

News story: Northamptonshire PCC to take on responsibility of fire and rescue service

Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Northamptonshire Stephen Mold's proposal to take on responsibility for Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue service has today been approved by the Home Secretary, marking an important step in the government's drive to see police and fire collaborate further and faster to benefit their local communities.

He is now set to join Roger Hirst of Essex, who became the country's first police, fire and crime commissioner in October 2017, alongside the three other PCCs who have recently had their proposals to take on responsibility for their local fire and rescue services approved. These are John Campion, PCC for West Mercia, Matthew Ellis, PCC for Staffordshire, and Jason Ablewhite, PCC for Cambridgeshire.

Through the Policing and Crime Act 2017, the government has introduced a range of measures to drive greater collaboration between emergency services, enabling services to share best practice and become more efficient and effective. This includes enabling PCCs to take on governance of fire and rescue services where a local case is made.

Before submitting his proposal, the PCC was required to undertake local consultation, considering the views of the public and relevant local stakeholders. Northamptonshire County Council agreed to the PCC's proposal and the consultation showed high levels of local support from the public and the Fire and Rescue Service.

The Home Secretary carefully reviewed the PCC's proposal, the results of the consultation and the PCC's responses to the views expressed when making a decision.

Considering all available evidence, the Home Secretary was of the view that the proposal demonstrated that a transfer of governance would be in the interests of the local economy, efficiency and effectiveness, without having an adverse effect upon public safety.

News story: LLW Repository Ltd earns Gold award

LLW Repository Ltd's (LLWR) Engineering, Design and Construction Framework

(EDCF) with GRAHAM Construction has won a Gold award in a prestigious national scheme.

Delighted team members from both organisations were on hand at the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) ceremony in Manchester to receive the honour, which recognises high standards in the construction sector.

It was only the second time the Framework had entered the scheme and it earned a bronze award last year. In addition to striking gold, a Most Considerate Site runner-up accolade was also awarded to the west Cumbrian facility.

“We are on a journey of continuous improvement, so to better last year’s pleasing performance amid stiff competition was superb,” said Cath Giel, LLWR’s Head of Public Affairs.

“We received more points from our CCS monitor this year than last so we were hopeful of improving on a bronze, but to win gold was outstanding.

“High standards are set for the organisation and for individuals, so this recognition is another feather in our cap.

“We take our community responsibilities extremely seriously, and a lot of hard work went into our entry.”

In the Framework’s inaugural year in the scheme, the better of two scores awarded by a CCS monitor was 43 marks out of 50.

Two visits this time merited scores of 45 and 46 with maximum 10s scored in the ‘Protecting the Environment’ and ‘Secure Everyone’s Safety’ categories.

The CCS monitor noted: “This project continues to be managed at the highest level, not only achieving an exceptional level in all five of the scheme’s checklist sections, which in itself is an achievement, but also by being innovative.”

[News story: LLW Repository Ltd earns Gold award](#)

Elaine Woodburn, of GRAHAM Construction, pictured left, and LLWR’s Cath Giel with team members celebrate their Considerate Constructors Scheme Gold award.

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[Press release: Sajid Javid announces details of review of local government finance governance and processes](#)

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, has today (11 April 2018) announced details of an independent review of the processes and procedures that underpin the Ministry’s governance of the business rates system.

The review will be led by former Director General for Public Services at Her Majesty’s Treasury, Andrew Hudson. Andrew has also previously held the position of chief executive of the Valuation Office Agency, as well as having worked in local government and has significant experience of working at the interface of policy and operations.

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, said:

As we move towards local government retaining 75% of locally collected business rates, it is vital that the business rates retention system operates as smoothly as possible. This review, led by an independent expert in this field, will ensure robust processes across the board.

Published today on GOV.UK:

[News story: Home Secretary announces law enforcement crackdown on dark web](#)

Speaking at the CYBER UK Conference in Manchester, the Home Secretary announced that as part of a £9 million fund, law enforcement's response will be bolstered to tackle those who use the anonymity of the online space for illegal activities such as the selling of firearms, drugs, malware and people.

More than £5 million will also be used to support the police to establish dedicated cyber crime units to investigate and pursue cyber criminals at a regional and local level.

The funding is part of £50 million of newly allocated money to ensure police and prosecutors have the capabilities they need to tackle cyber crime at a national, regional and local level during 2018/2019.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said:

The world of cyber is fast-developing and we need a fast-developing response to match. One that recognises that it is the responsibility of everyone in the UK to fight the evolving threat.

That's why today I'm pleased to announce that we will be investing over £50 million over the next year to bolster cyber capabilities within law enforcement at a national, regional and local level.

We need to make sure we stay not just at pace but steps ahead of those who seek to exploit the possibilities of modern technology, and I am determined that this Government will continue to tighten the net.

A proportion of the £50 million will be used to develop a new national training programme for police and the wider criminal justice system, sponsored by the National Police Chiefs Council. This will equip them with the tools to properly investigate and prosecute cases of cyber crime, including those relating to the dark web.

The Cyber Aware campaign, a cross-Government initiative, will also receive a further £3 million of funding for 2018/2019 to educate the public and businesses with the latest advice on how to protect themselves from cyber crime.