

## **Working Better Together – collaboration between policing and fire in North Yorkshire**

Dear colleagues,

As you may be aware, earlier this year I started to explore the options set out in the Policing and Crime Act 2017 regarding how fire and police services collaborate, and how they are overseen.

A number of you have been involved in that process, from frontline firefighters and police officers to Chief Officers and heads of service, and I would like to thank you all for your ideas, thoughts and contributions.

We have now completed the assessment process, supported by an external consultancy, and a business case has been developed setting out the various benefits of all the different options in front of us. Having considered these within the financial and operational context we find ourselves, I believe that the best path forward is to bring governance of the two services together under a single individual, replacing the Fire and Rescue Authority with a Commissioner in the same way the Police Authority was replaced in 2012.

Let me be clear. This is not a merger – we are not moving to a single employer model. Fire officers would remain as fire officers, police officers as police officers. There would continue to be two distinct organisations, each with their own distinct roles, brands and budgets, and each with their own Chief Officer.

But the evidence shows that by bringing governance together under a Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner we can speed up decision making and increase the pace and scale of collaboration. This would allow us to make savings that can be reinvested into frontline services to enhance public safety; protecting the vulnerable, reducing harm, and making our communities stronger and safer.

Both services share the same goal in that respect – improved public safety – and share the values which brought you into public service in the first place.

The next stage in this process is to consult fully and openly on these proposals, and from today a public consultation has been launched. This will run for ten weeks, until 22 September. As part of this I really want to hear your views. I want to know what you think of the proposals, of the case for change that we have set out, and the benefits that we think can be achieved by helping the two services work better together, with each other and with wider partners.

To make sure you are fully involved in this process there is a [dedicated staff survey](#), where you can also find more information about my proposals. The survey is hosted by an independent research company and is completely anonymous, so please be open and honest with your views.

I truly believe that by working better together we can make the public safer. If you have any questions that are not answered by the information on my website, please do not hesitate to contact me by emailing [pcc@northyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:pcc@northyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk).

Thank you in advance for taking part in this consultation.

Julia Mulligan

Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire