

York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority

Fire and Rescue Annual Report 2025–2026

NORTH YORKSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY | DAVID SKAITH MAYOR

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This report highlights progress against each of the six Fire and Rescue Plan 2025-2029 priorities during 2025-2026. It also meets the requirements of the Mayor's Fire and Rescue Declaration of assurance by confirming arrangements for the effective management of financial, governance and operational matters, as well as overall adherence to the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England and the NYFRS Community Risk Management Plan.

2025-2026 by the Numbers

£2.5 million
recovered from Government towards £2.6 million cost of responding to the Langdale/Fylingdales Moor wildfire

6 out of 11 inspection areas graded 'Good'
by HMICFRS in their last inspection of NYFRS

42% increase in Home Fire Safety Visits with **68%** of visits to high-risk households

£2 million
capital funding through Combined Authority to support the first fixed and average speed cameras

£165,000
earmarked to support vital road safety work of the York and North Yorkshire Partnership

80+ road safety partners
attended our first Northern Regional Road Safety Summit

76 victims of road collisions
supported by the Independent Road Victim Advocate Service

39 Active Travel projects funded
through launch of the Mayor's £4 million Active Travel Fund

£50,000 Government funding
secured to support high and medium rise building remediation work

70 Areas of Focus
identified within the ambitious new Community Risk Management Plan 2025-2029, shaped and supported by the public

Over 1,700 responses
received to the Mayor's first Community Survey to explore confidence in our emergency services

16 new fire engines
introduced into frontline service

10-year contract
secured for new breathing apparatus sets for all firefighters

35 new On-call firefighters
recruited into NYFRS

Mayor's Foreword



From David Skaith, Mayor of York and North Yorkshire

I am pleased to present the Fire and Rescue Annual Report for 2025–2026, which highlights the progress made in delivering the priorities set out in my Fire and Rescue Plan 2025-2029.

This has been a year marked by significant operational challenge, alongside meaningful progress across all six of my priorities. The Langdale/Fylingdales Moor wildfire in Summer 2025 was one of the largest and most complex wildfires recorded in England. I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to our firefighters, volunteers, staff, partners, local businesses, farmers and landowners who worked tirelessly over many weeks to protect communities, critical infrastructure and our natural environment. The scale of collaboration demonstrated throughout the response was truly exceptional.

We also made a compelling case to central government, securing Bellwin funding that ensured the vast majority of the £2.6 million cost of responding to this major incident was reimbursed. This support was vital in enabling North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (NYFRS) to meet the extraordinary demands of the wildfire while safeguarding financial resilience and continuing to deliver essential services to the public.

Over the past year, we have continued to strengthen the financial position of NYFRS, through improved efficiency and by ensuring public resources are used effectively to best reduce and mitigate the greatest risks in our region. I have continued to advocate strongly for a fairer national funding settlement that reflects the demands placed on our fire and rescue service and supports its long-term sustainability.

There have been a number of important milestones. In June, NYFRS received a positive inspection report from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), recognising improvement across all areas. In December, I approved the new Community Risk Management Plan for 2025–2029, following extensive consultation and scrutiny. This sets out how NYFRS will use its resources to reduce and mitigate risk across our region while delivering against my Fire and Rescue Plan. From 1 April 2026, I secured sustainable funding for the York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership, providing certainty for the continued delivery of effective road safety programmes and interventions across the region.

I am encouraged by the progress made and the strong foundations now in place. I remain committed to working closely with my Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime, the Chief Fire Officer, our partners and our communities to deliver on my principles: placing the minimum possible burden on taxpayers, ensuring effective and well-managed public services that keep people safe and deliver value for money, and responding to local priorities.

Together, we will continue to ensure that York and North Yorkshire is served by a fire and rescue service that is effective, efficient and responsive, supporting our shared vision of a safe place for all.

David Skaith

Mayor of York and North Yorkshire

Foreword from Jo Coles, Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime



There have been some incredible achievements for fire, rescue and community safety across York and North Yorkshire over the last year. Once again I would like to express my gratitude to everyone involved in the response to the Langdale/Fylingdales Moor wildfire. It was a truly devastating incident but everyone involved demonstrated outstanding commitment, resilience and teamwork in protecting our communities. Over recent months I've met with as many firefighting teams and partners as possible across the county to thank them in person for their efforts.

A core part of my role is to hold the fire and rescue service to account for delivering of the Mayor's Fire and Rescue Plan. In the last year, this has included robust scrutiny of performance across prevention, protection and response and ensuring that resources are being targeted as effectively as possible to those most at risk.

The year has also seen continued progress in prevention and protection. Home Fire Safety Visits increased by 42%, with more than two-thirds of those visits reaching people at greatest risk. I've sought additional assurance that rural areas are properly risk assessed, particularly where response time in the event of a fire would be unavoidably longer. The service has strengthened their approach to building safety and secured additional Government funding for remediation work.

Road safety remains a key priority for the Mayor and I and we continue to work closely with partners both within the Combined Authority and across the Road Safety Partnership to deliver progress and improvements to achieve Vision Zero, a future where no one is killed or seriously injured on our roads.

Following significant precept increases over the last two years, investment has remained a priority too. It's been great to see sixteen new fire engines entering frontline service, a long-term contract secured for new breathing apparatus as well as 35 new On-call firefighters who have joined the service. I'm also continuing to push for progress on our capital programme after decades of underinvestment in the fire estate.

Earlier this year the service launched an ambitious Community Risk Management Plan, shaped by extensive public engagement and setting a clear direction for the years ahead.

There's always more to do, but these improvements help ensure our firefighters have the skills, equipment and support they need to keep communities safe. A huge thanks again to every member of the Fire and Rescue Service, their family members for the support they provide and to all our partners for their support, dedication and commitment that helps to keep our county safe.

Jo Coles
Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime

The Langdale/Fylingdales Moor Fire

Before detailing the progress delivered over the past 12 months, it is right to reflect on the Langdale/Fylingdales Moor wildfire last summer - an incident of significant scale, complexity and duration that required a sustained, coordinated multi-agency response.



Incident Overview

In the summer of 2025, North Yorkshire experienced one of the largest and most complex wildfires recorded in England, affecting approximately 25 square kilometres of moorland and forestry across Langdale/Fylingdales Moor.

The incident occurred against a backdrop of exceptional weather conditions. Spring 2025 was the warmest and sunniest on record, followed by the hottest summer, resulting in prolonged drought, critically low fuel moisture levels, and a county-wide hosepipe ban from 11 July. Combined with strong and variable winds, these conditions enabled fire to spread rapidly.

The fire was first reported on 26 June 2025 in a remote, difficult to access location. and developed with unprecedented speed due to the climatic, environmental and geographic conditions. The incident was further complicated by the presence of unexploded ordnance from historical military use of the land. Heat from the fire caused ordnance to detonate, requiring a shift to defensive firefighting tactics to protect responder safety. The scale, duration and remote nature of the incident also created significant challenges in relation to access and water supply.

A major incident was declared on 13 August following a significant escalation in risk to critical national infrastructure, including RAF Fylingdales. At its peak, the response involved significant local, regional and national resources, including specialist wildfire assets and capabilities and over 30 partner agencies. Communities, farmers, landowners, gamekeepers, contractors and Local Resilience Forum partners all played a vital role in supporting the response to the incident.

NYFRS led a sustained multi-agency response over several months. There was no loss of life or serious injury, and critical infrastructure, including RAF Fylingdales, was successfully protected alongside homes and other key assets. The incident nevertheless had significant environmental, economic and community impacts, with damage to moorland habitats, wildlife, farmland and local livelihoods. Recovery work remains ongoing.

Following extended monitoring and assurance activity, the incident was formally closed on 23 December 2025, marking the conclusion of NYFRS's command, control and coordination of the incident. Despite the scale of the incident, NYFRS continued to deliver core services, responding to 453 additional incidents across the region, supported by regional mutual aid from neighbouring fire and rescue services.

Learning and Recovery

On 26 February 2026, NYFRS published the findings of its fire investigation. Following extensive enquiries, the most likely cause of the wildfire was identified as cooking using a naked flame, such as a campfire or gas burner.

On 18 June 2026, NYFRS published its evidence-based operational debrief, drawing on operational records, partner feedback and structured learning reviews. It highlights what worked well, but also where improvements can be made, so NYFRS can continue to strengthen how it prepares for and responds to incidents of this scale.

The report highlighted a number of strengths, including:

- effective collaboration between more than 30 organisations
- successful protection of communities, homes and infrastructure
- clear command structures and effective use of specialist wildfire expertise
- high levels of commitment and professionalism from firefighters, staff and partner agencies throughout a prolonged incident

The report also identified opportunities to further strengthen resilience by:

- enhancing wildfire pre-planning and risk information sharing
- strengthening arrangements for prolonged and complex incidents
- expanding welfare, logistical and support arrangements for staff deployed over extended periods

In response, NYFRS is strengthening its wildfire capability through increased specialist wildfire capacity, enhanced equipment, vehicles and protective clothing, and formal partnership arrangements to support future major incident responses.

The response to the incident generated costs of £2.6 million, of which £2.5 million was successfully recovered through the Government's Bellwin Scheme following representations and a robust funding application.

Scrutiny, Assurance and Public Accountability

From a Fire and Rescue Service perspective, this incident has already been subject to extensive governance, scrutiny and assurance activity. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor sought assurance directly from NYFRS regarding operational response, strategic decision-making and emerging learning. The Service's debrief findings and recommendations have also been presented and scrutinised through established governance arrangements, providing a robust level of oversight and accountability in relation to the incident and the actions arising from it.

Key assurance and accountability activity has included:

- Regular briefings and assurance meetings between the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and the Chief Fire Officer and strategic leadership team
- Mayor and Deputy Mayor site visits during response and recovery phase
- Mayor and Deputy Mayor meetings with Fire Brigade Union representatives
- Several representations to central government in relation to financial support, wildfire resilience and recovery

And more specifically:

- 18 September 2025: special Online Public Meeting to brief the public on the ongoing incident and response Online Public Meeting - Major Incident Update
- 26 February 2026: NYFRS published likely cause of fire
- 18 June 2026:
    - NYFRS published and presented the headline findings from their operational debrief at the Deputy Mayor's Online Public Meeting Incident Debrief - NYFRS
    - NYFRS published the Fire Investigation Report Fire Investigation Report - NYFRS
    - The North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum has also produced a multi-agency debrief into how partners worked together in response to North Yorkshire's worst wildfire NYLRF Debrief - North Yorkshire Council
    - The Mayor and Deputy Mayor published an open letter to the Local Resilience Forum in response to this debrief document, to help strengthen future democratic accountability, strategic coordination and long-term wildfire resilience planning Response to the NYLRF debrief into the Fylingdales Moor wildfire .

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor issued open letters of thanks during the major incident, acknowledging not only those directly involved in firefighting operations but also the wider community response.



Vision and Priorities for York and North Yorkshire

Plan on a Page

Vision

York and North Yorkshire are safe places for all.

Priorities

1. **Targeted Prevention**
   Deliver targeted prevention activities to keep people in York and North Yorkshire safe from fires, road traffic collisions, water hazards and other emergencies.
2. **Protected Built Environment**
   Provide targeted support and advice to protect people and properties from fires through safer buildings in York and North Yorkshire.
3. **Effective Emergency Response**
   Provide an effective response to incidents across York and North Yorkshire, as quickly as possible.
4. **Stronger Communities**
   Prepare for major disruptions, working in collaboration with our partners to support communities across York and North Yorkshire to effectively prepare for and recover from emergencies.
5. **Supported, Safe and Skilled Staff**
   Foster a culture of excellence and belonging in North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

   Invest in training, safety and welfare to maintain a skilled and resilient Workforce.
6. **Financial Stability**
   Ensure the long-term financial sustainability of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and be transparent in our spending.

Objectives and Measures

Specific objectives and expected measures have been set for each of the six priorities.

Delivery

The Fire and Rescue Plan sets out those areas I will be expecting the Chief Fire Officer to deliver over the coming years though his Community Risk Management Plan, as well as identifying work for the Policing, Fire and Crime function of the Combined Authority with other agencies such as Local Authorities.

Assuring Progress

We will measure progress through the assurance and scrutiny activities outlined in the Policing, Fire and Crime Assurance Framework. If progress against the priorities is not being achieved, we will intervene quickly to support improvement.

Introduction – A Year of Delivery

2025–2026 saw record prevention activity, a multi-agency response to a major wildfire, improved emergency response capability, stronger inspection outcomes, investment in people and assets, and a more sustainable financial position for North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Highlights from the year include:

- Improving financial resilience of NYFRS, avoiding borrowing for the capital programme, enabling the move from 'Save to Survive' to 'Save to Invest and Improve'.
- Enabling significant and sustainable road safety investment in the York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership.
- Securing funding for the introduction of the region's first fixed and average speed cameras.
- Responding to, investigating and identifying learning from the Langdale/Fylingdales Moor major fire.
- Increasing the number and targeting of Home Fire Safety Visits.
- Convening building safety partners to implement our Local Remediation Acceleration Plan for high- and medium-rise buildings.
- Publicly consulting on and scrutinising the proposals for inclusion in a new NYFRS Community Risk Management Plan 2025-2029.
- Launching the Mayor's first Community Survey which found high levels of public trust and confidence in NYFRS.
- Achieving average fire engine attendance times targets.
- Strengthening operational resilience through delivery of new fire engines and increased control room staffing.
- Increasing availability and capability of Harrogate's second fire engine while delivering annual savings.
- Securing significant HMICFRS improvement in gradings.
- Strengthening the workforce through effective recruitment.

Most importantly, this work is making a difference to the people who live, work and visit York and North Yorkshire.



Annual Progress Update Against Priorities 2025-2026



Priority 1: Targeted Prevention

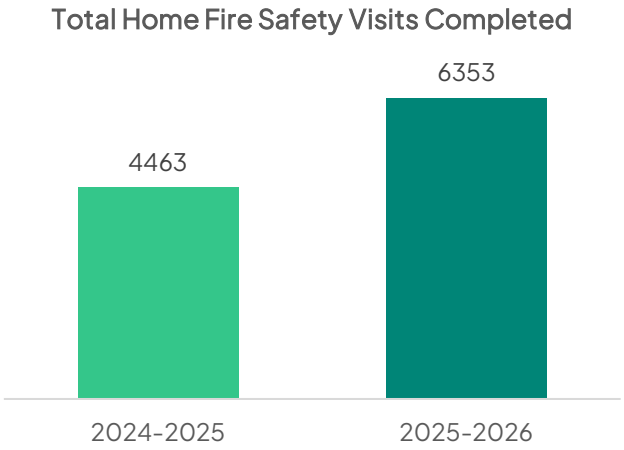
Summary of progress

During 2025–2026, prevention remained at the heart of service delivery, with a strong focus on identifying and supporting those most at risk from fire, road and water related emergencies. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor championed a renewed focus on road safety, securing sustainable funding for the York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership, supporting investment in new speed enforcement technology, engaging with the public and bringing partners together to drive forward the Vision Zero ambition.

How this has been achieved

Delivering on prevention with a 42% increase in Home Fire Safety Visits

Over the last year, NYFRS **completed 6,353 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs), exceeding its target of 5,500**. This represents a 42% increase in visits compared to the year before. NYFRS also **improved its focus on those most at risk.** Visits to *High*- and *Very High*-risk households increased by 31%, with more than two-thirds (68%) of all Home Fire Safety Visits delivered to these households. This demonstrates the effective use of data to target prevention activity where it is needed most.



Prevention work in rural communities, where emergency response times can be longer, is a priority. Specialist prevention staff continued to focus on these areas, supported by On-call firefighters who have been trained and have the capacity to carry out visits within their local communities.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Community Survey[1]: almost nine in ten respondents (89%) who expressed a view, agreed that '*NYFRS targets home fire safety visits to the most vulnerable.*'

[1] Mayor's online Community Survey, carried out between February and April 2026, to gather public views on services provided by North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and North Yorkshire Police, including levels of trust and confidence. The survey received over 1,700 responses.

Using a data led approach to target prevention

Partnership referrals for HFSVs increased by 30% to 2,345 in 2025–2026. These referrals play a vital role in identifying high-risk residents within our communities for targeted interventions, with 90% assessed as *High* or *Very High* risk.

Last year, NYFRS introduced a **new data-led approach to HFSVs**. Using a range of data sources to generate targeted address lists, firefighters can proactively focus on areas and households where residents may be more vulnerable to serious injury or death in the event of a fire. This includes factors such as health, lifestyle, home environment and an individual's ability to respond to and escape from a fire.

Beyond just fires, the **new Community Risk Profile**, refreshed in 2025, available to read here, NYFRS Community Risk Profile 2025 , sets out all foreseeable risks, highlighting **dwelling fires, road risk, fires affecting businesses, and climate-related risks** such as flooding and wildfires.

It brings together a wide range of data sources and intelligence to provide a comprehensive, evidence-based assessment of risk including:

- Incident and demographic data
- Vulnerability and safeguarding indicators
- Geographic and rurality factors (including response time impacts)

This has enabled a targeted approach**, prioritising higher risk households, individuals, and premises, as well as specific locations** such as particular stretches of road or waterways to reach those most at risk at the earliest opportunity, reducing the likelihood of requiring an emergency response.

The most recent inspection HMICFRS published in June 2025, recognised significant improvements in how NYFRS understands and prevents risk. The Service was **graded *Good*** at '*understanding risk* and *preventing fires and other risks*'.

Raising awareness of new and emerging risks

NYFRS continued to **raise awareness of the growing fire risks** associated with lithium-ion batteries used in e-bikes, e-scooters and other devices using National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) guidance and the *Charge Safe* campaign to promote safe purchasing, charging, storage and disposal practices, helping to reduce the risk of battery fires, toxic smoke and rapid fire spread.

During the year, NYFRS **incorporated lithium-ion battery safety advice into Home Fire Safety Visits**, delivered targeted social media campaigns and promoted key safety messages ahead of the Christmas period. The Service has also developed **specialist training** for operational crews to respond safely and effectively to electric vehicle and battery-related fires.

Welcoming investment in flood defence and alleviation

NYFRS worked closely with our partners in the North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum to plan for and carry out **training exercises for major flooding events**. Flooding continues to be one of the highest-rated risks on the North Yorkshire Community Risk Register.

In April 2025, the Mayor publicly welcomed and promoted **£9.7 million of Government funding for flood defence and alleviation schemes** across York and North Yorkshire, supporting projects including the Tadcaster Flood Alleviation Scheme, Clifton Ings in York, sea wall improvements at Scarborough's North Bay, schemes in Malton, Norton, Kirkbymoorside, and Stokesley, and nature-based interventions such as re-wetting the Great North Bog in the Dales and North York Moors.

Fire Safety

In response to an increase in **deliberate fire-setting** incidents during 2025-2026 involving young people in **York**, NYFRS worked with North Yorkshire Police (NYP), local schools, charitable organisations and youth workers through ***Operation Fire-Safe***. The initiative combined education, prevention and enforcement activity, with targeted interventions delivered in schools and communities, increased police patrols in affected areas, and referrals to the **FireSafe**[2] programme for young people. The Deputy Mayor has advocated for closer collaboration between NYFRS and NYP around anti-social behaviour and arson including the introduction of **joint reporting** process to help identify those responsible and reduce repeat incidents.

Road Safety

Renewing our focus

Creating safe communities for everyone is a central priority for the Mayor, and improving road safety is a vital part of that ambition. The Mayor's Police and Crime Plan and Fire and Rescue Plan 2025–2029 both reflect strong public support for a **renewed focus** on road safety, aligned with the **Vision Zero ambition** that no death on our roads is acceptable. This focus was reinforced nationally in January 2026 through the publication of the Department for Transport's **first National Road Safety Strategy in over a decade**, responding to a period of stagnation in road safety outcomes. The Deputy Mayor welcomed the proposed reforms and strongly supports the translation of national ambitions into local action through the development of a new York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Strategy in 2026.



This approach is strongly backed by local residents, with over 85% of respondents to the Mayor's Community Survey supporting the adoption of national targets at a local level.

Too many lives continue to be lost or permanently changed on our roads. In 2024, there were 407 collisions across York and North Yorkshire, resulting in 26 fatalities and 435 serious injuries. Early indications suggest that fatalities increased further in 2025, reinforcing the urgency of this issue. These figures underline the need for sustained, coordinated action across prevention, enforcement and partnership working.

[2] The **FireSafe programme** is a free, educational intervention scheme run by the NYFRS for children and young people (under 17) who have shown a tendency to play with fire or exhibit fire-setting behaviours. To make a referral to FireSafe, visit FireSafe Referral - North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service

Supporting the York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership (YNYRSP)

From 1 April 2026, the **Mayor secured sustainable funding** for the York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership, enabling it to maintain and expand prevention and intervention activity and strengthen its governance. This has been complemented by maximising the opportunities provided through the Combined Authority, including investment in road safety through the Local Transport Grant with £2m capital funding earmarked for the **introduction of the first fixed and average speed cameras** in York and North Yorkshire. These measures support a more joined-up enforcement approach, alongside existing mobile camera operations, to reduce speed and prevent serious collisions.

The Road Safety Partnership has also continued to strengthen its evidence-led approach. North Yorkshire Police's Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment informs when, where and why collisions are most likely to occur, and identifies groups most at risk. This intelligence underpins **seasonal deployment plans** to shape wider prevention, enforcement and education activity across the region.

In summer 2025, an independent road safety **governance peer review** by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Vision Zero team identified opportunities to strengthen delivery, partnership engagement and accountability. In response, work is underway to **enhance the Road Safety Partnership's governance arrangements**, including the introduction of a new Road Safety Scrutiny and Oversight Board chaired by the Deputy Mayor. The Board will bring together local authority Executive Members responsible for transport, alongside road safety leads from key partner organisations, providing robust challenge, accountability and oversight to support effective delivery of the Partnership's strategy.

The establishment of the Combined Authority has created new opportunities to bring partners together. The Deputy Mayor has convened **regular meetings with road safety executive members from both local authorities** to develop a shared understanding of road safety issues and priorities across North Yorkshire and the City of York. The first meeting took place in January 2026; they are scheduled to take place regularly throughout 2026/27.



Increasing road safety engagement

In February 2026, more than 80 partners came together at the first **Northern Regional Road Safety Summit**, hosted in Northallerton by the Road Safety Partnership. The event provided a valuable forum to share learning, build relationships and reinforce a collective commitment to reducing road harm on our roads.

Community engagement continued to play a key role in shaping road safety activity. The **Mayor and Deputy Mayor launched their first ever road safety month in July** 2025 which included a dedicated Online Public Meeting, targeted engagement surgeries and joining forces with the Road Safety Partnership, NYP and NYFRS at the Great Yorkshire Show, showcasing how partners work together to keep York and North Yorkshire safe, including on our roads. Road safety month will become an **annual event** each July, providing a regular platform to raise awareness, engage communities and support the Vision Zero ambition.

Investing in Active Travel



The first **Active Travel Commissioner** for York and North Yorkshire was appointed in October 2025 to oversee delivery of the Mayor's £4 million Active Travel Fund. The programme supports projects that encourage walking, wheeling and cycling, **with 39 schemes now funded**, promoting healthier lifestyles while contributing to safer road environments. The funded projects can be found here: Mayor's Active Travel Fund - Funded Projects

Supporting more victims of road traffic collisions

The **Independent Road Victim Advocate Service**, commissioned by the Deputy Mayor, provides tailored support to victims of road traffic incidents, including those affected by a bereavement or serious injury. In 2025–2026, the service received **76 referrals**, including:

- 54 relating to a road death
- 15 relating to a serious injury
- 4 involving both a fatality and serious injury
- 2 involving witnesses to a road death
- 1 involving a driver under investigation

This service ensures that those affected receive compassionate, practical support at some of the most difficult times in their lives.

In June 2026, the Deputy Mayor attended Brake's national ***After the Crash*** **Conference in Manchester**. The event brought together road safety professionals from across the country to share best practice in supporting those affected by road collisions and featured a range of insightful and thought-provoking discussions on road victim care.

Water Safety

Increasing engagement and education



Climate-related incidents such as flooding are reflected as key risks and ***Areas of Focus*** **in the NYFRS** Community Risk Management Plan 2025–2029. The Service has increased engagement activity in response to emerging incident trends and environmental risk data, including risks associated with waterways.

The Prevention Team continues to make effective use of **water safety flumes and video presentations in schools** and other educational settings. This equipment can simulate different water hazards to demonstrate hydraulics and dangers near weirs, waterfalls, and other environments. Engagement activity primarily takes place during the summer months when water-related risk is highest.

Improving water safety equipment

NYFRS procured improved safety equipment for the banks of the **River Ouse** including passcode **throw lines and longer (17 metre) reach poles**. These can be used both by responding agencies and members of the public, by utilising a passcode from NYFRS Fire Control. The equipment was fitted in

summer months of 2025. Work to improve water safety across the county is ongoing and is reviewed every year to ensure we do everything we can to improve water safety in our area.

World Drowning Prevention Day

On 25 July 2025, emergency services and rescue organisations/charities came together in York to mark World Drowning Prevention Day, **raising awareness of water safety** and the importance of drowning prevention.

NYFRS, York Rescue Boat and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) joined forces to educate the public and promote lifesaving messages. Activities included:

- Throw line demonstrations by York Rescue Boat volunteers
- Water flume demonstrations by NYFRS
- RNLI "Float to Live" campaign materials and advice

Future scrutiny

Water safety was requested by the Deputy Mayor to be the subject of the assurance presentation at the NYFRS Online Public Meeting in June 2026.



93% of those who expressed an opinion agreed that 'NYFRS provides advice to help prevent fires, road collisions, water and climate-related events'.

The difference made

- 6,353 Home Fire Safety Visits completed – a 42% increase on the previous year.
- 68% of visits targeted to high-risk households, with visits to these groups increasing by 31%.
- 2,345 partner referrals received, a 30% increase, with 90% assessed as high risk.
- 'Good' HMICFRS grading for '*understanding risk and preventing fires and other risks*'.
- £9.7 million Government funding supported flood defence and alleviation projects across the region.
- £165k funding provided to the York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership.
- £2 million capital investment secured for the region's first fixed and average speed cameras.
- 80+ organisations engaged through the first Northern Regional Road Safety Summit.
- 39 Active Travel projects funded through the Mayor's £4 million Active Travel Fund.
- 76 victims of road traffic collisions supported through the Independent Road Victim Advocate Service.
- Enhanced water safety equipment installed along the River Ouse.
- About nine out of 10 respondents agreed NYFRS '*targets home fire safety activity to the most vulnerable*' and '*provides advice to help prevent fires, road collisions, water-related and climate-related emergencies*'.



Priority 2: Protected Built Environment

Summary of progress

During 2025–2026, fire safety activity became increasingly targeted and risk-based, focusing resources on the buildings where the likelihood and/or consequences of fire could be greatest. Improved inspection programmes, stronger engagement with businesses and developers, proportionate enforcement action, and continued implementation of Grenfell Inquiry recommendations have strengthened protection arrangements and helped make buildings safer across York and North Yorkshire.

How this has been achieved

Targeting buildings most at risk

NYFRS Protection staff help keep people safe by working with businesses and building owners to make sure fire safety standards are met. They provide advice, guidance and, where necessary, take enforcement action. The Service has introduced a **24/7 specialist Protection Officer response** to support operational crews and the public when fire safety issues arise outside normal working hours.

Protection activity is guided by a **new Risk Based Intervention Programme** (RBIP), implemented from 1 April 2025, which uses risk, data and intelligence to focus resources on the highest-risk premises and those where the impact of a fire could be most serious. All known **high-risk premises are inspected by specialist staff at least once every three years**, and a quality assurance process helps ensure inspections are carried out consistently and to a high standard.

The number of **fire safety checks also increased** significantly following the introduction of the Level 2 Fire Safety Check framework. This allows trained operational managers and crews to carry out checks in lower-risk premises, increasing the Service's overall capacity while enabling specialist Protection Officers to focus on more complex and higher-risk fire safety work.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Fire safety activity is perceived as being well targeted by those who expressed a view, with 93% agreeing that 'NYFRS focuses its fire safety work on the buildings posing the greatest risk'.

Addressing non-compliance with fire safety

During 2025/26, NYFRS did not need to undertake any prosecutions in relation to fire safety non-compliance. Enforcement activity was managed through a **proportionate and risk-based approach** aligned to national guidance, with the Protection team issuing **22 formal notices** to secure compliance where required.

Influencing fire safety in through planning and development

Statutory and non-statutory consultations increased, with responses to building and licensing consultations within required timeframes. Business engagement activity has also strengthened, including increased guidance and advice to responsible persons, continued support through Primary Authority arrangements, and enhanced follow-up where unwanted fire signals indicate the need for improved compliance and risk management.

Lithium-ion batteries present a particular challenge for firefighting and are becoming increasingly common, whether in transport (such as cars and scooters) or for large-scale energy storage within the National Grid. NYFRS shares nationally agreed NFCC guidance with developers but is **not a statutory consultee** in the planning of these sites. The Service **ensures it is aware of site locations** and that appropriate guidance is provided and that training and equipment are in place to respond to incidents. NYFRS has a **dedicated webpage** which provides advice to developers concerning Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and can be read here Battery Energy Storage Systems - NYFRS[3].

Responding to the Grenfell Inquiry recommendations

Our **Local Remediation Acceleration Plan** (LRAP) explains how organisations across York and North Yorkshire are working together to make buildings safer following the Grenfell Tower fire. It focuses on identifying buildings that may be at risk, planning and prioritising necessary safety improvements, and ensuring this work is delivered as quickly as possible. The plan has been developed jointly by the Combined Authority, NYFRS and local authorities and submitted to government. £50k funding from government has been used by NYFRS to increase capacity within its Protection team by appointing a Fire Safety Advisor (Level 4 qualified). This fixed-term post ran from July 2025 to June 2026 to support local remediation delivery. To date, locally, **no high rise nor medium rise building in York or North Yorkshire has been identified as having unsafe cladding**. Our LRAP can be read here: Local Remediation Acceleration Plan

The difference made

- Risk-based inspection programme introduced, targeting the highest-risk premises
- 24/7 specialist Protection Officer response established to provide fire safety support outside normal working hours.
- 93% of Community Survey respondents agreed that NYFRS *focuses its fire safety activity on the buildings posing the greatest risk*.
- 22 formal enforcement notices issued to address fire safety non-compliance and improve building safety.
- Increased fire safety checks delivered through the new Level 2 Fire Safety Check framework, expanding protection capacity.
- 100% of building and licensing consultations responded to within required timescales.
- Enhanced fire safety guidance provided to businesses, developers and responsible persons, including guidance on Battery Energy Storage Systems.
- £50,000 Government funding secured to strengthen protection capacity and support building remediation work.

[3] https://www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/business-safety/battery-energy-storage-systems/

- Local Remediation Acceleration Plan being delivered with partners to accelerate building safety improvements following Grenfell.

  No high-rise or medium-rise residential buildings identified with unsafe cladding across York and North Yorkshire.



Priority 3: Effective Emergency Response

Summary of progress

During 2025–2026, significant progress was made to ensure emergency response arrangements remain aligned to the risks facing York and North Yorkshire. A new Community Risk Management Plan 2025–2029 was developed following extensive consultation and engagement. Emergency response capability was strengthened through investment in frontline resources. Response standards over the year continued to be achieved, despite the demands of the prolonged Langdale/Fylingdales Moor wildfire.

How this has been achieved

Developing a new Community Risk Management Plan 2025-2029



In June 2025, NYFRS published an **updated Community Risk Profile**, identifying accidental dwelling fires, road traffic collisions, business fires and climate-related incidents such as flooding and wildfires as the Service's priority risks.

Using this risk information, a **new Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2025–2029** has been developed. The CRMP is the Service's strategic plan for managing risk and ensuring resources are used effectively to keep people safe. The CRMP sets out more than 70 Areas of Focus designed to help NYFRS respond to changing community needs and risks across key functions, covering prevention, protection, response, resilience, people, estates, fleet, and digital capabilities. It supports delivery of the Mayor's Fire and Rescue Plan 2025–2029 and is developed by the Chief Fire Officer on behalf of the Mayor.

Extensive engagement with residents, businesses, partners and staff helped shape the new CRMP. An eight-week public consultation ran from 7 July to 7 September 2025, seeking views on the proposed Areas of Focus and the two proposed changes to service delivery:

1. extending current arrangements of not attending fire alarm actuations at commercial premises without a sleeping risk to 24 hours
2. replacing one of the two water bowsers

The consultation received **over 800 responses** and showed **strong support** for the proposed direction of travel for the Service. Analysis also considered whether public views changed following the declaration of the Langdale/Fylingdales Moor fire as a major incident on 13 August 2025.

Scrutiny by the Deputy Mayor resulted in the provision of additional assurances, including on how to ensure sufficient water provision for major incidents or wildfires and around the support needed for businesses in rural areas who may be affected by the change to the automatic fire alarm attendance policy. The **Mayor approved** the Community Risk Management Plan 2025–2029 in December 2025. His Decision Notice can be read here: Decision - Approval of the new NYFRS CRMP 2025-2029

The final Community Risk Profile and CRMP 2025–2029 are both available on the NYFRS website: Plans and Reports - North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service



Whilst most respondents said they did not know, among those expressing a view, 93% agreed that 'NYFRS is taking action to reduce unwanted fire alarm call-outs'.

Monitoring emergency response times

Fire engine response times to emergencies are **regularly monitored** through the Service's performance framework and at the Deputy Mayor's Online Public Meetings, ensuring transparency and public accountability. Since introducing response standards (targets) in 2024, both standards have been achieved. Average response times increased over during the Langdale/Fylingdales Moor fire due to the significant demand on our fire engines.

Response Standard	Target average attendance time	2024-2025	2025-2026
Attendance to all incidents	13 minutes	11m 48s	12m 15s
Attendance to dwelling fires	11 minutes	10m 21s	10m 52s

The rural nature of York and North Yorkshire means travel distances can impact attendance times in some communities. The Deputy Mayor has therefore sought assurance that prevention activity remains targeted towards higher-risk rural areas and that work continues to improve the availability of On-call fire engines.



Public confidence in the Service is high, with 96% of respondents who expressed an opinion, agreeing that NYFRS 'can be relied upon when needed'.

Changing resourcing at Harrogate Fire Station

Following public consultation on the Risk and Resource Model in 2022, **revised crewing arrangements** were introduced at Harrogate Fire Station on 1 July 2025. The Deputy Mayor approved an alternative to the original proposal, ensuring that the station's second standard fire engine would remain available during the day and **continue to provide overnight cover** through an On-call alerter system. The station's first fire engine would continue to provide 24/7 cover.

By amending the original proposal which was for daytime-only availability, this decision would strengthen operational resilience and improve emergency response. The Deputy Mayor's Decision Notice can be viewed here: DN 07 - Risk and Resource Model Update: Harrogate Fire Station

A six-month review has found that the new arrangements are **delivering clear benefits**. The availability of the second fire engine has increased significantly from 74% to 97%. The changes have **enhanced fire cover**, while generating annual **savings of approximately £120,000**.

New fire engines delivered

During 2025–2026, NYFRS brought **sixteen new B-Type fire appliances** into operational service as part of its planned fleet replacement programme. These appliances incorporate modern design features aimed at improving firefighter safety, operational performance and long-term resilience. The appliances have been developed around a **clean-cab concept**, supporting the Service's commitment to reducing firefighter exposure to contaminants. The introduction of these new appliances improves fleet availability, reduces maintenance demands associated with ageing vehicles, and ensures that frontline response capability remains aligned to risk.

Increasing Control Room staffing arrangements

Major incidents in the UK, such as the Grenfell Tower fire, have highlighted the need for **increased staffing levels in Fire Control**. In 2025, NYFRS introduced a new staffing model which increased minimum crewing from two to three personnel per shift, ensuring that there is always sufficient coverage to manage emergency calls and mobilisation responsibilities. By adopting this approach, the Control Room now operates with greater consistency, reducing the risk of staff shortages during busy periods and eliminating unnecessary surplus during quieter times.

Supporting our On-call firefighters and their primary employers

Like many predominantly On-call fire and rescue services, NYFRS faces ongoing challenges in recruiting, developing and retaining On-call staff, particularly in supervisory and specialist roles. In response, the Service has **invested in a range of measures** to support and strengthen the On-call model.

These include a **dedicated On-call Support Team**, enhanced training and development opportunities, targeted recruitment campaigns, **closer engagement with local employers**, and investment in technology, station fitness equipment and workforce planning. Vehicles have also been provided at On-call stations to allow staff to participate in prevention and other risk-reduction activity.

Overall fire **engine availability during the reporting period was 68%,** comprising 98% availability for wholetime fire engines and 56% for On-call fire engines. On-call availability is influenced by the fact that firefighters provide emergency response alongside their primary employment and personal commitments. NYFRS On-call availability is good compared to many other rural fire and rescue services.

On-call **recruitment has been positive** over 2025-2026, with high numbers of applications received. Three On-call duty Safe to Ride courses were completed in the reporting period, totalling 35 new starters. Targeted recruitment is carried at priority stations. Seven On-call stations increased their individual availability by more than 10% on the previous year.



Community Survey: Whilst most respondents said they did not know, among those who expressed a view, 80% agreed that NYFRS *is improving the recruitment and retention of On-call firefighters*.

The difference made

- New Community Risk Management Plan 2025–2029 assured and approved, setting out 70+ Areas of Focus to address current and future risks.
- 800+ consultation responses received, helping shape the future direction of the Service's new CRMP.
- Response standards achieved with average attendance times of 12m 15s to all incidents and 10m 52s to dwelling fires.
- 96% of respondents who expressed a view agreed that *NYFRS 'can be relied upon when needed'*.
- Second fire engine availability at Harrogate increased from 74% to 97%, while delivering £120,000 annual savings through revised crewing.
- 16 new fire engines introduced into frontline service.
- Fire Control staffing increased, with minimum crewing rising from two to three personnel per shift.
- 68% overall fire engine availability achieved.
- 35 new On-call firefighters recruited and trained through three Safe to Ride courses.
- Seven On-call stations improved availability by more than 10% compared to the previous year.
- 80% of survey respondents who expressed a view agreed that '*NYFRS is improving the recruitment and retention of On-call firefighters'*.
- 93% of respondents who expressed a view agreed that '*NYFRS is taking action to reduce unwanted fire alarm call-outs'*.



Priority 4: Stronger Communities

Summary of progress

Through the Public Safety Service, four Public Safety Officers continued to deliver effective joint prevention activity across Craven on behalf of Fire, Police and Health partners. NYFRS also continued to play a key role in wider multi-agency partnerships, including the Local Resilience Forum, Road Safety Partnership and Water Safety Forum, helping to improve community resilience and emergency preparedness. Alongside this, targeted community engagement, prevention campaigns and support for On-call firefighter recruitment continue to strengthen resilience across our region.

How this has been achieved

Delivering joined up prevention with partners in Craven

The Public Safety Service continues to provide four **Public Safety Officers** (PSOs) who **deliver primary prevention in Craven**, in areas often furthest from emergency services. They work on behalf of Fire, Police and health and provide highly localised, place-based prevention activity to help resolve underlying causes of crime and ASB, fires and health and social issues that lead to acute need.

The Public Safety Service has made strong progress in strengthening partnership working and performance management. **Tasking arrangements have been enhanced** through daily North Yorkshire Police briefings and support from local Community Safety Hubs, increasing ability to respond to community risks. PSO uniforms and vehicles have been refreshed to provide a stronger public identity.

In April 2025, the **Deputy Mayor spent a day with the Public Safety Officers in Craven** to gain first-hand insight into the breadth and impact of their work and explore opportunities to further develop and expand the service. The Deputy Mayor has asked NYP and NYFRS to **explore opportunities to expand** the Public Safety Service beyond Craven. This work will be progressed through the multi-agency Public Safety Service Steering Group.

Increasing resilience through partnership working

NYFRS and the Combined Authority are proactive members of **York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership** and NYFRS is a key member of the multi-agency **York Water Safety Forum.**

The Langdale/Fylingdales Moor fire highlighted the critical importance of water logistics to deliver capacity way in excess of the capabilities NYFRS can hold in Service, in tackling large-scale rural fires.

In response, the Deputy Mayor asked for an additional Area of Focus within the new NYFRS CRMP: 'We will closely work with our partners to ensure we maintain suitable water provision across the service area'. In November 2025, the **Deputy Mayor met with senior representatives from Yorkshire Water** to discuss the lessons identified from this wildfire and explore opportunities to strengthen water provision resilience and preparedness for future large-scale incidents.

Actively contributing to the North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum (NYLRF)

The **North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum** (NYLRF), of which **NYFRS is an active membe**r, is a partnership of organisations working together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from major incidents or emergencies in York and North Yorkshire. Any of the partner agencies can activate the Local Resilience Forum when they do not have sufficient resources themselves to deal with an emergency.

NYLRF undertakes a review of the national risks and those risks facing the county. A 'Community Risk Register' highlights the potential hazards in our region. By understanding these risks, NYLRF can ensure collectively that they have either taken steps to mitigate the risk or if that cannot be done, taken steps to monitor and respond to it should it happen. When major incidents such as the Langdale/Fylingdales Moor wildfire occur, NYLRF provides the framework for agencies to work together and share resources. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor published an open letter in June 2026 to the Local Resilience Forum, in response to the publication of its Langdale/Fylingdales Moor fire debrief document, to help ensure future democratic accountability is strengthened, as well as strategic coordination and long-term wildfire resilience planning.

Raising community awareness of potential hazards

NYFRS continued to **strengthen relationships** with businesses, residents and partner organisations to raise public awareness of local risks. This included delivering community safety activities, Home Fire Safety Visits, road and water safety campaigns, business fire safety advice, consultation and engagement activity, and targeted prevention initiatives aimed at vulnerable and higher-risk groups, locations and premises.

The Combined Authority and NYFRS also ran a **public consultation** to inform the new Community Risk Management Plan, ensuring local people and stakeholders had the opportunity to influence priorities and improve their understanding of the risks facing York and North Yorkshire.

The Mayor has publicly **called for a ban on disposable barbecues** following the Langdale /Fylingdales Moor wildfire and growing concerns about wildfire risk across the region.

Increasing resilience of the On-call model

The Service has continued to strengthen its approach to on-call firefighter recruitment and retention through a range of targeted initiatives. The **On-call Station Manager role,** trialled in 2023, was made permanent in 2025, providing dedicated support to stations, communities and employers to help grow and sustain the On-call workforce. The introduction of **On-call district teams** provides greater support to On-call staff and employers. Recruitment activity has been informed by **detailed catchment area analysis** and data-led modelling to identify opportunities and assess the potential benefits of expanding recruitment catchments. This has been complemented by **targeted leaflet campaigns** and community **" Have a Go" events** designed to raise awareness of the On-call role and attract new recruits. In January 2025, new nationally agreed contracts for On-call firefighters came into effect, replacing previous arrangements that required a high level of commitment and offered limited incentives for providing additional cover. These changes have all helped ensure that the **number of joiners exceeded leavers** over the year.

During the Langdale/Fylingdales Moor wildfire, the **Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Fire Officer wrote personally to local employers** to thank them for releasing staff to fulfil their roles as On-call firefighters. The letter recognised the considerable contribution these employers made, not only through the disruption to their businesses and workforce, but also through their willingness to prioritise the needs of the wider community. Their support enabled firefighters to remain on the frontline throughout the incident, creating firebreaks, tackling the blaze and helping to protect residents, property, wildlife and the surrounding countryside.

The difference made

- Four Public Safety Officers delivered joined-up prevention activity across partners in Craven with enhanced tasking and performance arrangements introduced.
- Stronger resilience supported through active participation in the Local Resilience Forum, Road Safety Partnership and York Water Safety Forum.
- Additional assurance sought regarding water provision and resilience for future wildfires.
- Greater awareness of wildfire risk promoted, including public calls for action to reduce the dangers associated with disposable barbecues.
- Community awareness of local risks increased through targeted engagement, consultation and prevention campaigns.
- Dedicated support for On-call recruitment and retention made permanent, strengthening resilience in rural communities.
- More people joined the On-call workforce than left during the year.
- Strong employer support enabled On-call firefighters to respond to the Langdale/Fylingdales Moor wildfire.



Priority 5: Supported, Safe and Skilled Staff

Summary of progress

NYFRS has continued to invest in its workforce through improved equipment, modernised facilities, enhanced digital systems, leadership development and wellbeing support. Significant progress was recognised by HMICFRS, with improved inspection ratings for skills, leadership, culture and diversity. Alongside targeted recruitment and inclusion initiatives, the Service has strengthened its organisational culture.

How this has been achieved

Investing in firefighter safety

In collaboration with Humberside Fire and Rescue Service, NYFRS secured a cost-effective 10-year contract for the provision of new breathing apparatus (BA) equipment. The **new BA sets** were successfully deployed across the Service in October 2025. The equipment incorporates a range of advanced safety features, including integrated audio and visual alerts, automatic distress signalling, real-time telemetry monitoring and enhanced communication technology within the facemasks, enabling clearer communication and further improving firefighter safety in high-risk environments. The new system also provides enhanced data collection and reporting capabilities, supporting greater operational oversight.



In March 2026, the Mayor approved the **donation of the Service's previous breathing apparatus sets** and associated equipment to the charity FIRE AID. This initiative will support the charity's global humanitarian work by helping to provide life-saving firefighting and rescue equipment to vulnerable communities such as Ukraine, while also promoting sustainability through the reuse of equipment and reducing unnecessary waste.

Introducing an Equipment Strategy

An internal audit inspection published in August 2024 identified the need for significant improvements across all aspects of equipment management. In response, NYFRS introduced an **Equipment Strategy** in 2025, providing a clear strategic framework for the management of equipment throughout its lifecycle, including

procurement, maintenance, testing, replacement and disposal. The strategy is intended to strengthen governance, improve consistency, and ensure equipment remains safe, effective and fit for purpose.

Reviewing and improving Support Services

Following the completion of the Enable Review in 2025 and a period of consultation with staff and representative bodies, **revised Support Services structures** are now being introduced across NYFRS and NYP. The changes are designed to better support operational delivery and strengthen a whole-organisation approach, ensuring support functions are fully integrated into the services they support.

HMICFRS Inspection recognising improvement

The latest HMICFRS inspection report published in June 2025 highlighted **significant progress** with the assessment for 'Getting the right people with the right skills' improving from *Inadequate* in 2022 to *Good* in 2025.

Modernising fire stations

After decades of underinvestment, the fire estate requires significant investment. During 2025-2026, NYFRS continued to modernise its estate through a mix of completed **station refurbishments** and infrastructure **upgrades** that improved staff welfare, safety, and long-term building efficiency. This included the completed refurbishment of Sherburn Fire Station, completion of shower, locker and internal improvement works at Malton, and completion of roofing and solar works at Selby. At Northallerton, asbestos removal and wider refurbishment works were substantially progressed. These schemes demonstrate continued investment in facilities, while also improving sustainability through energy-saving infrastructure such as rooftop solar installations.

Enhancing the way we work through digital and data technology

In 2025, NYFRS successfully implemented the **move to the Fire and Rescue Data Platform** (FaRDaP) which replaced the previous Incident Reporting System. The introduction of the Fire and Rescue Data Platform (FaRDaP) represents a significant step forward in strengthening governance and oversight across the fire and rescue service. As a national system, it also supports better benchmarking and transparency across services, aligning local oversight with wider sector reforms.

NYFRS maintains 24/7 oversight of fire engine availability through the **Dynamic Cover Tool** (DCT), which supports the effective management of fire cover across the county. The tool provides real-time information on appliance availability, enabling resources to be deployed where they are needed most and helping maintain resilience across the Service. During the Langdale/Fylingdales Moor wildfire incident, the DCT played a key role in supporting operational decision-making, enabling the Service to maintain appropriate fire cover across York and North Yorkshire while responding to this significant and resource-intensive incident.

The internal Data Quality Audit completed in late 2024 identified the need for a formal Data Quality Strategy. In response, the Service has developed and adopted a **Data Quality Strategy** in 2025, setting out a clear framework for managing data quality, defining roles and responsibilities, and supporting the consistent, accurate and effective use of data across the organisation.

Developing staff

The **First Line Leaders Program** and the Mid-Level Leaders Program are structured to efficiently deliver leadership development in accordance with NFCC and College of Policing best practices. This collaborative approach ensures participants benefit from consistent methodologies and accelerated relationship-building with blue light partners, enhancing operational effectiveness.

Supporting staff development remains a key priority. During the year, a number of **promotion processes were successfully completed** across different roles, providing opportunities for career progression and helping to ensure the Service has the skilled leaders and managers needed for the future.

HMICFRS inspection report released in June 2025 showed **clear progress** in this area with the grade awarded for *Managing performance and developing leaders* improving from *Requires Improvement* in 2022 to *Good*.

Providing the tools to support long-term cultural change

The **Framework for Change project**, delivered with the University of Huddersfield, has helped NYFRS strengthen its culture and values. Nearly 280 employees took part in surveys, interviews, focus groups and workshops, helping to create a new **Behavioural Framework** and **Leadership Charter**.

- The Behavioural Framework sets out the behaviours staff said matter most and those that will not be tolerated
- The Leadership Charter defines the strengths and attributes expected of all leaders, reflecting a shared commitment to authentic, approachable and accountable leadership.

The project has given the Service a clearer understanding of its culture and provided practical tools to support a positive, inclusive and supportive working environment. In 2026, the Chief Fire Officer ran a series of staff presentations to disseminate the learning from the project to date and to embed the Behavioural Framework and Leadership Charter.

Engaging with staff

At the Deputy Mayor's Online Public Meeting in April 2025, NYFRS reported a positive **staff engagement score of 79%** from its 2025 Employee Engagement Survey, based on responses to a range of employee engagement statements (shown in the chart overleaf). This represents a positive **increase of five percentage points** compared with the 2022 survey, The response rate remained at 29% for both surveys, and the Deputy Mayor and Chief Fire Officer have highlighted the importance of increasing participation in future to ensure that workforce views are fully represented, particularly those of On-call firefighters.

Items comprising the Engagement score

Question	Response Favourability	Comparison
I am proud to say I work for NYFRS	80% 12% 8%	+5
I care about the future of NYFRS	91% 7% 2%	-1
I would still like to be working at NYFRS in two years' time	77% 16% 7%	+2
If asked, I would recommend to friends and family that NYFRS is a good place to work	66% 18% 16%	+12
Working here makes me want to do the best work I can	81% 14% 6%	+8

Favourable Neutral Unfavourable

While significant progress has been made, there is more to do to strengthen workforce cohesion and create a positive employee experience. A key area of focus is to **reduce the number of formal disciplinary and grievance cases** wherever possible through early intervention, constructive conversations and effective management. The Service is also committed to reducing the time taken to resolve disciplinary and grievance matters, ensuring issues are addressed fairly, consistently and without unnecessary delay.

Sickness absence remained a significant workforce wellbeing challenge during the year, particularly due to **increases in short-term absence**. The Service continued to prioritise employee wellbeing through a range of proactive support measures, including virtual wellbeing sessions, Mental Fitness and Resilience workshops, and the Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) programme. These initiatives help colleagues build resilience, manage health and wellbeing challenges, and access appropriate support following traumatic incidents. **Reducing sickness absence** and strengthening absence management will remain a key focus for the Service in 2026-2027.

Promoting the right values

HMICFRS inspection report released in June 2025 showed **clear progress** in the grade awarded for *Promoting the right values and culture* from *Requires Improvement* to *Adequate*.

NYFRS continues to comply with the changes to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions Order) taking reasonable action to ensure that all **individuals working on NYFRS's behalf have the appropriate DBS check**.



COMMUNITY SURVEY

Among respondents with an opinion, 96% agreed that NYFRS 'has a good reputation', 96% agreed it 'demonstrates professionalism, fairness and respect', and 93% agreed it 'seems like a good organisation to work for'.

Improving the diversity of the workforce

The Service continues to recruit successfully and maintain staffing levels in line with workforce planning. Over the past year, **78 new employees** joined the organisation, including 18 wholetime firefighters, 12 firefighters recruited through alternative entry routes, and 35 On-call firefighters.

Women now make up around 10% of both wholetime and On-call firefighters, representing a steady increase in representation compared with 2022, when women accounted for 8.3% of wholetime and 9.5% of On-call firefighters. Approximately 4% of staff identify as being from ethnic minority groups, compared with 3% of York and North Yorkshire's population .

A comprehensive **programme of positive action** was undertaken with a greater emphasis on encouraging applications from under-represented ethnic groups. The key network leads were involved through the process, and it included improved opportunities for the neurodiversity group to influence reasonable adjustments and the wording of assessment questions.

While the Service recognises that its workforce does not yet fully reflect the diversity of the communities it serves, year-on-year recruitment trends demonstrate **positive progress** and a continuing commitment to building a more representative workforce.

The HMICFRS inspection report published in June 2025 recognised significant progress in ***ensuring fairness and promoting diversity***, with the Service's rating improving from *Requires Improvement* in 2022 to *Adequate* in 2025. This demonstrates continued progress in creating a more inclusive and equitable organisation.



Whilst most respondents said they did not know, among those who expressed a view 88% of respondents with an opinion agreed that 'NYFRS reflects the diversity of their community'.

The difference made

- 10-year contract secured for new breathing apparatus, improving firefighter safety.
- Legacy breathing apparatus donated through FIRE AID, supporting international humanitarian efforts and reducing waste.
- Fire station modernisation delivered at Sherburn, Malton, Selby and Northallerton.
- Fire and Rescue Data Platform (FaRDaP) implemented, strengthening performance reporting, benchmarking and oversight.
- Leadership development programmes expanded, supporting current and future leaders across the Service.
- Around 280 employees engaged in the Framework for Change project, helping to shape a new Behavioural Framework and Leadership Charter.
- Employee engagement increased to 79%, up five percentage points since 2022.
- Improved HMICFRS ratings "Managing performance and developing leaders", "Getting the right people with the right skills" and "Promoting the right values and culture"
- 78 new employees recruited, including 30 firefighters and 35 On-call firefighters.
- Female firefighter representation increased compared to 2022 across both wholetime and On-call roles.
- HMICFRS rating for "Ensuring fairness and promoting diversity" improved from Requires Improvement to Adequate.
- Almost nine in ten Community Survey respondents agreed NYFRS *'has a good reputation', 'demonstrates professionalism, fairness and respect', appears to be a good organisation to work for'* and *'reflects the diversity of its communities'.*



Priority 6: Financial Stability

Summary of progress

Long-term financial sustainability has been strengthened through increased local investment, targeted use of reserves and a strong focus on productivity, efficiency and value for money. Despite ongoing pressures, financial stability has been maintained while investing in buildings, equipment, technology and service improvements.

How this has been achieved

Securing long-term funding to address underinvestment

Long-term financial challenges resulting from over 15 years of underinvestment in NYFRS have led to under-investment in buildings, fleet, technology and equipment.

The 2025-2026 budget provided a significant increase in the funding available to NYFRS through **continued investment enabled by the Mayor** through a £24 increase in the Band D fire and rescue element of the council tax in 2025-2026 and a £9.60 increase in 2026-2027. From 1 April 2026, an average Band D property in York or North Yorkshire will pay £116.62 per year for fire and rescue services.

The Government funding settlement announced in December 2025 provided clarity on what will happen to Government funding for the next three years, and the impact for NYFRS. This will mean the Service must continue to look at how to best balance ambitions and improvements with maintaining financial security and sustainability.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor continue to make **representations to Government** about the need for fairer funding that reflects the size and rurality of our region, particularly related to significant climate-related risk of wildfires and flooding.

Creating a 'Change Reserve' with funds to enable delivery of improvements

An **appropriate level of reserves** now allows the Service to invest in areas to deliver improvements. Annually, £165k from the change reserve has been allocated to the Road Safety Partnership to help fund road safety interventions and improvements.

Seeking efficiencies and increasing productivity

The Service has **delivered significant levels of efficiency savings** over the last eight years. Progress in this area was highlighted by the HMICFRS in their last inspection where they noted that:

"The service has embraced change and made significant progress since our last inspection in 2022. For example, it is making improvements to modernise and update processes and procedures across the organisation. To achieve this, it has made organisational change with minimal financial impact, using a 'save to invest' approach."

The Service has now moved into a 'Save to Invest and Continue to Improve' position, with financial plans focused on strengthening public safety and service delivery. In 2025-2026, the Service continued to operate within a constrained financial environment, with ongoing pressures from inflation, reductions in national funding and increased employer costs. As a result, there is a sustained requirement for improvements to be innovatively generated and clearly prioritised, with strong leadership and accountability for delivery. The Chief Fire Officer remains focused on **evolving how NYFRS works**, maximising the benefits of collaboration, technology and data-led decision making, rather than relying solely on financial reductions. Investment decisions are carefully targeted to ensure demonstrable value for money, measurable improvements in productivity and a sustained positive impact on service delivery and community outcomes.

The Service continues to **exceed national expectations** in relation to productivity and efficiency, as set out in the Productivity and Efficiency Plan which can be read here: NYFRS Productivity and Efficiency Plan . Some of the highlights are set out below:

Direct employee savings: Through a change in the duty system at one Harrogate Fire Station's second engine with the savings phased over 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 aligned to the implementation of the change.

Utilities: Savings have been achieved through the procurement of new gas and electricity contracts at reduced rates, complemented by additional savings resulting from a newly secured cleaning contract.

Transport: NYFRS has implemented measures to decrease its use of diesel fuel, thereby contributing to both environmental sustainability and cost efficiency. Alongside this, there has been a deliberate reduction in the number of car allowances allocated to employees, reflecting a move towards more responsible and economical transport practices. These actions are part of the wider strategy to improve efficiency and foster ongoing improvements within the organisation.

Supplies and Services: Local procurement savings were made through the implementation of new Breathing Apparatus throughout the service which resulted in significantly lower maintenance costs. Further savings have been made through reductions in other hired in and contracted services, efficiencies within IT contracts, and reduced subscriptions.

Solar Investment: NYFRS is progressing a programme of solar investment across its estate, supported by funding from the Mayor's Sustainability Fund. Recent governance reports confirm an additional £126k approved for solar panels within the estate, of which £75k is funded from the Sustainability Fund with the remaining contribution met from the Service's minor capital works budget. This investment is intended to reduce electricity costs and provide greater resilience against future energy price increases. Delivery updates within the latest assets performance reporting include the completion of solar installation works at Selby and York fire stations and the Transport and Logistics Hub in Thirsk.

Charging for Unwanted Fire Signals: NYFRS has introduced charges for persistent **Unwanted Fire Signals (UwFS)** from non-domestic premises, with charges applied from the fourth attendance within a rolling 12-month period. The approach encourages responsible persons to rectify recurring alarm faults, reduces unnecessary demand on operational resources, and helps recover the costs of non-emergency call-outs.

Sharing buildings with North Yorkshire Police

NYFRS has many **joint estates with NYP** including a joint Headquarters at Alverton Court, Northallerton and the Transport and Logistics Hub in Thirsk. Four fire stations are co-located with Police, including Ripon, Bedale and Leyburn. Other locations such as Bentham, Kirkbymoorside, Boroughbridge and Masham are also used as touchdown points for North Yorkshire Police staff. This represents an increasing momentum and strategic intent for co-location and collaboration between the two services.

During 2025-2026, an assessment of how the shared Headquarters building was being used led to NYFRS lowering its share of the lease costs. By repurposing the shared estate at Northallerton, NYFRS will **save approximately £40,000 annually**.

A **One Public Estate Board** was established in 2025 by the Deputy Mayor, bringing together senior representatives from NYP, NYFRS, the Combined Authority and estates leads. The Board has been created to accelerate the delivery of capital projects, strengthen collaboration across partners, and address barriers that can lead to project delays. Consequently, this has enabled the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to explore public views on progressing a **joint police and fire station in Malton** through a public consultation which commenced in May 2026.

The difference made

- Increased local investment in the Service through mayoral funding.
- £165,000 per year allocated to the York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership to support road safety interventions..
- HMICFRS recognised significant progress in productivity, efficiency and the Service's ability to modernise and improve.
- £120,000 annual savings delivered through revised crewing arrangements at Harrogate Fire Station.
- Reduced utility and contract costs through improved procurement and contract management.
- Lower maintenance costs achieved through investment in new breathing apparatus equipment.
- Solar energy installations expanded across the estate, reducing energy costs and improving sustainability.
- Charges introduced for persistent false alarms, reducing avoidable demand on operational resources and recovering costs.
- £40,000 annual estate savings identified through more efficient use of the shared headquarters building.
- Greater collaboration with North Yorkshire Police through co-located facilities and shared estates.
- One Public Estate Board established to accelerate joint capital projects and improve public sector collaboration.

Governance and Accountability

Known as the **Mayor's Fire and Rescue Declaration**, the Combined Authority (as Fire and Rescue Authority) has sought assurance that adequate arrangements were in place during 2025-2026 for the effective management of financial (see section on 'Funding and Spending'), governance and operational matters.

We have a range of well-established scrutiny, assurance and governance arrangements that provide effective oversight, challenge and accountability.

The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Constitution (which supersedes the previous Corporate Governance Framework) sets out how the Combined Authority works, its legal powers and responsibilities, formal processes for decision-making, financial control, risk management and accountability, ensuring transparency and proper oversight Constitution - York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority . The Constitution is under review to ensure clear lines of delegation and decision making.

Our Assurance Framework sets out how the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime and the Police, Fire and Crime Directorate hold NYFRS to account. It ensures that we are continually monitoring and assessing delivery of the outcomes in the Fire and Rescue Plan. The Assurance Framework can be read in full here Assurance Framework - York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority – Policing, Fire and Crime Directorate

Scrutiny work supports this framework because it acts as a "reality check" by challenging and validating the information provided, to ensure that we can evidence that positive progress and outcomes are being achieved. This includes reviewing outcomes of independent reports such as HMICFRS inspections and internal audits to ensure continuous and genuine improvement.

Oversight mechanisms including the Deputy Mayor's Strategic Oversight Board, regular catchups, and meetings with the Chief Fire Officer and their strategic leadership team, public accountability forums such as the Deputy Mayor's Online Public Meetings (OPM), to question and assess performance against the Fire and Rescue Plan and the NYFRS Community Risk Management Plan. Last year's fire and rescue OPM assurance presentations included:

- firefighter recruitment and retention
- wildfire prevention and response
- Langdale/Fylingdales Moor fire update
- ensuring safe, skilled and supported workforce
- response to the Grenfell Inquiry recommendations
- improvements to the On-call model

The OPM presentations can be found here: Online Public Meetings.

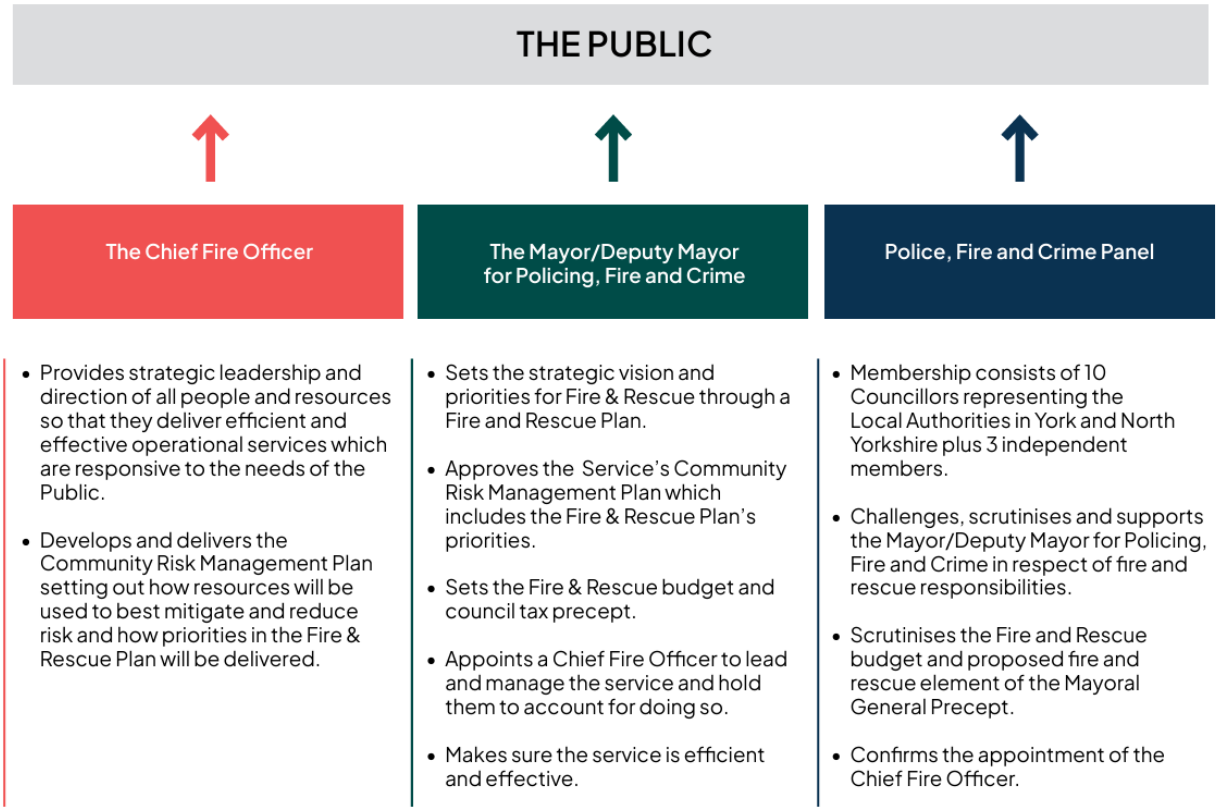
Public engagement through the Deputy Mayor's advice surgeries, local visits and public consultations and surveys and through information we receive into our office.



In February 2026, the Mayor launched the first Community Survey. This annual survey was introduced to provide a clear understanding of public perceptions of, and levels of trust and confidence in, NYP and NYFRS. The survey generated a strong level of engagement, with more than 1,700 responses received.

The Police, Fire and Crime Panel reviews the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's actions and decisions, can request information, and provides challenge and recommendations to ensure effective accountability, acting as a check and balance on their roles.

Together, these provide a robust system of accountability, ensuring the Fire and Rescue Service is efficient, effective, transparent, and aligned with community priorities.



Complaints and compliments

By the end of the financial year 2025-2026, the Combined Authority's Policing, Fire and Crime Directorate received **16 fire and rescue related complaints and 41 compliments**. Although this is slightly more than the 14 complaints received the previous year, the **overall number remains very low**. It shows that the approach taken to identify and learn from issues continues to work well and is helping to stop the same problems from being repeated. Any themes identified from the complaints are raised at the Mayor/Deputy Mayor's Online Public Meetings.

Compliments were mostly from members of the public **thanking fire crews for their help and support during incidents**.

HMICFRS - Inspection of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

HMICFRS inspects fire and rescue services across England, independently assessing and reporting on how effectively they keep communities safe, how efficiently they use public resources, and how well they support, develop and look after their workforce.

NYFRS was last inspected by HMICFRS during December 2024 and January 2025. In its latest report, published in June 2025, the Service was recognised for the **significant progress** it has made, achieving a rating of 'Good' in six of the eleven areas inspected, with the remaining five areas graded 'Adequate'. Notably, 10 of the 11 inspection areas received an improved grade compared with the disappointing 2022 inspection outcomes, reflecting the hard work of NYFRS.

Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Requires improvement	Inadequate
	Understanding fire and risk	Public safety through fire regulation		
	Preventing fire and risk	Responding to major incidents		
	Responding to fires and emergencies	Future affordability		
	Best use of resources	Promoting values and culture		
	Right people, right skills	Promoting fairness and diversity		
	Managing performance and developing leaders			

The inspection identified seven Areas for Improvement, and over the past 12 months the Service has made progress against all of them, with updates on delivery and performance regularly reported through the Deputy Mayor's Online Public Meetings.

The full inspection report can be read here: Effectiveness, efficiency and people 2023–25: An inspection of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

The Independent Audit Committee

Assignment	Status / Opinion issued
Code of Ethics	Substantial Assurance [●]
Credit Cards	Partial Assurance [●]
Operational Training	Reasonable Assurance [●]
Recommendation tracking from external parties[1]	Substantial Assurance [●]
Operational Fire Review: Prevent and Protection Engagement[2]	Reasonable Assurance [●]
Workforce Planning	Reasonable Assurance [●]
Equality and Diversity	Fieldwork ongoing
Fire and Rescue Plan	Substantial Assurance [●]

This Committee supports the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Fire Officer in ensuring **governance and control mechanisms** are in place to support a well-run fire and rescue service. The Committee reviews and scrutinises the adequacy and effectiveness of risk management, internal audit and control and corporate governance arrangements of the Service, as well as reviewing financial management and reporting. Over the last year there have been **significant improvements to internal control**, particularly in relation to internal audit assurance opinions and the timely implementation of resulting recommendations. Over the last year, eight internal audit reviews were completed, each achieving assurance ratings from partial to substantial, outlined in the table on the previous page.

Governance assurance

In its capacity as Fire and Rescue Authority, the Combined Authority's draft **Annual Governance Statement** for 2026-2027 can be found at: Transparency > York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority. This statement forms an element of the **Mayor's Fire and Rescue Declaration of Assurance**.

Operational assurance

The Combined Authority as Fire Authority must outline the way in which the authority and its fire and rescue service has had regard to the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018 and the local Community Risk Management Plan over the last year. This is called operational assurance and forms an element of the Mayor's Fire and Rescue Declaration. An assurance statement for 2025-2026 has been provided by the Chief Fire Officer and can be found here: NYFRS Statement of Operational Assurance 2025-2026 .

The evidence set out in this statement provides assurance to the Mayor that NYFRS has continued to deliver its statutory responsibilities effectively during 2025-2026, while adapting to increasing demand, changing risk and a constrained financial environment. Across prevention, protection, response and resilience, the Service has maintained performance, strengthened productivity and continued to align its operating model to the risks and needs of the communities it serves.

- Delivering prevention, protection and response activity that is increasingly targeted, evidence-led and aligned to community risk
- Maintaining response standards and service resilience despite rising incident demand, major incident pressures and the challenges of a large and predominantly rural service area
- Strengthening organisational assurance, governance and performance management to support transparency, accountability and continuous improvement
- Improving productivity, efficiency and workforce capability through better use of data, redesigned operating arrangements and targeted investment in areas of greatest impact

Performance Measures

The Fire and Rescue Plan 2025-2029 sets out a range of some of the performance measures that are used to help track progress against its priorities. Performance against these measures is monitored through the Assurance Framework outlined in the previous section, enabling effective oversight, accountability and ongoing assessment of progress.

Priority 1: Targeted Prevention

- Number of Home Fire Safety Visits.
- Proportion of Home Fire Safety Visits with High-/Very High-Risk individuals and in more rural areas where response time are unavoidably longer.
- The quality of the delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits.
- Number of accidental fire deaths and serious injuries in the home.
- Number of partner referrals into and out of NYFRS.
- Number of road safety prevention (engagement and education) activities.
- Number of road traffic collision fatalities and serious injuries, working toward Vision Zero.
- Number of water safety prevention (engagement and education) activities.
- Number of water fatalities.
- HMICFRS Inspection Reports.
- Progress toward National Fire Standards.
- Community Survey Results.

Priority 2: Protected Built Environment

- Triage public fire safety complaints within 24 hours.
- Number of false Automatic Fire Alarms in non-domestic buildings.
- Number of fires in non-residential premises.
- Number of audits and the proportion of high-/very high-risk premises.
- Community Survey Results.
- HMICFRS Inspection Reports.
- Progress toward National Fire Standards.

Priority 3: Effective Emergency Response

- Performance vs Response Time Standards
  - All incidents: The average attendance time of the first fire engine will be within 13 minutes.
  - Dwelling Fires: The average attendance time of the first fire engine will be within 11 minutes.
- Availability of fire engines
- Community Survey Results
- HMICFRS Inspection Reports
- Progress toward National Fire Standards.
- Delivery of fire and rescue service recommendations from Grenfell Inquiry Phases 1 and 2.

Priority 4: Stronger Communities

- HMICFRS Inspection Reports.
- Community Survey Results.
- On-call firefighter recruitment and availability.
- Progress toward National Fire Standards.

Priority 5: Supported, Safe and Skilled Staff

- Number of RIDDORs (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations).
- Staff survey results.
- Firefighter maintenance of competence.
- Staff Personnel Development Performance Review completion rate.
- Number of working days lost to sickness.
- Overall staff composition. Proportion of workforce from underrepresented groups.
- Recruitment and retention statistics.
- Number of the workforce in temporary posts.
- Community Survey Results.
- HMICFRS Inspection Reports
- Progress toward National Fire Standards.

Priority 6: Financial Stability

- Monitoring of performance vs Medium Term Financial Plan
  - Budget vs spend
  - Investment
  - Borrowing levels
  - Reserve levels
- Achievement of National productivity and efficiency targets.
- Measure the benefits and evaluation of NYFRS activities and collaborations.
- HMICFRS Inspection Reports.
- Working to National Fire Standards.

The Combined Authority and NYFRS are committed to providing a high-quality service to the public. In addition to the performance updates provided in this Annual Report, you can review NYFRS' performance in several ways:

- **Performance Dashboards:** We publish NYFRS's performance report dashboard which covers some of our Fire and Rescue Plan measures on the Police, Fire and Crime Directorate page of the Combined Authority's website: Performance Dashboards
- **Online Public Meetings:** The Deputy Mayor holds regular online public meetings where you can ask questions about NYFRS's performance. These meetings are held every other month and are streamed live on the website: Remit of the Online Public Meetings
- **North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service Website:** publishes details of incidents attended over a 24-hour period on its website. The incident details are updated twice a day and can be found here: Incidents information
- **Home Office Website:** Information collected by the Home Office from Fire and Rescue Services across England and Wales, covers fires, false alarms and other incidents attended by fire crews. The statistics include the numbers of incidents, fires, fatalities and casualties as well as information on response times to fires. This information can be accessed here: Home Office fire and rescue statistics
- **His Majesty's Inspectorate for Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS):** HMICFRS is an independent body that inspects fire and rescue services in England and Wales. HMICFRS publishes reports on each fire and rescue service that help assess their performance. Further details about the inspections can be viewed here: HMICFRS: Fire Service Inspections

Funding and Spending

Funding Breakdown 2025/26	Actual £000s	%*
Core Grant	(11,202)	20%
Precept (including Collection Surplus)	(34,865)	63%
Grants (Ringfenced)	(7,756)	14%
Non Grant Income (including project income)	(1,147)	2%
Total Funding	**(54,970)**	100%

Expenditure Breakdown 2025/26	Actual £000s	%*
Salary Costs (including NI and Pensions)	34,831	63%
Injury and Medical Pensions	1,464	3%
Other non salary employee costs	607	1%
Premises costs	2,645	5%
Supplies and Services	6,334	12%
Transport costs (including fuel)	1,446	3%
Financial costs	2,734	5%
PFI	1,905	3%
Actual transfers to reserves	2,532	5%
Total expenditure	**54,499**	**99%**
Underspend transferred to Reserves	**(471)**	**-1%**

* Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100%

Financial Position

2025-2026 saw significant progress in stabilising the finances of the Fire Service, with **increases to both the general reserves and wider reserves** possible because of the investment made through the 2025-2026 Council Tax precept increase that was proposed by the Mayor.

In addition to this there was **no need to borrow** to fund the Capital Programme in 2025-2026 as the precept investment provided improvements to both cash flow and funding levels.

Beyond this the financial performance during 2025-2026 was broadly **in line with budget** with a small underspend on the revenue budget of just under 1%.

The biggest financial challenge in 2025-2026 resulted from the significant operational challenge of the Langdale/Fylingdales Moor fire. This complex, major incident resulted in **additional costs to the Service of £2.6m**. Just over £2.5m of these costs were met through a successful bid for additional funds from the Government, otherwise the financial performance would have been significantly worse than the positive position that is reported.

In overall terms NYFRS **finances continue to improve** and move into 2026-2027 in line with the expected position that was included within the 2026-2027 financial plans. The Service is therefore financially well positioned to deliver on the plans set out by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in the Fire and Rescue Plan and the NYFRS Community Risk Management Plan that aligns with this.

Fire Service transactions are included within the Combined Authority's statement of accounts for 2025-2026 which is available on their website here: Transparency > York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, and forms the financial assurance element of the Mayor's Fire and Rescue Declaration.

Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Community Risk Profile (CRP)	This is an assessment of risk across York and North Yorkshire by NYFRS.
Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP)	The Community Risk Management Plan is a Service plan that sets out how resources, such as fire engines and people, will be used, to address and reduce the risk identified in the Community Risk Profile and the likelihood of emergency events occurring.
National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC)	This body has as a unique role in representing fire and rescue services at a national level and, as the professional voice of the fire and rescue service.
Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018	A key government document that sets out the priorities and expectations for fire and rescue authorities in England. Its main purpose is to ensure that fire and rescue services: • Prevent fires and other risks • Protect people and property • Respond effectively to incidents • Collaborate with other emergency services and partners • Provide value for money • Maintain national resilience
Brake	National road safety charity that cares for road victims and campaigns for safer roads for all.
Breathing Apparatus Telemetry	Telemetry is an automatic, electronic system to allow the precise monitoring of how much breathable air each firefighter using Breathing Apparatus has remaining.
On-call firefighters	On-call firefighters are trained firefighters who, rather than being based at a fire station, provide On-call cover from home and/or their place of work. They respond to a pager/alerter.
Wholetime firefighters	Wholetime firefighters are contracted to work in the fire service as their primary employment serving at wholetime (24 hr) fire stations.

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY

Fire and Rescue Annual Report 2025–2026

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About us

The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority has been created by the City of York Council and North Yorkshire Council and is a legally recognised, single body. Our role is to use some of the money and powers, that up to now have been held by central government, and work with local leaders and communities to invest in ways that will help to make York and North Yorkshire a better place for you to live, work and do business.