setting out strategic priorities and objectives 'shortly after' taking office. In both cases, proposed plans must be reviewed and reported on by the Panel. The Panel should therefore anticipate that this task will need to be included in its work programme for 2021/22, although the timing is not yet known.

(B) Discretionary Business

PFCC's Delivery Updates – These were two regular reports received by the previous Panel setting out actions by the PFCC supporting progress towards the delivery of the strategic outcomes set out in his Police & Crime Plan and in his Fire & Rescue Plan. The Delivery Updates also included contextual information about Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service performance.

The previous Panel recommended at its final meeting on 24th March 2021 that performance information presented in future should be focussed more on longer term trends than detail in the short term; and that it should be presented in a clear format, making use of graphics and Red/Amber/Green ratings where possible.

PFCC's Budget Updates – These were two regular reports received by the previous Panel setting out the latest in-year position for the budgets for policing and the Office of the PFCC and for the budget for the Northamptonshire Commissioner Fire & Rescue Authority.

Joint Independent Audit Committee Annual Report – The Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) is responsible for providing independent assurance of the corporate governance, risk management and financial control arrangements operated by the PFCC and the Chief Constable. The JIAC's Annual Report was customarily presented by its Chair to the Panel, to reflect the complementary roles of the two bodies.

(C) Business relating to Panel operation

Complaints monitoring report – The Panel has adopted specific arrangements to carry out its responsibilities for dealing with complaints and conduct matters relating to the PFCC. These include the provision by the host authority Monitoring Officer of a half-yearly monitoring report about all matters dealt with in the preceding period. In this way the Panel is able to monitor the operation of the arrangements it has made to deliver this aspect of its statutory responsibilities.

(D) Potential task-and-finish work

Development of the PFCC's proposed precepts and budgets – The previous Panel appointed a task-and-finish working group for this purpose in 2020/21 following an invitation received from the PFCC. The working group met with the PFCC and his Chief Finance Officer in January 2021 to consider the budget environment and key factors informing the development of the PFCC's proposals, feeding into scrutiny of the final proposals by the whole Panel at its formal meeting in February. All parties found this to have been a useful exercise and it is open to the current Panel to decide whether to repeat it this year.

(E) Other potential work programme matters

Remuneration for Panel members – The previous Panel agreed at its final meeting on 24th March 2021 to recommend that the Panel appointed for 2021/22 should consider the question of whether there should be remuneration for Panel members in future. In practice this would be likely to focus particularly on the independent co-opted members of the Panel, as councillor members' involvement is covered by the basic allowance paid to all councillors by their respective local authorities. Different views on this question were expressed by members of the previous Panel; in any case it was recognised that the previous Panel was not in a position to pursue the matter further at that point. It is open to the current Panel to consider how it wishes to respond to the recommendation from its predecessor. In doing so it should take into account that the Panel is formally a joint committee of the two local authorities in Northamptonshire, which are ultimately responsible for determining fundamental matters concerning the composition and maintenance of the Panel.

(F) Potential Briefings / Training

Briefings with the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer – The previous Panel agreed during 2020/21 that it would be beneficial for the Panel's future work programme to include annual briefing sessions with the Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police and the Chief Fire Officer of Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service. These sessions would be intended to give an overview of the operating environment for the two organisations and their key priorities and challenges, to help to inform the Panel in carrying out its role of scrutinising and supporting the PFCC. The PFCC offered to facilitate this approach.

Other briefings or training for Panel members – The Panel may wish to consider whether there is particular information or support that could assist the new membership of the Panel to carry out its role effectively and, if so, how this might best be delivered.