

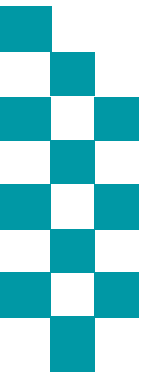


# Public Accountability Board



Meeting:

Policing update – Kirby Misperton



**BE SAFE**  
**FEEL SAFE**



## Operation Kingfisher – lessons learned

From 2017, our aim was to ensure that North Yorkshire Police provided a consistent and co-ordinated policing response to any protest activity related to hydraulic fracturing (fracking), fulfilling our core responsibilities and conducting ourselves in a manner compatible with our values and the Code of Ethics.

We looked to identify how we could learn and improve from the events that had taken place during the whole process of Operation Kingfisher, by conducting structured debriefs. The aim of these debriefs were:

- To provide North Yorkshire Police with a means by which they can review how the operation impacted on both the organisation and the affected communities of North Yorkshire.
- To identify areas of learning, review our working practices, and implement recommendations from the debrief.

It was identified that this learning could be implemented in future training, written plans and processes as well as response; it would also be shared with the wider policing community and partners to enhance policing response at similar events.



## Operation Kingfisher – lessons learned

A detailed analysis of North Yorkshire Police's approach has taken place, led by the Home Office and including Her Majesty's Inspectorate, to assess the operation and its value for money. It concluded that the policing was efficient and effective and Ministers have agreed to cover 85 per cent of the 'additional costs' of the operation – amounting to £614,000 , the maximum amount possible under the scheme.

North Yorkshire police prepared well, seeking advice and learning from other forces that have dealt with similar situations. From the outset, we sought advice from other forces that had dealt with similar operations and took their knowledge into account when planning. The Gold Commander implemented a gold, silver and bronze command structure and produced a detailed plan, which silver and bronze commanders translated into operational activity. These plans were also reviewed by peers from other forces.

HMICFRS concluded that North Yorkshire Police used resources that were reasonable and proportionate taking into account the scale of the operation and the associated threats and risks, which the force took steps to mitigate. We adopted a collaborative and non-confrontational in an effort to protect the rights of all concerned, despite making 90 arrests during the operation.



## Resourcing

North Yorkshire Police closely monitored expenditure and made stringent efforts to reduce costs where possible. The police response needed significant resources. To reduce costs, where possible we worked to meet operational requirements from within the force rather than relying on the expensive option of calling on other forces for mutual aid support.

Throughout the operation, North Yorkshire Police also had to respond to the wider policing needs of a large and diverse county area. We considered the effect of diverting resources from their usual place of business in order to meet the demands of the operation. Cost saving measures were implemented through cancelling the rest days of officers with adequate warning, in order to meet demand and to avoid paying officers at an enhanced rate.

The force gave consideration to those officers who were affected by the operation by offering support of:

- Welfare (provision of a welfare vehicle) and morale
- Referrals to the Occupational Health Department
- Travel arrangements around the county

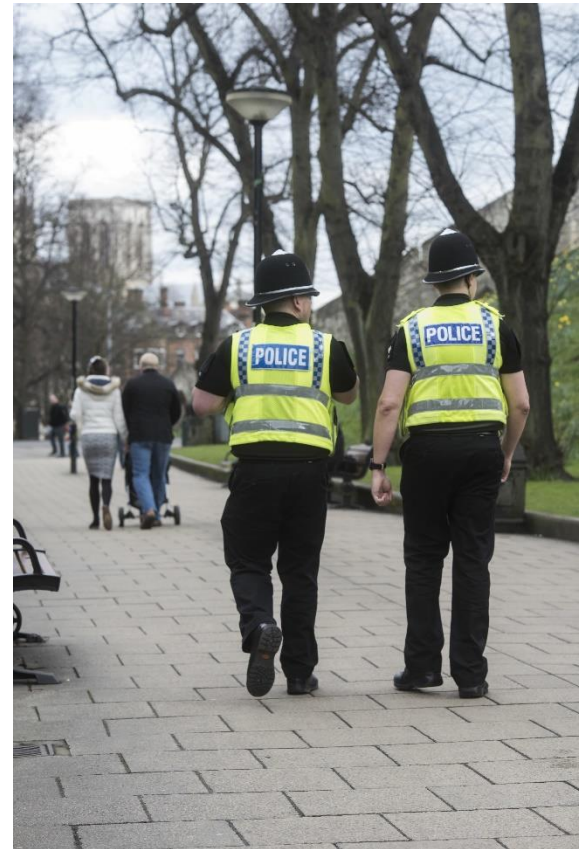
We used a dedicated cohort of officers from all specialisms working on a shift pattern which met the needs of the operation whilst maintaining business as usual.



## Resourcing

We have considered how the deployments of officers from around the county have had an impact on 'business as usual' and we have taken the opportunity to review what future deployments would look like.

With a new shift pattern in place, we will look to have a dedicated team of officers assigned to the operation which will reduce the impact on local policing, although this is not confirmed at the stage.





## Body Worn Video

The introduction and use of body-worn video (BWV) enhanced the process of policing protest activity at Kirby Misperton and provided a visual record of police action. BWV was invaluable in mitigating complaints and supporting evidence in prosecutions. It also provided reassurance for officers deployed on the operation.

The provision of BWV provided evidence in some instances that allegations made against officers were untrue. Without this vital evidence capture, the allegations would never have been proved 100 per cent. It also showed the professionalism of the officers in that they behaved in a calm, professional manner even when challenged by some protestors who were aggressive and confrontational.





## Community Disruption

North Yorkshire Police recognised that the community comprised of not only local residents but also a transient population, including visitors and tourists and those protestors who set up temporary accommodation near to the site. We worked hard to balance the needs and expectations of each protest group by engaging and behaving impartially with all concerned.

We adopted a restrained and tolerant approach, only resorting to public order tactics where necessary. We were cognisant of how local supporters would wish to protest and continue to live in the neighbouring villages once the operation concludes. We worked closely with the local community using officers who were familiar to the residents. We found that this assisted in maintaining and developing relationships which will continue after the operation. We will seek to increase and build on the regular community meetings with possible support from partners.

We will continue to use Police Liaison Officers to engage with all communities. Following conversations with resident groups and local people, we have recognised that more could be done with local engagement next time. It is our intention to hold regular meetings led by the local policing commander with local partners in order to address public concerns. This meeting will be supported by a Public Order and Public Safety Advisor to assist the commander with any technical questions relevant to the operation.