

NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL

REPORT OF THE PANEL VICE CHAIR

TO ZOE METCALFE, POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR NORTH YORKSHIRE ON THE

DRAFT POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2022/25 &

DRAFT FIRE & RESCUE PLAN 2022/25

INTRODUCTION

1. This report describes the views and recommendations of the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel in respect of the Commissioner's draft Police and Crime Plan 2022/25 and draft Fire and Rescue Plan 2022/25. It is submitted to the Commissioner in accordance with the requirements of section 28(3) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act).
2. The Panel would like to thank you for attending its meeting on Wednesday 16 March 2022 and for the responses which you provided to the wide variety of questions and issues that Panel Members raised.
3. The report expresses the Panel's preparedness to support the draft plans as submitted, and also sets out the Panel's comments on some specific points that it wishes to bring to your attention for further consideration when finalising the Plans for publication.

DRAFT POLICE AND CRIME PLAN / FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN FOR NORTH YORKSHIRE

4. Section 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act requires Police and Crime Commissioners to issue a Police and Crime Plan by the end of the financial year in which an election for Commissioner has been held; in this case by 31 March 2022. The steps which the Act requires the Commissioner to take prior to issuing the Plan include requirements to:
 - send the draft plan to the relevant Police and Crime Panel
 - have regard to any report or recommendations made by the Panel in relation to the draft plan
 - give the Panel a response to any such report or recommendations, and
 - publish any such response.

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5. The Panel is required to review the draft plan and to make a report or recommendations on it to the Commissioner.
6. The Panel considered the draft Police and Crime Plan for North Yorkshire at its meeting on 16 March 2022.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PANEL

7. The membership of the Panel in attendance for the 16 March 2022 meeting was as follows:

Hambleton District Council	Cllr Peter Wilkinson (in the Chair)
Harrogate Borough Council	Cllr Michael Chambers MBE
Selby District Council	Cllr Tim Grogan
City of York Council	Cllr Darryl Smalley
Fraser Forsyth	Co-opted independent member
Mags Godderidge	Co-opted independent member
Martin Walker	Co-opted independent member

PANEL VIEWS

8. The Panel fully acknowledge the time constraints under which the Commissioner and her team have had to work in order to produce mature drafts of both Plans. The Panel also commends the Commissioner's acknowledgment within both Plans of the need to restore public trust and confidence in the Office of Commissioner over the course of the next few years. The Commissioner has a clear determination and personal focus for achieving this but the Panel felt that this sense of the Commissioner's own drive and vision in the role could be more strongly reflected in both Plans.
9. The Panel feel that the key objectives and aspirations of both Plans – which are very similar in format – are tonally appropriate and broadly set the right key for both policing and fire and rescue services to move forward over the next three years. However, the Panel feels that the absence of any specific performance targets or benchmarks against which the effectiveness of these objectives can be measured, undermines the efficacy and impact of both Plans. The Panel recommends that the Commissioner reviews this presentation in both Plans and puts in place indicators which would assist the public and key stakeholders to better understand what 'good progress' will look like.

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10. The Panel also provided some specific comments around each draft Plan, which are outlined further below.

Draft Police and Crime Plan 2022/25

11. The Panel feel it particularly important that explicit reference is made to sexual violence in the context of looking to improve outcomes for victims, on the basis that this helps to ensure that such crime is not rendered invisible. This is pertinent in the current draft under page 13 at Outcome 1a, where specific referenced needs to be made to sexual violence and similarly at page 18 under “hidden harms”.
12. The Panel also reflected at the meeting that fraud is becoming one of the most prominent crimes and as such it would be appropriate for more explicit references to be applied in the draft to help better explain what is being done to tackle fraud specifically.
13. The Panel also discussed the need for the Plan to fully convey the importance of the police being responsive to the public; both in terms of improving the responsiveness via the Force Control Room but also in terms of actual police response within communities. Additionally, in the context of considering recent issues specific to York city centre, Members considered that it is important for public safety to be viewed as something requiring a 24-hour partnership approach and should not purely be seen as an issue linked solely to night-time economy.
14. The Panel welcome your constructive and considered approach to the suggestions made and your commitment to reviewing these further.

Draft Fire and Rescue Plan 2022/25

15. The Panel invited the comments of the Interim Chief Fire Officer at the meeting around the on-call service and was encouraged by efforts to think more creatively around how this service could operate moving forward. The Panel reflected back its concerns that there has been a degree of change in the senior leadership at the service over the last few years and that in order for the draft Plan to be fully effective over its lifetime, the service requires a permanent Chief Fire Officer in place.

PANEL DECISION

16. At the meeting you agreed to take the above suggestions on board and consider appropriate changes to both the draft Police and Crime Plan and Fire and Rescue Plan 2022/25. We thank you in advance for this and look forward to receiving your response.

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17. Within this context, I am happy to confirm the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel's support for your Police and Crime Plan 2022/25 and Fire and Rescue Plan 2022/25.

CLLR PETER R WILKINSON

Vice Chair, North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

21st March 2022