



Cllr. Gill Mercer  
Chairman of Northamptonshire Police and Crime Panel  
Via email

17<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Gill,

Following the publication of your Review of the Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Plan, I am pleased to respond to the Panel in accordance with Section 5 (6) (d) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

It has been a daunting but ultimately rewarding challenge to integrate the service into the Office of the Northamptonshire Police and Fire and Commissioner. Like their colleagues in the Force, our fire and rescue service put themselves in harm's way to protect us and to provide help and assistance in difficult or traumatic situations.

The budget I set for 2019-20 represents the first year of a three year plan to build financial stability and includes some immediate initiatives for Fire and Rescue to take forwards, including:

- 2% pay inflation has been included and estimated for all staff
- A three year investment plan to ensure the service has sufficient reserve levels and a Reserves Strategy in place.
- Funding has been set aside in the Fire budget to contribute towards the cost of Governance transition over three years.
- The first specific Fire draft capital programme has been prepared to invest, develop and provide the infrastructure needed to support the delivery of future Fire services.

Working with the Chief Fire Officer, we will invest further into the statutory duty to collaborate for the three emergency services. This means that the services should be actively seeking opportunities to work together to deliver more efficient and effective public services.

As the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner I will also give the Chief Fire Office the responsibility to control his own resources, strengthen his top team and use data to better

understand demand and risk. It is important that those who have the experience and expertise in managing such risks are given the support and resources to undertake this important task.

We have already spoken about the greater use of sprinklers in buildings such as schools and a great deal of work is not being undertaken with partners to identify those who may be at risk. This will also include working with local housing authorities on safety issues connected with houses of multiple occupation.

I was very pleased that members of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel supported the overall direction and aims as set out in my Fire and Rescue Plan. We have learnt from the past and are investing in the future. I look forward to working with you and the Panel as we deliver a Safer Northamptonshire for communities across our county, both urban and rural.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Mold', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Mold  
Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner