Community Risk Management Plan 2025-2029

Consultation Report

September 2025

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1.0   Executive Summary

Background

- North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (NYFRS), in partnership with the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority (YNYCA), conducted a public consultation from 7 July to 7 September 2025 to inform the development of the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2025–2029.

- The consultation sought views on:
  - The proposed Areas of Focus across twelve Service functions.
  - Two change proposals: extending the Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) attendance policy and replacing one water bowser.

- A total of 802 responses were received, with broad demographic and geographic representation. Around 60 NYFRS employees participated.

Support for Areas of Focus

- All twelve functional areas received majority support, with agreement levels ranging from 67% to 92%. The greatest support was for: *Resilience* (92%), *Protection* (91%), and *Operational Preparedness* (90%).

- NYFRS staff responses were broadly aligned, though notably lower support for was recorded for *Prevention* (-16%) and *Collaboration* (-13%).

Impact of Langdale Moor Fire

- The Langdale Moor Fire, declared a major incident on 13 August 2025, had minimal impact on consultation responses with the exception of a significant drop in support for the water bowser proposal post-incident.

Proposal 1: Automatic Fire Alarm Attendance

- 69% of respondents and 71% of employees supported extending the policy to no attendance at any time for AFAs at commercial premises where no one sleeps, unless a fire is confirmed. Key concerns among those opposed included; risks to life and property, challenges in confirming fires and potential erosion of public trust.

Proposal 2: Water Bowser Replacement

- Support for the proposal to replace only one of the two water bowsers was more divided: 46% agreed, 37% disagreed. NYFRS employees showed higher disagreement (47%). Post-incident sentiment shifted significantly, with total disagreement rising from 28% to 48%.

- Key concerns included: geographic coverage and response times, operational resilience, increasing wildfire risks and public confidence and cost transparency.

Community Risk Profile

- 64% of respondents agreed that current and future risks were accurately identified. Suggested missing risks included: appliance availability and staffing and large-scale incident preparedness.

Accessibility

- 76% of respondents agreed the consultation was accessible and easy to understand.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Background

Every fire and rescue service must produce and consult on a Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), as required by the Fire and Rescue National Framework (2018). This plan sets out the risks in the local area and how the fire service uses its people, vehicles, and equipment to manage and reduce those risks. It acts as the strategic roadmap for how North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (NYFRS) plans for the future and uses its resources effectively.

The last public consultation on how resources are used took place in 2022, helping to shape the current CRMP: Risk and Resource Model 2022–2025. Since then, NYFRS has also consulted on its CRMP planning principles and response standards as part of the Mayor's Fire and Rescue Plan public consultation in 2024.

A new CRMP for 2025–2029 is being developed by North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (NYFRS) who have identified a range of Areas for Focus across all functions and departments for inclusion in a new CRMP. Some build on existing work, while others are new priorities. These focus areas show how NYFRS is working to keep communities safe while also improving as an organisation and employer.

The new CRMP also proposes two specific changes to how resources could be used.

2.2 Objectives

The objectives of the CRMP consultation are:

- to deliver an inclusive public and staff consultation, in line with best practice and legal requirements for local government consultations and in accordance with the requirements of the National Fire Standard for CRMP Planning[1]. It must gather views not only from the public, but from a range of local stakeholders, partners, businesses and employees.

More specifically:

- to explore support for North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service's proposed Areas of Focus for inclusion in the new CRMP.

- to assess support for any specific changes to how the Services uses its resources to best mitigate or reduce risk, namely; extending our policy on attending automatic fire alarms and water bowser replacement.

2.3 Consultation Approach and Timeline

This was a joint consultation between North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority. The consultation period ran for an eight-week period from 7 July to 7 September 2025, inviting feedback from residents, businesses, stakeholders, partners, and employees through an open online survey.

The survey was hosted online via a dedicated webpage on the Combined Authority's website and is appended to this report for reference.

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[1] Community Risk Management Planning - Fire Standards Board

To ensure accessibility and inclusivity, the survey was available online with paper copies available on request and could be completed by individuals or on behalf of organisations or businesses. A supporting consultation document was provided to help respondents engage with the questions. It included information about North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, its responsibilities, proposed resource changes, and Areas of Focus CRMP-Consultation-Document-Have-your-say.pdf.

A comprehensive Consultation and Engagement Strategy and Communications Plan were developed to guide the process. These outlined the consultation's purpose, delivery methods, and strategies to encourage broad and meaningful participation.

The consultation was circulated to the public and residents, regional Members of Parliament, councillors and representatives from county, city, town and parish councils, employees across the fire and rescue service and their representative bodies. It also engaged with seldom heard groups, partner agencies, businesses and the community and voluntary sector.

Ahead of the consultation, NYFRS senior officers delivered a series of staff briefings on the proposed Areas of Focus and resource change proposals. Engagement with representative bodies was maintained throughout the consultation period.

2.4 Expenditure

A CRMP development budget of £25k was allocated, to include the design and production of the Community Risk Profile, the CRMP itself, a consultation document and promotional materials and activities including targeted social media posts. Expenditure is forecast as being under budget.

2.5 Major Incident Langdale Moor Fire

On 13 August 2025, the Langdale Moor fire was officially declared a major incident. It is one of the largest incidents that North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service have ever managed. At its peak, the fire stretched across more than 20 kilometres of moorland and forestry.

An analysis of responses received before and after declaration of this major incident has been undertaken to assess impact on public perceptions and feedback to the consultation.
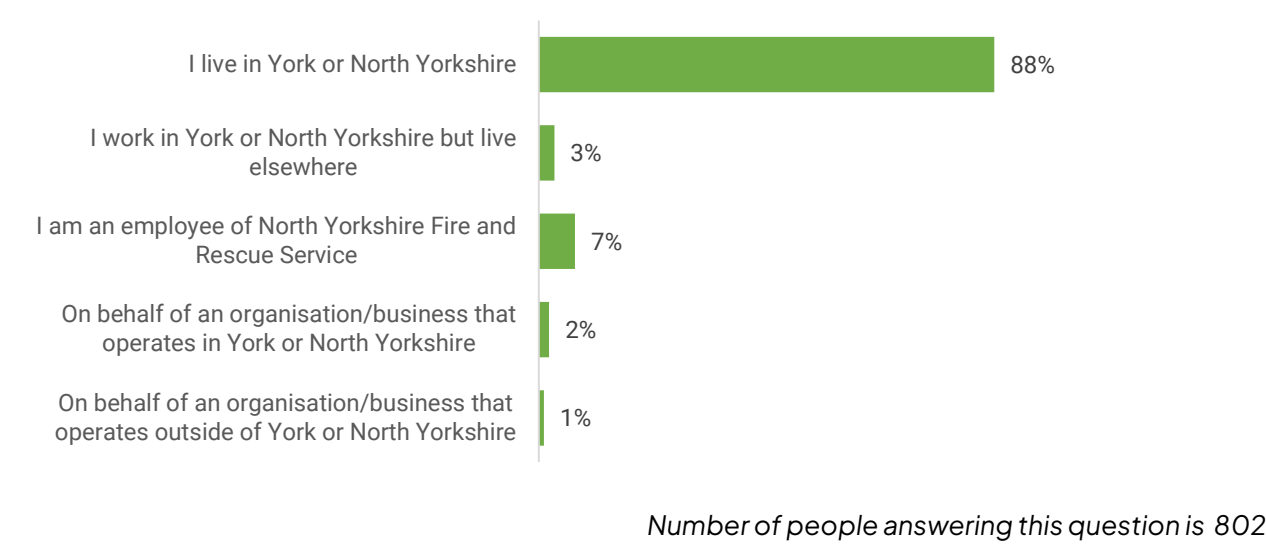
3.0   Respondent Profile

3.1   Total Responses

Between 7 July and 7 September 2025, a total of 802 responses were received through the online consultation. Of these, 435 responses were submitted before the major fire incident at Langdale Moor was declared on 13 August 2025, and 367 responses were received after.

3.2   Respondent Type

The chart below shows how people responded to the survey. Most participants were residents of York or North Yorkshire. Around 60 members of NYFRS staff took part.

Figure 1: Which statement below best suits how you are answering this survey?

I live in York or North Yorkshire	88%
I work in York or North Yorkshire but live elsewhere	3%
I am an employee of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service	7%
On behalf of an organisation/business that operates in York or North Yorkshire	2%
On behalf of an organisation/business that operates outside of York or North Yorkshire	1%

Number of people answering this question is 802

Despite targeted outreach to business communities, only a small number of businesses and organisations took part in the consultation.

Table 1: Responses on behalf of Organisations/Businesses

Organisation
• Whitby Community Network CIC
• Wilberforce Trust
• Canal and River Trust
• Harrogate and District NHS
• Cockerills UK Drilling Ltd
• Middleham Town Council
• Whitworth Bros Imperial Flour Mills
• Yorkshire Martial Arts
• North Yorkshire Council LADO – Children and Young Peoples Service
• North Yorkshire Council
• North Yorkshire Police
• Fire Officers' Association (Trade Union)

3.3 Response Profile

The consultation was open to all individuals and groups, resulting in a broadly representative response in terms of gender, ethnicity, and geographic location, although York was notably under-represented. As a self-selecting online survey, the overall response profile does not fully reflect the age distribution of the York and North Yorkshire population, particularly among younger age groups.

Table 2: Respondent Demographics
(*mid-year population estimates 2020 for age and gender; Census 2011 for ethnic group and disability)

Characteristic		Count	% responses	*Population 16+ %
AGE	Under 25	11	2%	12%
	25-35	54	8%	14%
	36-45	79	12%	13%
	46-55	98	15%	16%
	56-65	155	24%	17%
	66-75	163	25%	15%
	Over 75	80	12%	13%
	TOTAL	640	100%	100%
GENDER	Male	343	53%	49%
	Female	305	47%	51%
	TOTAL	648	100%	100%
ETHNIC GROUP	White	589	97%	97%
	Other Ethnic Background	18	3%	3%
	TOTAL	607	100%	100%
DISABILITY (self-defined)	Yes	173	26%	/
	No	491	74%	/
	TOTAL	664	100%	/

Table 3: Responses by Geographic Location
(*compared to the York and North Yorkshire population aged 16+ , Census 2011)

Location	Count	% responses	*Population 16+ %
Craven	60	9%	7%
Hambleton	90	13%	11%
Harrogate	110	16%	19%
Richmondshire	83	12%	6%
Ryedale	78	11%	7%
Scarborough	107	15%	13%
Selby	66	9%	11%
York	107	15%	26%
TOTAL	701	100%	100%
Rural	369	51%	/
Urban	355	49%	/
TOTAL	724	100%	/

Analysis by age group, gender, disability status, and geographic location is included in the report. However, analysis by ethnic group was not undertaken due to the low number of responses within that subgroup.

4.0   Proposed Areas of Focus

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service identified Areas of Focus across twelve of its functions. Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with the focus areas under each respective function.

Table 4: Service Function Areas of Focus and Level of Agreement/Disagreement

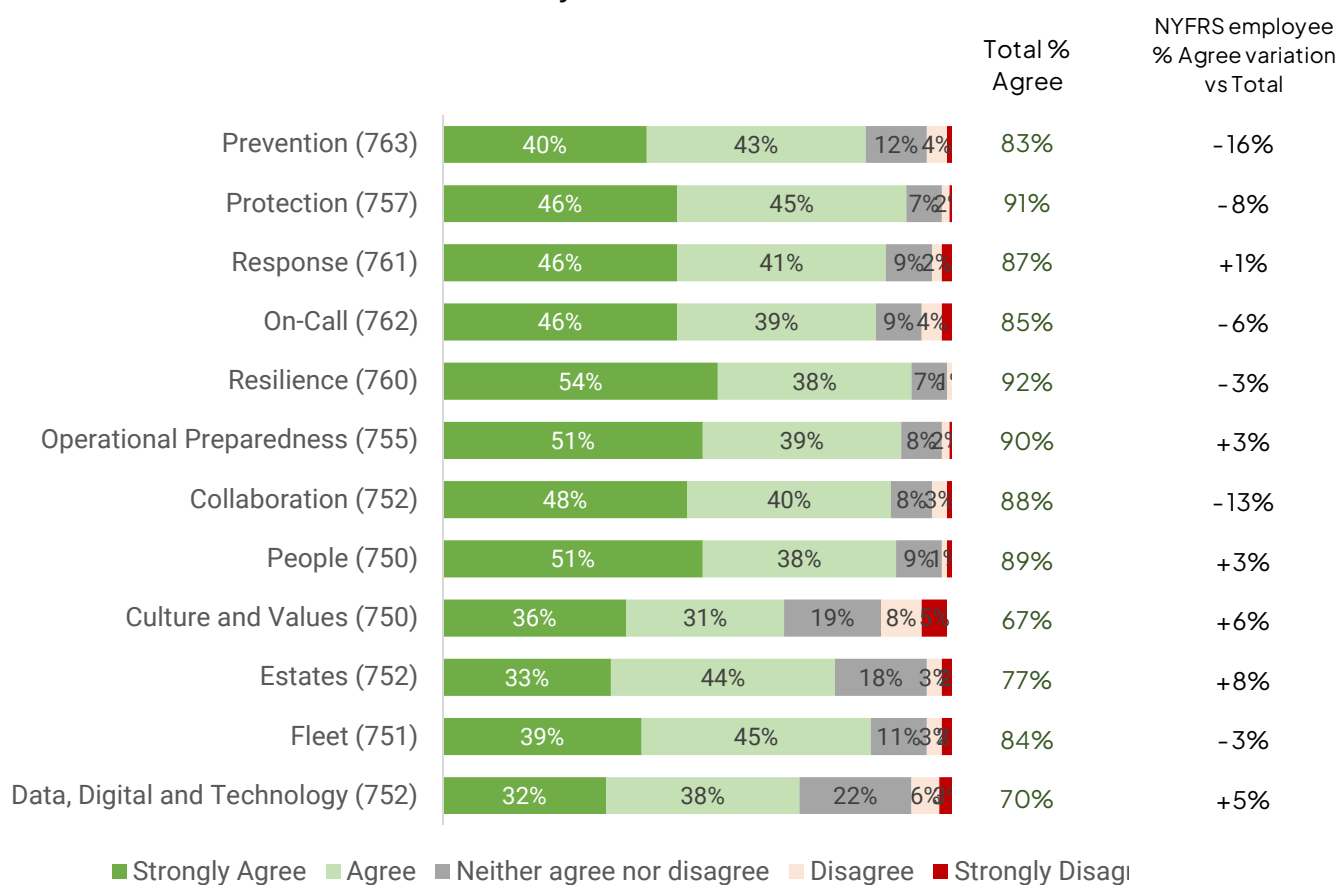| Prevention	On-call
We will focus on strengthening partnerships with housing, social care, and health organisations to deliver data-driven fire safety interventions for the most vulnerable.	We will strengthen support for our On-call firefighters by making our Station Manager On-call role permanent, improving access to training and technology and investing in fitness equipment.
We will continue to increase the number of Home Fire Safety Visits we undertake using insights and referrals to identify those most at risk.	We will also explore new ways for smaller teams to support ongoing incidents and expand their role in community safety where needed.
We will deliver early intervention and engagement initiatives collaborating with trusted partners where possible.	These changes aim to ensure our On-call staff are well-equipped, well-trained and ready to respond effectively.
83% Agree 5% Disagree	85% Agree 6% Disagree
Protection	**Resilience**
We will focus on keeping people safe by inspecting the buildings identified within our risk-based inspection programme as most high-risk.	We will make sure our staff are prepared for rare but serious incidents like terrorist attacks and high-rise fires, while also getting ready for new risks linked to climate change and emerging technologies.
We will continue to engage with local businesses to help them understand and reduce fire risks and fulfil their responsibilities under fire safety related legislation. Where required we will take enforcement action to protect the public.	We will work closely with partner agencies to keep communities safe and plan ahead to ensure we have the right people in place to lead this work in the future.
We will continue to deliver training for our operational staff to ensure them can effectively engage with our business communities.	
91% Agree 5% Disagree	92% Agree 1% Disagree
Response	**Operational preparedness**
We will make changes to make sure we respond to emergencies in the most efficient way reviewing staffing and crewing arrangements and improving how our teams are managed.	We will improve how we train and support our staff by closely monitoring performance and making sure everyone gets the training they need to stay skilled and effective.
We will also review technology in our Control room, improving how we learn from incidents and exploring better ways to allocate our resources. These steps will help us respond more effectively and keep communities safe.	We will upgrade our digital learning tools, developing a new system to track training progress and creating a clear training framework so all staff can easily access the right courses.
87% Agree 5 % Disagree	90% Agree 3% Disagree

Collaboration We will work more closely with North Yorkshire Police and other partners to improve how we respond to emergencies and keep communities safe. This includes joint training, public safety campaigns, implementation of the Emergency Services Network (ESN) critical communications system, and shared support for staff wellbeing and mental health.	**Estates** We will work to extend the lifespan of our buildings by making smart, affordable improvements, with a focus on Northallerton, Malton, and Scarborough stations. We will prioritise sustainable energy solutions and ensure the smooth handover of PFI buildings in Huntington and Easingwold.
88% Agree — 4% Disagree	77% Agree — 5% Disagree
People We will improve staff wellbeing by reducing sickness absence, promoting healthy work-life balance and encouraging use of our wellbeing support services. We'll also make sure staff get the support they need to grow in their careers, strengthening succession planning and improving performance reviews. At the same time, we will reinforce clear health and safety standards to protect everyone in our organisation.	**Fleet** We will improve our fleet management by introducing telematics to better track and manage vehicles and replace older equipment to ensure efficiency. This includes reviewing the use of special appliances, replacing our oldest Aerial Ladder Platform and replacing our Incident Support Units with smaller, cost-effective vehicles.
89% Agree — 2% Disagree	84% Agree — 5% Disagree
Culture and values We are committed to creating a fair and inclusive workplace by training our leaders in equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), ensuring our policies are fair for everyone and acting on staff feedback. We will improve how we gather and use workforce data to better understand and support our teams, especially those from underrepresented groups. Regular surveys and audits will help us track progress and make sure EDI is part of everything we do. We will also review our workwear to ensure its suitability and best value.	**Data, digital and technology** We will improve our financial management by moving to a centralised system, which will enhance transparency and collaboration. We will also review our HR system to improve our processes. Additionally, we're exploring how Artificial Intelligence can improve our operations using modern technology and best practice.
67% Agree — 13% Disagree	70% Agree — 8% Disagree

Figure 2 over the page illustrates strong overall support for the identified Areas of Focus across the twelve functional areas. While support remained high across the board, slightly lower levels of agreement were observed for the Areas of Focus under *Culture and Values* (67% Agree/Strongly Agree) and *Data, Digital and Technology* (70% Agree/Strongly Agree).

Employees of NYFRS expressed similarly high support for the Areas of Focus across all functional areas. However, overall agreement was notably lower for *Prevention* (16%) and *Collaboration* (-13%) compared to other functions.

There was minimal variation in agreement levels before and after the Langdale Moor Fire major incident was declared. The most notable change was an increase in support for the *Prevention* Areas of Focus, rising from 81% pre-incident to 87% post-incident.

Figure 2: To what extent do you agree that our other areas of focus are the right things for us to focus on over the next four years?

	Total % Agree	NYFRS employee % Agree variation vs Total
Prevention (763) — 40% / 43% / 12% / 4%	83%	−16%
Protection (757) — 46% / 45% / 7% / 2%	91%	−8%
Response (761) — 46% / 41% / 9% / 2%	87%	+1%
On-Call (762) — 46% / 39% / 9% / 4%	85%	−6%
Resilience (760) — 54% / 38% / 7% / 1%	92%	−3%
Operational Preparedness (755) — 51% / 39% / 8% / 2%	90%	+3%
Collaboration (752) — 48% / 40% / 8% / 3%	88%	−13%
People (750) — 51% / 38% / 9% / 1%	89%	+3%
Culture and Values (750) — 36% / 31% / 19% / 8%	67%	+6%
Estates (752) — 33% / 44% / 18% / 3%	77%	+8%
Fleet (751) — 39% / 45% / 11% / 3%	84%	−3%
Data, Digital and Technology (752) — 32% / 38% / 22% / 6%	70%	+5%

■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree

Number of people answering each question in brackets

Subgroup analysis: There was minimal variation in the strength of support for the Areas of Focus across the twelve functions by age groups, gender, disability status, and geographic location. The most notable difference was a significantly higher level of support among female respondents for the *Collaboration* and *Culture and Values* focus areas compared to male respondents.

5.0 Change Proposals

This section outlines the two change proposals presented during the consultation. Both proposals were supported by detailed context and rationale within the accompanying consultation document.

5.1   Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) Attendance (Proposal 1)

Proposal: to extend this policy further from 12 hours to 24 hours a day

- no attendance at any time to AFAs at commercial premises where no one sleeps, unless a fire is confirmed.

The Service will continue to:
- attend AFAs at specific high-risk premises
- attend all AFAs at premises where people sleep
- attend all AFAs at domestic properties
- attend any AFA actuations where a fire has been confirmed
- charge, in some circumstances, for repeat false alarms calls

Figure 3 below illustrates overall support for the proposal, with 69% of respondents in agreement and 21% expressing disagreement. Many who agreed with this proposal expressed frustration over the frequent false alarms and the strain they place on fire and rescue resources.

Among NYFRS employees, support was similarly strong, with 71% in agreement and 24% in disagreement.

Agreement levels remained consistent before and after the major incident declaration of the Langdale Moor Fire, indicating the event had no significant impact on overall sentiment.

Figure 3: Level of agreement with Automatic Fire Alarm attendance proposal

Strongly Agree	25%
Agree	44%
Neither agree nor disagree	10%
Disagree	12%
Strongly Disagree	9%
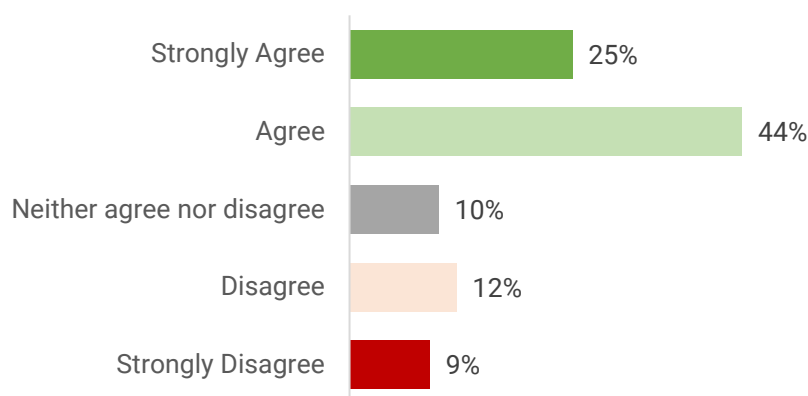
Number of people answering this question is 795

Subgroup analysis: There was little variation in opinion between age groups, gender subgroups, disability status and geographic location.

Concerns about AFA attendance proposal

People were asked to briefly explain why they disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal. The main reasons are summarised below.

1. Safety and Life Risk Considerations (around 40 comments)
   Concerns about potential risks to life, including lone workers, intruders, or nearby residents in neighbouring properties.

2. Risk to Property and Business Continuity (around 30 comments)
   Respondents worried about the financial and operational impact of fires on businesses, especially if alarms were ignored.

3. Policy Logic and Public Trust (around 30 comments)
   Some questioned the fairness and transparency of the proposed policy, fearing it could erode public confidence in fire services.

4. Confirmation Challenges and Response Delays (around 25 comments)
   There were concerns about how fires would be confirmed, especially at night, and the risk of escalation due to delayed response.

Selection of quotes from the consultation

"Sounds reasonable but consideration to dangers in neighbouring properties. Surely fires could take quite a big hold before anyone notices on empty premises risking spread to other buildings."

"If the premises are not occupied no one can confirm a fire or not. "

"Not all automatic fire alarms are false. If the fire service decides not to attend an AFA and it turns out to be a genuine fire, the fire could spread more rapidly. Occupants and building owners might lose trust in the effectiveness of fire alarm systems if they know the fire service won't respond automatically. If the fire service doesn't come, untrained staff might be expected to check and verify the cause of the alarm."

"Your policy of not responding no attendance at any time to AFAs at commercial premises where no one sleeps, unless a fire is confirmed, will put commercial premises at risk during the night."

5.2   Water Bowser Replacement (Proposal 2)

Proposal:
- Replace only the Boroughbridge bowser, saving an estimated £500,000 to reinvest in the Service.
- Tadcaster bowser will remain until end of operational life.
- With one bowser, expected average response time: 51 minutes 29 seconds, with 43.9% of incidents reached within 45 minutes.

Enhancements to Support Response:
- Technology: Use of special couplings, partnerships with farmers for water access, and off-road vehicles with portable equipment.
- Training: More wildfire advisors and updated specialist training.
- Digital Tools: Exploring drones and mapping for real-time fire tracking and water source identification.

Figure 4 below illustrates divided support for the water bowser proposal, with 46% of respondents in agreement and 37% expressing disagreement.

Among NYFRS employees, support was lower with 40% in agreement and disagreement was notably higher at 47%.

Support for the proposal declined significantly following the major incident declaration of the Langdale Moor Fire, dropping from 55% agreement pre-incident to 37% post-incident. Notably, the proportion of respondents who S*trongly Disagreed* almost tripled, rising to 33% after the incident.
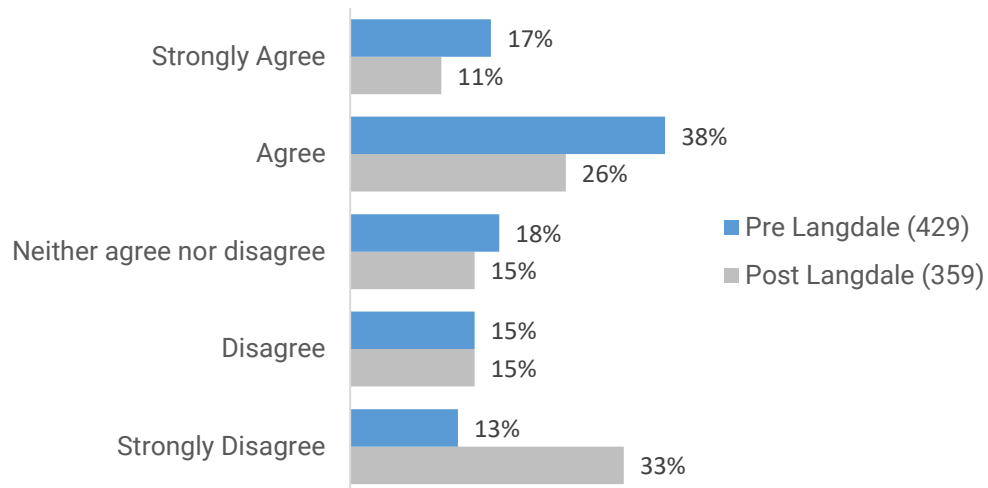
Figure 4: Level of agreement with water bowser proposal
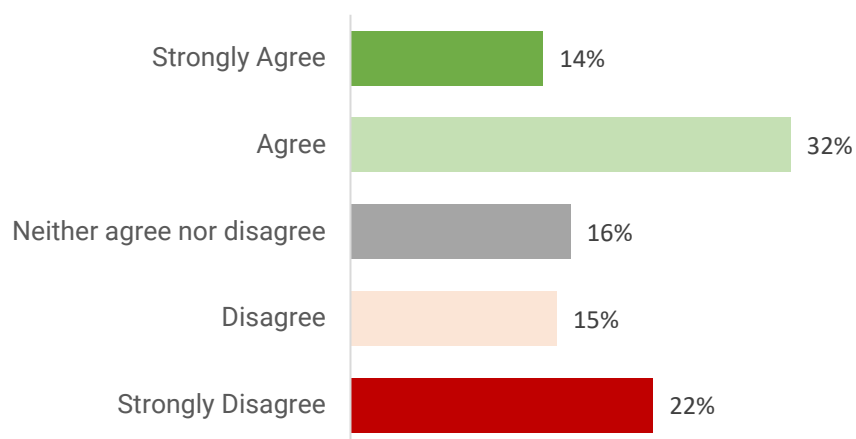
Number of people answering this question is 788

Subgroup analysis: Agreement levels were significantly lower in Ryedale (36%) and Scarborough (36%), likely reflecting the local impact of the Langdale Moor Fire. In contrast, there was little variation in support across gender, age groups, disability status, or between rural and urban areas.

Figure 5: Level of agreement with water bowser proposal – pre vs post Langdale Moor fire major incident declaration

	Pre Langdale (429)	Post Langdale (359)
Strongly Agree	17%	11%
Agree	38%	26%
Neither agree nor disagree	18%	15%
Disagree	15%	15%
Strongly Disagree	13%	33%

Number of people answering this question in brackets

Concerns about the water bowser proposal

Respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal were invited to briefly explain their reasons. The following five key themes emerged from the feedback. Many answers addressed multiple, interconnected issues within a single response.

1.   Geographic Coverage and Response Time (206 comments)
     Concerns that one water bowser would be insufficient to cover the large and rural geography of North Yorkshire. They highlighted the risk of delayed response times, especially in remote areas like the moors and dales.

2.   Operational Resilience and Backup (around 60 comments)
     People stressed that having two bowsers provides resilience in case one is unavailable due to maintenance, breakdown, or simultaneous incidents. There was concern about an overreliance on farmers.

3.   Public Confidence (around 60 comments)
     Respondents emphasised the symbolic and practical importance of bowsers in maintaining public safety and confidence. The Langdale Moor fire was frequently cited as evidence of their necessity. Some feared that removing bowsers would undermine trust in the fire service's ability to respond effectively.

4.   Increasing Risk of Wildfires (around 40 comments)
     Respondents argued that reducing the number of bowsers is short-sighted, given the increasing frequency and severity of such incidents resulting from climate change.

5.   Replacement Cost and Alternatives (around 30 comments)
     Many questioned the quoted cost of £500,000 for a replacement bowser, suggesting that cheaper or second-hand alternatives could be sourced. There were calls for greater transparency in how savings would be reinvested and whether the cost-benefit analysis was robust.

Selection of quotes from the consultation

"I am strongly against only replacing 1 water bowser for the county of North Yorkshire, we are a predominately rural county with vast areas of grass and woodland. Wildfires in these areas are becoming more and more frequent with our current climate. 1 water bowser covering one of the largest and most rural counties in our country seems dangerous to me. What happens when the 1 water bowser has a fault or needs a service? Also I am most certainly not a vehicle expert but half a million pounds for a truck with a water tank on seems like a lot of money."

"Given what has just happened with the moor Langdale fire and the risk associated with global warming I think it is needed. Alternatively is there a cheaper option available so as something like a tractor and trailer set up?"
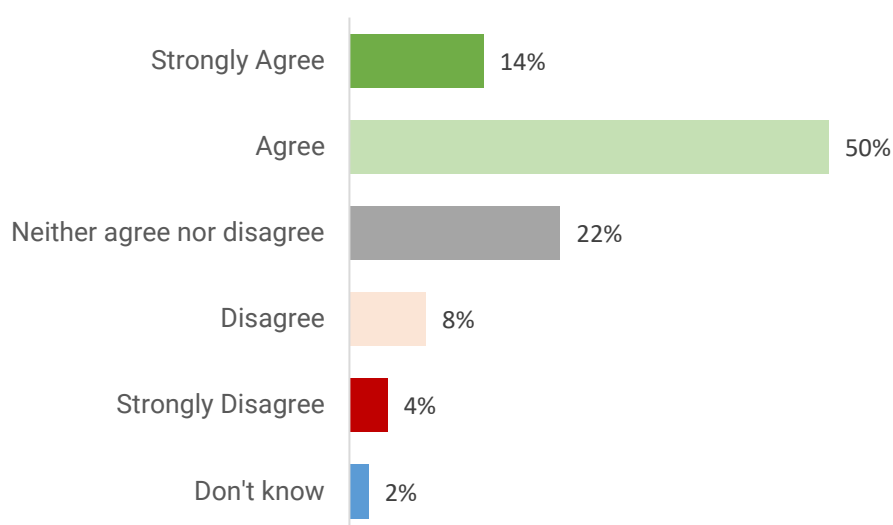
"Recent wildfire and the fact farmers have had to use water carrying bowsers demonstrate the requirement to maintain bowser capability"

"There has been incidents where we would struggle with only one bowser, having two allows more firefighters to work together simultaneously delivering more water."(Staff)

6.0   Community Risk Profile

A link to the new Community Risk Profile was provided as part of the consultation, outlining the key risks identified by NYFRS. Approximately two-thirds of respondents (65%) agreed that current and future risks had been accurately identified. Sentiment among NYFRS staff was closely aligned, with 66% expressing agreement.

Figure 6: To what extent do you agree we have accurately identified the current and future risks across York and North Yorkshire?

Response	Percentage
Strongly Agree	14%
Agree	50%
Neither agree nor disagree	22%
Disagree	8%
Strongly Disagree	4%
Don't know	2%

Number of people answering this question is 734

15

Subgroup analysis: There was little variation in opinion between age groups, gender subgroups, disability status and geographic location.

Risks/Concerns perceived as missing from the Community Risk Profile

Respondents were asked if there were any risks they felt hadn't been identified. The following areas were most commonly identified as missing:

1. Appliance availability and crewing levels
2. Staffing and recruitment issues
3. Resilience and preparedness – for large scale incidents

7.0   Accessibility of the Consultation

Respondents were also invited to comment on the accessibility and clarity of the consultation. Approximately three-quarters (76%) agreed it was both accessible and easy to understand, with NYFRS employees showing closely aligned sentiment at 78%.

Figure 7: To what extent do you agree that this consultation is accessible and easy to understand?
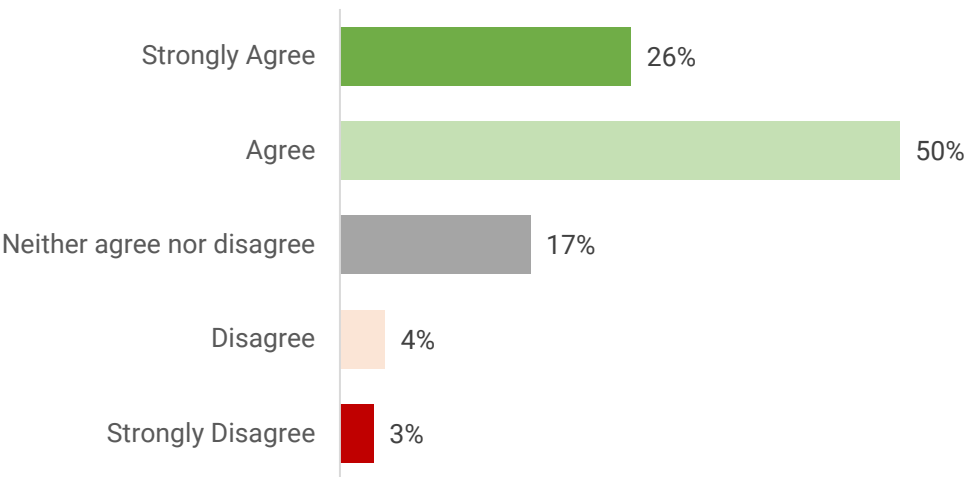
Number of people answering this question is 733

Subgroup analysis: There was little variation in opinion between age groups, gender subgroups, disability status and geographic location.

Fire & Rescue – Views on a New Community Risk Management Plan 2025–2029

Have Your Say on how we deliver fire and rescue services in York and North Yorkshire

David Skaith, Mayor for York and North Yorkshire, and Jonathan Dyson, Chief Fire Officer of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, want to hear from you.

We're developing our new Community Risk Management Plan (2025–2029)—a key document that outlines the risks facing our communities and how we plan to use our people and resources to keep you safe. From preventing to responding to emergencies, this plan shapes how we deliver vital services across York and North Yorkshire.

Before we finalise it, we're asking for your views—especially on the areas we plan to focus on and two changes we're proposing to how we use our resources.

☞ Tell us what you think and help shape the future of your fire and rescue service.

· The survey will take about 15 minutes to complete.
· The survey will close at 11.59pm on Sunday 7th September 2025.

Information should be accessible for all. If you require this information in a different language or format, please contact the Policing, Fire and Crime Team of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority at info@northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk or call us on 01423 569 562 to request a copy.

Our privacy notice about how we use and protect your data can be found here: www.northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk/your-information-rights/your-information-data-protection/how-we-use-the-information/survey-privacy-notice/

Q1. Which statement below best suits how you are answering this survey?

☐ I live in York or North Yorkshire

☐ I work in York or North Yorkshire but live elsewhere Neither agree nor disagree

☐ I am an employee of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

☐ On behalf of an organisation/business that operates in York or North Yorkshire

☐ On behalf of an organisation/business that operates outside of York or North Yorkshire

Q1b. Please provide the name of the organisation or business you represent.

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

We have written a consultation document to help you answer the questions. It includes details about who we are, our responsibilities and services, future proposals, and key areas of focus. You can read the consultation document here: www.northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/CRMP-Consultation-Document-Have-your-say.pdf

Proposal 1: Extend our policy on attendance at automatic fire alarms

Automatic fire alarms (AFAs) help to alert building occupants to possible fires, enabling people inside to evacuate. However, around 97% of AFA activations turn out to be false alarms, known as unwanted fire signals.

Responding to these false alarms consumes valuable time and resources, diverting crews from more critical incidents and prevention work. Fire and Rescue Authorities are not legally required to respond to AFA calls unless a fire is confirmed.

Under the current policy, the Service does not attend AFAs between 7am and 7pm at commercial premises where people do not sleep, unless a fire is confirmed.

Proposal
To extend this policy further:

- No attendance at any time to AFAs at commercial premises where no one sleeps, unless a fire is confirmed.

This change aims to improve efficiency and ensure resources are focused where they are most needed.

The Service will continue to:

- attend AFAs at specific high-risk premises
- attend all AFAs at premises where people sleep
- attend all AFAs at domestic properties
- attend any AFA actuations where a fire has been confirmed
- charge, in some circumstances, for repeat false alarms calls

Q2. To what extent do you agree with Proposal 1: to extend our policy for responding to automatic fire alarms: no attendance at any time to automatic fire alarms at commercial premises where no one sleeps, unless a fire has been confirmed (see pages 11-12 of the consultation document for further details)

☐ Strongly agree
☐ Agree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree
☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree

Q2b. To help us understand your response, could you briefly explain why you DISAGREE or STRONGLY DISGAREE with this proposal?

Proposal 2: Water bowser replacement

Current Provision: Two water bowsers are based at Boroughbridge and Tadcaster fire stations. Each holds up to 9,000 litres of water, plus an additional 8,000-litre dam, and supports firefighting in areas with limited water supply.

Usage Data (2018–2023):

- Attended 176 incidents (approx. 35 per year).
- 52.4% of responses arrive within 45 minutes.
- Average response time: 46 minutes 27 seconds.

Limitations:
- Long refill times after water is used.
- Difficult access to remote or off-road locations due to vehicle size.

Proposal:
- Replace only the Boroughbridge bowser, saving an estimated £500,000 to reinvest in the Service.
- Tadcaster bowser will remain until end of operational life.
- With one bowser, expected average response time: 51 minutes 29 seconds, with 43.9% of incidents reached within 45 minutes.

Enhancements to Support Response:
- Technology: Use of special couplings, partnerships with farmers for water access, and off-road vehicles with portable equipment.
- Training: More wildfire advisors and updated specialist training.
- Digital Tools: Exploring drones and mapping for real-time fire tracking and water source identification.
  We have a High-Volume Pump (HVP): National asset capable of delivering 8,000 litres/min from over a mile away, ideal for large-scale incidents. Once in place this can supply water from an open source continuously.

These improvements aim to enhance overall capability while maintaining effective response with a single water bowser.

Q3. To what extent do you agree with our Proposal 2: to replace one of the two water bowsers at Boroughbridge only (see pages 13-14 of the consultation document for further details)

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly Disagree

Q3b. To help us understand your response, could you briefly explain why you DISAGREE or STRONGLY DISGAREE with this proposal?

Areas of Focus

Q4. To what extent to do you agree that our other areas of focus are the right things for us to focus on over the next four years?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Prevention We will focus on strengthening partnerships with housing, social care, and health organisations to deliver data-driven fire safety interventions for the most vulnerable. We will continue to increase the number of Home Fire Safety Visits we undertake using insights and referrals to identify those most at risk. We will deliver early intervention and engagement initiatives collaborating with trusted partners where possible.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Protection We will focus on keeping people safe by inspecting the buildings identified within our risk-based inspection programme as most high-risk. We will continue to engage with local businesses to help them understand and reduce fire risks and fulfil their responsibilities under fire safety related legislation. Where required we will take enforcement action to protect the public. We will continue to deliver training for our operational staff to ensure them can effectively engage with our business communities.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Response We will make changes to make sure we respond to emergencies in the most efficient way reviewing staffing and crewing arrangements and improving how our teams are managed. We will also review technology in our Control room, improving how we learn	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

from incidents and exploring better ways to allocate our resources. These steps will help us respond more effectively and keep communities safe.

On-call

We will strengthen support for our On-call firefighters by making our Station Manager On-call role permanent, improving access to training and technology and investing in fitness equipment.

We will also explore new ways for smaller teams to support ongoing incidents and expand their role in community safety where needed.

These changes aim to ensure our On-call staff are well-equipped, well-trained and ready to respond effectively.

Resilience

We will make sure our staff are prepared for rare but serious incidents like terrorist attacks and high-rise fires, while also getting ready for new risks linked to climate change and emerging technologies.

We will work closely with partner agencies to keep communities safe and plan ahead to ensure we have the right people in place to lead this work in the future.

Operational preparedness

We will improve how we train and support our staff by closely monitoring performance and making sure everyone gets the training they need to stay skilled and effective.

We will upgrade our digital learning tools, developing a new system to track training progress and creating a clear training framework so all staff can easily access the right courses.

Collaboration

We will work more closely with North Yorkshire Police and other partners to improve how we respond to emergencies and keep communities safe. This includes

joint training, public safety campaigns, implementation of the Emergency Services Network (ESN) critical communications system, and shared support for staff wellbeing and mental health.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

People

We will improve staff wellbeing by reducing sickness absence, promoting healthy work-life balance and encouraging use of our wellbeing support services.

We'll also make sure staff get the support they need to grow in their careers, strengthening succession planning and improving performance reviews.

At the same time, we will reinforce clear health and safety standards to protect everyone in our organisation.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Culture and values

We are committed to creating a fair and inclusive workplace by training our leaders in equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), ensuring our policies are fair for everyone and acting on staff feedback.

We will improve how we gather and use workforce data to better understand and support our teams, especially those from underrepresented groups. Regular surveys and audits will help us track progress and make sure EDI is part of everything we do.

We will also review our workwear to ensure its suitability and best value.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Estates

We will work to extend the lifespan of our buildings by making smart, affordable improvements, with a focus on Northallerton, Malton, and Scarborough stations.

We will prioritise sustainable energy solutions and ensure the smooth handover of PFI buildings in Huntington and Easingwold.

Fleet

We will improve our fleet management by introducing telematics to better track and manage vehicles and replace older equipment to ensure efficiency. This includes reviewing the use of special appliances, replacing our oldest Aerial Ladder Platform and replacing our Incident Support Units with smaller, cost-effective vehicles.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Data, digital and technology

We will improve our financial management by moving to a centralised system, which will enhance transparency and collaboration.

We will also review our HR system to improve our processes.

Additionally, we're exploring how Artificial Intelligence can improve our operations using modern technology and best practice.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

5. To what extent do you agree we have accurately identified the current and future risks across York and North Yorkshire?

View our Community Risk Profile here: www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/25898_NYFRS_Community-Risk-Profile_25_5.pdf

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly Disagree

Q6. Are there any additional risks that you feel we haven't identified?

Q7. To what extent do you agree that this consultation is accessible and easy to understand?

☐ Strongly agree
☐ Agree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree
☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree

Q8. Do you have any further comments?

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ABOUT YOU

We have a duty to promote equality and ensure all parts of the community are included in this consultation, but the following questions are optional.

Which area do you live in?

☐ Craven
☐ Hambleton
☐ Harrogate
☐ Richmondshire
☐ Ryedale
☐ Scarborough
☐ Selby
☐ York

Would you class your address as Rural or Urban?

☐ Rural (Countryside)
☐ Urban (Town or City)

How would you describe your gender?

☐ Male
☐ Female
☐ Prefer to self-describe
☐ Prefer not to say

What is your age?

☐ Under 16
☐ 16-24
☐ 25-35
☐ 36-45
☐ 46-55
☐ 56-65
☐ 66-75
☐ 76-85
☐ Over 85

Do you consider yourself to have a disability or long-term health issue?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Prefer not to say

What is your ethnic group?

☐ Asian, Asian British
☐ Black, Black British, Caribbean or African
☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
☐ White
☐ Other ethnic group
☐ Prefer not to say