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Agenda

- Meeting** North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel
- To:** Councillors Peter Wilkinson (Chair), Danny Myers (Vice-Chair), Chris Aldred, David Chance, Kevin Foster, Tim Grogan, Emilie Knight, Heather Moorhouse, Michael Pavlovic, Steve Shaw-Wright, Fraser Forsyth, Mags Godderidge and Caroline O'Neill.
- Date:** Thursday, 23 April 2026
- Time:** 10.30 am
- Venue:** Civic Chamber, Selby Civic Centre, Selby YO8 9FT

This meeting is being live broadcast and recorded and will be available to view [via our website](#) and uploaded to [our Youtube channel](#).

Business

1. **Apologies for absence**
 2. **Declarations of Interest**
All Members are invited to declare at this point any interests they have in items appearing on this agenda, including the nature of those interests.
 3. **Minutes of the Panel Meeting held on 5 February 2026** (Pages 3 - 10)
 4. **Progress on Issues Raised by the Panel** (Pages 11 - 18)
Update report from the Panel Secretariat.
 5. **Public Questions or Statements to the Panel**
 - Any member of the public, who lives, works or studies in North Yorkshire and York can ask a question to the Panel. The question or statement must be put in writing to the Panel no later than midday on Monday, 20 April 2026 to Diane Parsons (nypfcp@northyorks.gov.uk).
 - The time period for asking and responding to all questions will be limited to 30 minutes. No one question or statement shall exceed 3 minutes.
 - The full protocol for public questions or statements can be found at www.nypartnerships.org.uk/pfcp.
 6. **Members' Questions**
- Focus on Priorities: Prevention and Early Intervention (NYP) / Targeted Prevention (NYFRS)**
7. **Data-Driven Approaches to Prevention and Early Intervention (NYP)** (Pages 19 - 22)
Report from the Deputy Mayor regarding the development of preventative data-driven approaches by North Yorkshire Police to identify high-risk areas and individuals, to target prevention/early intervention.
 8. **Data-Driven Approaches and Emerging Challenges (NYFRS)** (Pages 23 - 28)
Report from the Deputy Mayor regarding how the fire and rescue service is using data-

driven approaches and how it is ensuring it can best meet emerging environmental and technological changes.

Other Reports: Panel Governance

- 9. Draft Annual Report of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel 2025/26** (Pages 29 - 42)
Draft report from the Panel Secretariat, for approval of the Panel.
- 10. Work Programme** (Pages 43 - 48)
Report by the Panel Secretariat.
- 11. Any other items**
Any other items which the Chair agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances.
- 12. Date of Next Meeting**
Thursday, 16 July 2026 at 2pm – County Hall, Northallerton.

Members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting as observers for all those items taken in open session. You may be interested in [subscribing to updates](#) about this or any other North Yorkshire Council committee.

Recording is allowed at Council, committee and sub-committee meetings which are open to the public. Please give due regard to the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at public meetings. We ask that any recording is clearly visible to anyone at the meeting and that it is non-disruptive.

Anyone wishing to record is asked to contact the Principal Scrutiny Officer (details below) prior to the start of the meeting.

Contact Details

For enquiries relating to this agenda and meeting please contact:
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Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive
Legal and Democratic Services
County Hall
Northallerton

Wednesday, 15 April 2026

North Yorkshire Council

North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 5 February 2026 at County Hall, Northallerton, commencing at 10.30 am.

Councillors Peter Wilkinson in the Chair (North Yorkshire Council); Chris Aldred (North Yorkshire Council), David Chance (North Yorkshire Council), Kevin Foster (North Yorkshire Council), Tim Grogan (North Yorkshire Council), Heather Moorhouse (North Yorkshire Council), Michael Pavlovic (City of York Council), Andrew Waller (City of York Council), and Steve Shaw-Wright (North Yorkshire Council).

Community Co-opted Members: Fraser Forsyth and Caroline O'Neill.

David Skaith (Mayor of York and North Yorkshire).

Jo Coles (Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime).

Chief Constable Tim Forber (North Yorkshire Police).

Officers from the Mayoral Combined Authority / Policing, Fire and Crime Team: Rachel Antonelli (Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer), Mark Ayres (Head of Public Confidence and Assurance), Michael Porter (Assistant Director of Resources (Deputy s73 Officer for Police, Fire and Crime Functions)), Tamara Stevens (Director of Policing, Fire and Crime), Amanda Wilkinson (Head of Partnerships and Commissioning).

Officers present: Diane Parsons (Principal Scrutiny Officer).

Apologies: Councillors Danny Myers (Vice-Chair), Emilie Knight and Mags Godderidge.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

132 Apologies for absence

Apologies were noted from Councillors Danny Myers and Emilie Knight as well as Mags Godderidge. It was noted that Councillor Andrew Waller was substituting for Councillor Knight.

133 Declarations of Interest

In the interest of full transparency, a number of Panel members declared interests in relation to Item 5 due to their involvement in planning committees at North Yorkshire Council, as follows:

- Councillor Chris Aldred – Member of Strategic Planning Committee
- Councillor Kevin Foster – Member of Richmond (Yorks) Area Planning Committee
- Councillor Heather Moorhouse – Vice Chair of Richmond (Yorks) Area Planning Committee
- Councillor David Chance – Substitute Member to Scarborough and Whitby Area Planning Committee
- Councillor Steve Shaw-Wright – Member of Selby and Ainsty Area Planning

Committee and a Substitute Member for Strategic Planning Committee.

This did not preclude the councillors from speaking to the matter raised at Item 5 but that as the question concerned a live planning application, the Chair noted that the Panel would not address the specifics of that case and would look to speak to broader principles.

Councillor Michael Pavlovic also highlighted under Item 5 that he is Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning at City of York Council but it was clarified that the planning application referred to within the question was a North Yorkshire Council matter.

134 Consideration of Exclusion of the Public

The Chair moved that the Panel determine after consideration of Item 7(b) whether to move into closed session. The Panel voted unanimously via a show of hands to retain the right to retire at that point in the agenda if necessary.

Resolved

That the Panel retains the privilege to move into closed session under Item 8 if deemed necessary following consideration of the Mayor's draft precept proposal at Item 7(b).

135 Minutes of the Panel Meeting held on 21 January 2026

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2026, having been printed and circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

136 Public Questions or Statements to the Panel

A question was put to the Panel by Caroline Clayton, as follows:

"Thank you for taking my question today.

I'd like to ask for the Panel's views on whether there is scope for the police and fire Services to be statutory consultees and take a formal role in the planning process for solar farm developments in North Yorkshire, and what opportunities or challenges the Panel sees in that approach.

Solar farms bring new and very real safety considerations. These sites often span hundreds of acres and contain photovoltaic modules, with vegetation underneath, inverters, high voltage direct current cabling and associated electrical infrastructure. These present a tangible risk of electrical fault and fire.

Remote installations can attract theft, vandalism and trespass. Good security design from the outset protects critical infrastructure and reduces risks to both the public and responding police officers.

Early involvement from the police and fire services helps ensure sites are designed so crews can reach incidents quickly and operate safely.

In some proposals, an example of the proposed Stell Solar Farm, Lords Lane,

Bedale, planning reference ZB25/01246/FUL, there is an existing family home located in the centre of the proposed solar farm. This proposed site is also criss-crossed by public rights of way running north to south and east to west.

That raises serious questions about evacuation routes, and how incidents could affect other nearby residents too. Those risks must be properly assessed at the design stage — not after problems arise. The site is located in a rural setting with narrow lanes, narrow field entrances, soft verges, and with distance to hydrants this could significantly impede the emergency services' ability to access the site quickly and deploy appropriate resources. In a fire scenario, solar panel arrays may also propagate flames across long rows of panels or trigger adjacent field fires, placing nearby residents, fauna and property at risk.

In the event of a fire involving PV modules, the release of toxic fumes from plastic resins, heavy metals and chemicals is a recognised hazard. Further, fire-water run-off may carry contaminants into soil and watercourses, potentially causing long-term environmental harm.

Making emergency services statutory consultees doesn't delay renewable energy — it ensures it's delivered safely, responsibly and with the protection of local communities at its heart.

In other areas of Yorkshire, examples being East Yorkshire and Doncaster councils, the police and fire are statutory consultees in solar farm applications.

To recap - I'd like to ask for the Panel's views on whether there is scope for the police and fire services to be statutory consultees and take a formal role in the planning process for solar farm developments in North Yorkshire, and what opportunities or challenges the Panel sees in that approach."

The Deputy Mayor outlined current practice, namely that the fire service is not a statutory consultee but provides operationally-focussed risk-based guidance when invited by local planning authorities. Early engagement between developers and emergency services is strongly encouraged and a structured process is in place for pre-application dialogue. The Deputy Mayor also underlined that it is important that the right balance is struck between carbon reduction and investment in sustainability and that the public and firefighters are kept safe. The Deputy Mayor offered to provide a response in writing to Caroline.

Following discussion among Panel members, it was noted by North Yorkshire Members that if the fire service provides comments on an application that these should ordinarily appear on the planning portal held by the council and it would be noted in the committee papers that the service had responded/commented. It was noted by a York Member that police and fire are similarly routinely engaged regarding solar farms and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) but are not statutory consultees unless the application pertains to a nationally significant level of infrastructure.

Panel members discussed the opportunities and challenges of the potential for statutory-consultee status of the police and fire services. Of particular concern was the potential impact on resource, should the services be compulsorily required to attend and review each application for solar farms. Members highlighted that parish councils provide a useful way of raising concerns on applications as well as individually.

The Chair thanked Caroline Clayton for attending the meeting.

It was noted that an additional public question had been received regarding road

safety statistics but that the individual was not able to attend and ask their question at the meeting. The Deputy Mayor offered to contact the individual to provide a response.

Resolved

That the Panel

- (a) receives a written response to the public question regarding solar farm applications from the Deputy Mayor, to provide to the questioner; and
- (b) receives a written response from the Deputy Mayor to a question forwarded regarding road safety, to pass on to the questioner who was absent from the meeting.

137a Panel's Scrutiny of the Policing Precept Proposal 2026/27

Resolved

That the Panel notes the guidance provided by the Panel Secretariat regarding the legal role and powers available to the Panel when considering the Mayor's policing precept proposal.

137b Policing Precept Proposal 2026/27

Considered

The Mayor's policing precept proposal for 2026/27.

The Mayor introduced the proposal for a £15 increase (Band D), citing strong public support following the consultation and the various pressures on policing services including inflation and pay awards.

Panel members noted the 9% reduction in crime overall in North Yorkshire and York in the last two years and commended improvements made in neighbourhood policing in particular. However, in the context of the removal of national funding for police officer uplifts and the freezing of the Neighbourhood Policing grant, Members expressed concern around the continued commitment to deliver sustained, visible local policing moving forward.

The Panel noted the Chief Constable's assurance that the planned 17 additional neighbourhood officers will still be delivered in 2026/27 as funding will be at risk if this is not achieved. However, concern was expressed that in view of the funding pressures and challenges facing the police service locally, an increase in the precept of £15 will still leave a funding gap for the service. Members conveyed concern that this could result in a 'worst case' reduction of up to 21 police officers and that the impact of this could be felt across communities. The Chief Constable acknowledged the concerns but also highlighted the need for the service to balance resource across frontline and specialist functions (such as cyber crime). Members felt it important that within communities, people perceive that they are safe.

The Panel noted the high level of public support for an increase in the precept of £15 and that planned savings and efficiencies will also help to ensure a balanced budget for 2026/27. The Panel welcomed the efforts of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to make ongoing representations to government around the challenges of policing such a large rural area.

The Chair invited Members to consider whether it was necessary to remove into closed session to consider the recommendations. The Panel agreed this was not required. Members voted unanimously via a show of hands to support the Mayor's proposed precept proposal for policing for 2026/27. The Panel will provide a statutory report confirming its recommendations.

Resolved

That the Panel

- (a) supports the Mayor's proposal to increase the policing precept for 2026/27 to £335.86, representing an increase of £15 (or 4.67%) for a Band D property;
- (b) will provide a statutory report for the Mayor, with any recommendations, by 8 February 2026;
- (c) receives copies of the correspondence highlighted at the previous meeting, including from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to the Home Secretary around the challenges of rural policing;
- (d) receives confirmation that commissioned services have been advised about the confirmation of funding from the Ministry of Justice for victim services in 2026/27 and 2027/28.

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Members' Questions

A member asked the Deputy Mayor to clarify the expected role of police officers in identifying and reporting safeguarding concerns, particularly regarding children, given recent media commentary suggesting instances of alleged "police overreach" in child-protection contexts. The Deputy Mayor confirmed receipt of a letter from an MP relating to a specific publicly-reported incident, and noted that the correct response was to direct the affected individual to the formal police complaints process if they believed an officer had acted improperly. The Deputy Mayor emphasised that safeguarding is the responsibility of all public-sector professionals, including police, social care, education and health.

The Deputy Mayor was also asked whether the police are making full use of private-sector Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems - particularly those operated in the car parks of major retail parks and supermarkets - to support the detection of prolific shoplifters and cross-border crime. The Deputy Mayor highlighted a retail-crime symposium which was convened in 2025, where the role of technology and partnership working was a major theme. A further symposium is planned, indicating continued focus on strengthening partnerships with retail parks and shopping centres. The Chief Constable explained that he is the national policing lead for ANPR, and therefore responsible for national data standards, governance and oversight. He set out clear distinctions between:

- the public ANPR network, which meets strict standards, is centrally governed and feeds into a secure national database; and
- the private ANPR network, which does not follow the same regulatory, security or data-quality requirements.

For these reasons, it's key that the police work with the Information Commissioner's Office to ensure a continued balance moving forward between maintaining civil liberties and being able to access private ANPR systems for specific operations where lawful and appropriate.

Resolved

That the Panel notes the responses provided to Members' questions.

139 Road Safety - Progress in York and North Yorkshire

Considered

The report from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor regarding progress in delivering the partnership priority regarding road safety in York and North Yorkshire.

Members were invited to note the priority being placed on Vision Zero, the new national Road Safety Strategy, and the need for robust partnership across policing, fire, highways and local authorities.

Panel members highlighted the lack of fixed and average speed cameras in the region in comparison with some neighbouring authority areas and that this had been noted by the Chief Constable as an “untenable” position. The Chief Constable highlighted:

- the high number of fatalities and serious injuries over the past decade;
- the need to improve safety through engineering, education and enforcement, with fixed-camera infrastructure key to modifying driver behaviour; and
- the pressures created by seasonal spikes in visitor traffic.

Members raised issues relating to:

- requesting data on collision causation and the need for further identification of what learning has resulted from the reduction in fatalities in 2023/24;
- the need for time-bound delivery plans and clarified future funding for the Road Safety Partnership.
- 20mph zones and enforcement challenges around the implementation of these;
- the importance of early engagement with schools and communities on road safety and
- the emerging risks from e-bikes and e-scooters.

Resolved

That the Panel

- (a) notes the reports provided;
- (b) receives further information from the Deputy Mayor highlighting collision causation for KSI figures; and
- (c) requests further detail on where e-bikes and e-scooters have been involved in collisions in future data packs.

140 Work Programme

Resolved

That the Panel notes the outline programme of work for 2026/27.

141 Any other items

The Chief Constable offered to provide Panel members with an additional informal briefing if helpful at the Joint Police/Fire HQ, on developments within the service.

The Chair thanked the Chief Constable for this offer and further arrangements will be co-ordinated in due course.

142 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 23 April 2026 at 10:30am at Selby Civic Centre.

The meeting concluded at 12.34 pm.
DP.

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North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

23 April 2026

Progress on Issues Raised by the Panel

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To advise Members of

- (i) progress on issues which the Panel has raised at previous meetings; and
- (ii) any other matters that have arisen since the last meeting and which relate to the work of the Panel.

2.0 Background

2.1 This report lists the Panel's previous resolutions and/or when it requested further information to be submitted to future meetings. The table below provides a list of issues which were identified at previous Panel meetings, and which have not yet been resolved. The table also indicates where the issues are regarded as completed and will therefore not be carried forward to this agenda item at the next Panel meeting.

2.2 The Panel is asked to consider whether any further follow-up is required.

	Date	Minute number and subject (if applicable)	Panel resolution or issue raised	Comment / date required	Status
1	1 May 2025	82 / Rural and Wildlife Crime	To receive update from Deputy Mayor following discussions with CPS on securing prosecutions for wildlife crime.	When available.	In progress.
2	8 Oct 2025	109 / Members' Questions	How many women were offered therapeutic treatment through the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)? How many accepted/rejected? Can it be broken down into whether they are from North Yorks and from York?	<i>Further clarity sought at January 26 meeting.</i>	Completed. See Appendix A.
3	8 Oct 2025	109 / Members' Questions	What is the usage of the centre by West Yorkshire Police and/or other police areas rather than North Yorkshire Police with the therapeutic treatment? Are there	<i>Further clarity sought at Jan meeting.</i>	Completed. See Appendix A.

			numbers available on this?		
4	8 Oct 2025	110 / Langdale Moor Fire Update	Panel requested to be kept updated on the progress of the ongoing investigations into Langdale Moor wildfire and provided with info on the finalised costs of the incident when available.	February 2026	Completed. <i>Awaiting info on cost recovery.</i>
5	8 Oct 2025	111 / Protecting Vulnerable People	What is the support given to adults and child victims in respect of therapeutic intervention whilst a criminal investigation is ongoing and is there data on the current time lag between an investigation ending and when any court proceedings are completed?	21.01.26	Partially completed. The issue re time lag has been taken forward to the Local Criminal Justice Partnership and will be addressed as part of this and is noted on their tracker.
6	8 Oct 2025	111 / Protecting Vulnerable People	Is data held for York and North Yorkshire on the number of children under the age of 12 (that have been subject to sexual abuse) and how long the court delays are in these cases?	21.01.26	Partially completed. The issue re time lag has been taken forward to the Local Criminal Justice Partnership and will be addressed as part of this and is noted on their tracker.
7	21 Jan 2026	122 / Policing 'pre-precept' paper	Panel to receive a copy of the Mayor/DMPFC's letter to govt re challenges of policing in rural area.	16.02.26	Completed.
8	21 Jan 2026	122 / Policing 'pre-precept' paper	DMPFC to clarify whether the CC's letter to govt re police funding can be shared with Panel.	16.02.26	Completed. See Appendix A.
9	21 Jan 2026	125 / Members' Questions	Written update to be received regarding stop and search policies and compliance with national guidance regarding biological sex of officers conducting searches.	16.02.26	Completed. See Appendix A.

10	21 Jan 2026	125 / Members' Questions	Panel to receive details re status and timetable for the Community Asset Register linked to LRF.	01.03.26	Completed. See Appendix A.
11	5 Feb 2026	136 / Public Questions	DMPFC to provide written response to public question re solar farms.	16.02.26	Completed.
12	5 Feb 2026	136 / Public Questions	DMPFC to provide written response to question re road safety (not taken at public meeting).	16.02.26	Completed. Response provided at Appendix A. <i>Clarification being sought on whether this has been shared with the correspondent.</i>
13	5 Feb 2026	137b / Policing Precept Proposal	Receive confirmation that commissioned services have been advised re MoJ funding for victim services.	16.02.26	Completed. See Appendix A.
14	5 Feb 2026	149 / Road safety	Further data requested highlighting breakdown of collision causation.	01.03.26	In progress. See Appendix A.

3.0 Financial Implications

3.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.

4.0 Legal Implications

4.1 There are no significant legal implications arising from this report.

5.0 Equalities Implications

5.1 There are no significant equalities implications arising from this report.

6.0 Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no significant climate change implications arising from this report.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 It is recommended that the Panel:

(a) notes the report

(b) considers whether any of the points highlighted in this report require further follow-up.

Appendices:

Appendix A: Updates against issues raised by the Panel.

Background Documents: None.

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive, Legal and Democratic Services
County Hall
Northallerton
14 April 2026

Report Author: Diane Parsons, Principal Scrutiny Officer / nypfcp@northyorks.gov.uk

	Query raised	Response from the Policing, Fire and Crime Team (YNYCA)																				
2/3	Data sought on numbers of women offered therapeutic treatment and the usage of the SARC by other police force areas.	<p>Response provided January 2026. The SARC provider is not commissioned to provide therapeutic treatment to victims. The provider is commissioned to provide Forensic Medical Examinations if appropriate with crisis support whilst they are at the Centre, advocating on behalf of the victim during their time in the Centre, answering any questions or concerns they may have and make onward referrals to aftercare services as required. All victims are routinely offered onward referrals onto ISVA services. Panel members can access our Commissioned Services pages if they would like to learn more about services commissioned by the PFC Directorate. The Deputy Mayor agreed to share data about usage of Acer House. The below data is from NHS England regarding Qtr 1 performance compared with the same period from the previous year.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="815 638 1948 1126"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Q1 2025/26</th> <th>Q1 2024/25</th> <th>Difference</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Referrals</td> <td>82</td> <td>74</td> <td>+8 / 11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examinations undertaken</td> <td>40</td> <td>30</td> <td>+10 / 33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phone/Email Advice only</td> <td>39</td> <td>35</td> <td>+4 / 11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Successful Contacts with Service</td> <td>79</td> <td>65</td> <td>+14 / 22%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Additional response provided March 2026 following request for data. As previously described to Panel Members, NHS England are the lead commissioning provider for the SARC contract in York and North Yorkshire. Whilst the YNYCA are one of several commissioning partners who contribute to this agreement, NHS England are the information owners / holders of any contractual data and performance statistics with the Service Provider.</p>		Q1 2025/26	Q1 2024/25	Difference	Referrals	82	74	+8 / 11%	Examinations undertaken	40	30	+10 / 33%	Phone/Email Advice only	39	35	+4 / 11%	All Successful Contacts with Service	79	65	+14 / 22%
	Q1 2025/26	Q1 2024/25	Difference																			
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Phone/Email Advice only	39	35	+4 / 11%																			
All Successful Contacts with Service	79	65	+14 / 22%																			

		Whilst some SARC information has already been shared which is in the public domain, it would be inappropriate for the YNYCA to disclose further contract specifics.
8	DMPFC to clarify whether the CC's letter to govt re police funding can be shared with Panel.	Letter of 26 January 2026 from the Chief Constable to the Deputy Mayor regarding how value for money is being delivered has been published within paperwork for the Mayoral Combined Authority and is available at the following web link Our Ref:
9	Written update to be received regarding stop and search policies and compliance with national guidance regarding biological sex of officers conducting searches.	<p>Following the UK Supreme Court ruling in April 2025 that the terms “sex” and “woman” in the Equality Act 2010 refer to biological sex, all police forces reviewed their approach to stop and search and other search procedures within the criminal justice system. The NPCC subsequently issued guidance stating that police searches—particularly intimate searches—must be based on a person’s biological sex rather than their lived gender. Individuals whose lived gender differs from their biological sex may request to be searched by an officer of their lived gender, but this requires written consent, which presents some operational challenges. The guidance also makes clear that transgender officers will not be required to carry out searches that conflict with their own gender identity.</p> <p>North Yorkshire Police (NYP) has adopted and complies with the NPCC guidance. With regard to the use of the term “gender” on the stop and search dashboard, this reflects terminology within the Force Crime Recording System (Niche RMS). The Niche stop and search module currently uses “gender”, but this is under national review along with other terminology. As Niche is used by more than 20 forces, any changes must be agreed collectively through the national Niche working group (MINERVA) in conjunction with the Home Office. MINERVA is exploring updates, which have not yet been ratified, that would record both “sex” and “gender”, providing greater clarity and choice. NYP is compliant with current legislation and NPCC guidance following the 2025 court ruling.</p>
10	Panel to receive details re status and timetable for the Community Asset Register linked to LRF.	NYFRS is working on the ability to pursue more formal contractual agreements with specialist providers. This will involve a retainer with a level of structured payment arrangement when required to respond to our incidents. This will ensure that NYFRS has reliable access to essential resources when needed. This model proved highly effective during the recent major incident at Langdale, where once in place, then allowed NYFRS to respond swiftly with clear purpose and objectives with robust command and control.

		<p>NYFRS fully recognises and appreciates the ongoing generosity the community shows in offering support during incidents and want to emphasise that such assistance remains valued and welcome. However, establishing a formal process to engage specialist providers on a paid, contractual basis enables us to ensure a consistently professional and reliable level of service that directly meets our operational requirements.</p> <p>This approach not only strengthens their ability to respond effectively but also allows NYFRS to tailor resources precisely to the demands of each situation.</p>
12	<p>DMPFC to provide written response to question re road safety (not taken at public meeting).</p>	<p>North Yorkshire Police recognise the importance of regularly updating the Speed Management Protocol (SMP) public-facing report and acknowledges that the report has not been refreshed for an extended period.</p> <p>The delay was primarily due to staffing changes within the Traffic Bureau, which limited capacity to administer the SMP at a time when the process itself was being modernised. During this period, the force transitioned from deploying physical roadside data loggers to using Agilysis software, which provides comprehensive speed and traffic flow data across the county over a rolling 12-month period. In parallel, collision analysis was strengthened through shared access with North Yorkshire Council to the AccsMap collision database, providing three years of collision data to support evidence-based decision making.</p> <p>Despite the report not being updated online, speed assessment activity has continued throughout this period using these improved datasets. The issue was therefore one of publication and process backlogs rather than a cessation of speed monitoring or road safety activity.</p> <p>To address the backlog and improve resilience, funding was secured through the Road Safety Partnership to recruit a dedicated fixed-term member of staff to support the administration of the Speed Management Protocol. That individual is due to commence in early May. In advance of this, the team has restructured the process, introduced a new database, and worked through a significant backlog of historic submissions to ensure all current concerns are assessed using consistent and auditable criteria.</p> <p>The public-facing report was partially refreshed in February to reflect more recent concerns, and a fully updated report — incorporating the outstanding speed and collision data — is scheduled for publication later this month. Going forward, the revised process and additional</p>

		capacity will ensure that the Speed Management Protocol remains current, transparent, and routinely updated.
13	Receive confirmation that commissioned services have been advised re MoJ funding for victim services.	<p>The announcement by the MOJ specifically related to the allocation of YNYCA (PFC) funding for financial years 2026/27 and 2027/28, as opposed to changes to any individual contractual arrangements with commissioned providers.</p> <p>Arrangements already in place with the YNYCA remain unaffected and continue to be managed in line with their current Terms and Conditions. Where there are any new opportunities for commissioned providers to benefit from any additional funding streams during their contract term, direct contact is made; otherwise, all new commissioning activity takes place in accordance with statutory regulations.</p>
14	Further data requested highlighting breakdown of collision causation.	<p>In progress - information requested from NYP regarding any data which is available regarding E-bikes and E-scooters. See also targeted operation NYP did in relation to this here Fed up of Sur-Rons on the streets so are we... 25 arrests, Illegal bikes seized, disposed, warrants executed and hundreds of young people educated - all in a day's work for Operation Tornado North Yorkshire Police</p>

POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL REPORT

Meeting Date	23 April 2026
Report Title	Prevention & Early Intervention / Targeted Prevention - Data Driven Approaches at NYP.

Information should be accessible for all. If you require this information in a different language or format, please contact the Police, Fire and Crime Team at info@northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk.

Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to outline the development of preventative, data-driven approaches used to identify high-risk locations and individuals and to provide updates on the programmes and operations currently in place, or planned, by North Yorkshire Police (NYP).

This work is framed by and directly aligned to the priorities set out within the North Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan, which provides the strategic focus and direction for both services. The report therefore highlights how NYP are delivering against the Plan’s ambitions and ensuring that prevention, community safety and resilience remain at the forefront of local service delivery.

Both NYP and NYFRS provide regular performance updates on the effectiveness of early intervention and prevention activities to the Deputy Mayor’s Strategic Oversight Boards and Online Public Meetings (OPMs).

North Yorkshire Police

1.0 Background

North Yorkshire Police (NYP) has increasingly shifted its policing towards prevention and early intervention as a core strategy to reduce demand, tackle the root causes of crime, and enhance community safety.

This approach has evolved, fully supported by the PFC, to a proactive, data-driven, partnership focused methodology through intelligence-led decision making and collaboration with partners. The prevention and early intervention approach is embedding across the force with a focus on identifying and problem solving in partnership, to tackle local problems early before they escalate and create demand upon other parts of policing or partner agencies.

2.0 Introduction

The shift into pro-active policing started when NYP introduced "Expedite" Teams in 2019 to tackle local crime and vulnerability through proactive investigation. Following this, in 2020, a pilot Public Safety Service was launched in the Craven district to prevent vulnerability and improve community resilience. Following the introduction of the Serious Violence Duty in 2023, NYP enhanced its focus on multi-agency approaches to prevent violence. This included launching the Serious Violence Duty Prevention and Early Intervention Fund.

The 2025 Force Management Statement [Force Management Statement 2025 | North Yorkshire Police](#)¹ confirms that prevention and early intervention are now embedded as the main vehicle for reducing future crime. Key actions include:

- **Rural Task Force (RTF):** Enhanced intelligence-led operations to deter rural crime.
- **Hot Spot Policing:** Securing £1 million in Home Office funding for 2024-2025 to tackle ASB and serious violence in specific hotspots.
- **School Liaison Realignment:** Moving School Liaison Officers directly under local Neighbourhood Policing Teams to strengthen preventative work with young people.

3.0 Specific Interventions

Below are some interventions in place, which predominantly cover youth provision. Youth provision remains a core pillar of early intervention across North Yorkshire, with NYP and commissioned partners delivering targeted programmes that give young people positive pathways and reduce the likelihood of offending.

3.1 Operation Divan

Local Policing Support (LPS) has developed several intervention projects such as Op Divan, and which are designed to reduce entry into the criminal justice system and provide effective early interventions. [NYSCP](#)²

- *Identification route* is done through intelligence reports, young people identified with knife and offensive weapons, and young people identified from incidents at home, schools, colleges and public spaces.
- *Results* have seen a significant reduction in knife/weapon offending in young people who have been involved in the program and are 60% less likely to commit knife-related crimes in the future.
- *Of note:* North Yorkshire are the only force to have this programme.

3.2 Operation Choice

An early intervention initiative aimed at reducing the criminalisation of young people found in possession of drugs, focusing on education and diversion.

- *Identification* through referrals of children and young people who are found in the possession of drugs. [Operation Choice: Youth Justice Resource Hub](#)³
- *Results* have seen an 80% reduction in drug possession with primary offence disposal at a Youth Offender Panel, over a 3-year period. Designed to avoid criminalising children for minor, first-time offences, focusing instead on restorative interventions.

3.3 Knife Drop Bins

Knife drop bins was a pilot in Harrogate (started in 2023) led to the removal of over 500 knives, prompting wider expansion.

- More than 1,700 weapons have been deposited in knife amnesty bins across North Yorkshire since a county-wide roll-out.
- Weapons including hunting knives, daggers and machetes have been handed in and will prevent them falling into the wrong hands.

¹ <https://www.northyorkshire.police.uk/police-forces/north-yorkshire-police/areas/about-us/about-us/force-management-statement/>

² <https://safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/procedures-practice-guidance-and-one-minute-guides/operation-divan/>

³ <https://yjresourcehub.uk/operation-choice-drugs-early-intervention-and-prevention-for-children-north-yorkshire-police-december-2025/#:~:text=Summary,revert%20to%20traditional%20disposal%20methods>

- An interactive map was developed to show where knives can be deposited and how to do it safely. [Knife bins | North Yorkshire Police](#)⁴

3.4 Clear, Hold, Build

Launched in March 2024 in Clifton (York) and Barrowcliff (Scarborough), this initiative focuses on disrupting organised crime and rehabilitating areas. [Barrowcliff Clear, Hold, Build](#)⁵ Initial results from Clear, Hold, Build areas show reductions in ASB and improved community confidence, supported by targeted hotspot patrols and multi-agency place-based problem solving.

- Is a place-based, 3-phase operational framework designed to simultaneously tackle the totality of Serious Organised Crime. The 3rd stage, BUILD, aims to restore areas which includes promoting education and training opportunities aimed at diverting young people away from a life of crime.
 - Since ‘Building Barrowcliff Together’ was launched, there has been a 25% decrease in overall crime on the estate, with 284 incidents in total.
 - Incidents also decreased by 9% (840 in total).
 - Most crime groups have seen a reduction compared with the previous 12-month period, except vehicle offences which went up by nine (10 in total) and drug offences which increase by four (19 in total). No drug importation offences were recorded in the area, which is positive as this offence type has increased across other areas of North Yorkshire.
 - Anti-social behaviour has reduced by five offences with 85 offences in total.
 - Arson and criminal damage reduced by five offences, with a total of 42 offences.
 - Violence against the person reduced the most, with 71 fewer offences (146 in total).
 - There have also been 11 arrests for possessing Class A drugs with intent to supply, and more than 50 disruptions of organised crime groups operating on the estate.

The number of intelligence reports has increased by 73%, from 362 in 2024-2025 to 626 reports in 2024-2025. This shows the level of support within the community as well as the work of officers to develop fresh lines of enquiry to act upon.

3.5 Operation Vigilant

Operation Vigilant is a NYP initiative deploying plain-clothed and uniformed officers in York and Scarborough to identify, challenge, and disrupt individuals displaying predatory, sexual, or harmful behaviour in the night-time economy. The operation aims to prevent sexual offenses, protect vulnerable people, and boost safety through proactive, intelligence-led patrols

- *Results* from Project Vigilant in Scarborough ended in 23 arrests, 9 stop and search, 9 dispersals, 49 people taken to places of safety and 68 conversations held to resolve incident escalation.
- As part of the VAWG Strategy, Op Vigilant continues to deploy in York City Centre on key dates, including race days.

This operation has been in the media recently as it was announced that The Home Office are investing over £1 million in Project Vigilant, expanding undercover operations across nine forces – one of the largest crackdowns yet on predatory behaviour in public spaces. North Yorkshire has had this in place since 2023.

⁴ <https://www.northyorkshire.police.uk/police-forces/north-yorkshire-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/knife-bins/>

⁵ <https://www.northyorkshire.police.uk/news/north-yorkshire/news/news/2024/03-march/barrowcliff-clear-hold-build-project-launched-in-scarborough/>

3.6 School Liaison Realignment

Neighbourhood Policing Teams, including Schools-based officers, have refocused on proactive prevention, earlier identification of vulnerability and increased engagement with young people and families.

In 2025 the realignment of Problem Solving and School Liaison resources took place. School Liaison Officers now come under the command of local Commands within Neighbourhood Policing teams. These are closely managed to ensure that these roles remain focused on the force's prevention and early intervention priority.

North Yorkshire Police has embraced the prevention and early intervention methodology as the main vehicle through reducing future crime to sustain the viability of the force to meet demand. If this approach isn't embedded and driving benefits in the future the likely consequential growth of reactive demand and crime will outstrip any resourcing model the force can afford to put into place to meet demand.

3.7 Activity led by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Policing Fire and Crime

The Deputy Mayor continues to convene regular strategic meetings with Community Safety Partnerships to drive consistent, joined-up approaches to violence reduction, safeguarding, and community resilience.

The Mayor/Deputy Mayor are also leading cross-agency work on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), ensuring the adoption of trauma-informed, evidence-based approaches across the county.

The Mayor has committed to doubling the Community Fund, increasing investment in grassroots prevention to ensure resources reach the places of greatest need and make the greatest impact.

Alongside this, the Community Fund's processes are being reviewed to maximise fairness, transparency, and the impact of local prevention activity.

The Mayor's commissioning intentions further strengthen prevention through investment in restorative justice services, specialist women's centres and targeted initiatives such as the Crossroads Project, supporting people at risk of entering or re-entering the criminal justice system. This aligns with the Mayor's commitment to significantly expand early intervention and prevention services across York and North Yorkshire.

4.0 Key Areas for Future Focus

Going forward there are key areas which will be prioritised in the Prevention and Early Intervention space.

- Developing a strengthened public health approach to crime, incorporating evidence-based interventions addressing drugs and alcohol misuse, trauma, adverse childhood experiences and wider determinants of vulnerability.
- Working closely with Local Authorities, fire services, and health partners to create a "public health approach" to crime. This means using data, intelligence, and case studies to identify the extent and impact this has on perpetrators, victims of crime, and the wider community.
- Utilising analytical tools to identify high-risk areas or individuals for early intervention for data driven approaches.
- Proactive, trauma-informed support to break the cycle of crime for victims.

The March OPM also asked NYP about this topic and further details of some of the things mentioned in this report, relating to Prevention and Early Intervention can be found here, if you have not watched it already. [Online Public Meeting – 19 March 2026 -NYP - Prevention and Early Intervention - York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority – Policing, Fire and Crime Team](https://www.northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk/police-oversight/governance/governance-process/corporate-scrutiny-board/opm19march2026/)⁶

⁶ <https://www.northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk/police-oversight/governance/governance-process/corporate-scrutiny-board/opm19march2026/>

POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL REPORT

Meeting Date	23 April 2026
Report Title	Prevention & Early Intervention / Targeted Prevention - Data Driven Approaches and Emerging Technologies at NYFRS

Information should be accessible for all. If you require this information in a different language or format, please contact the Police, Fire and Crime Team at info@northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk.

Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to outline the development of preventative, data-driven approaches used to identify high-risk locations and individuals and to provide updates on the programmes and operations currently in place, or planned, by North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (NYFRS).

The report also sets out how NYFRS is preparing to meet emerging environmental and technological challenges, such as increased flooding and risks associated with e-bikes and other lithium-ion powered devices, through targeted investment, strengthened collaboration and proactive prevention work.

This work is framed by and directly aligned to the priorities set out within the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Plan, which provides the strategic focus and direction for the Service. The report therefore highlights NYFRS is delivering against the Plan’s ambitions and ensuring that prevention, community safety and resilience remain at the forefront of local service delivery.

Both NYP and NYFRS provide regular performance updates on the effectiveness of early intervention and prevention activities to the Deputy Mayor’s Strategic Oversight Boards and Online Public Meetings (OPMs).

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

1.0 Background

Data-driven prevention and early intervention are central to NYFRS’s Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2025-29 and its Protection and Prevention Strategies. The Service’s approach is driven through the use of risk data, targeted activity, and integrated working with partners to reach those most at risk at the earliest opportunity, reducing the likelihood of requiring an emergency response.

This is detailed in the CRMP [CRMP-final-screen-version-Dec-2025.pdf](#),¹ which states:

“Digital, data and technology underpin all areas of fire and rescue service business, from front-line response to the targeting of our interventions; from how we manage risk to how we look after our people. By harnessing accurate data, we can make evidence-based, informed decisions, allocate resources efficiently, and tailor prevention strategies to the unique risks of our communities.

The most recent inspection by His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), published in June 2025, recognised significant improvements in how NYFRS understands and prevents risk. The Service was graded *Good* for *understanding risk* and *preventing fires and other risks*, reflecting the impact of more

¹ <https://www.northyorkshire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/CRMP-final-screen-version-Dec-2025.pdf>

robust data-led targeting and early intervention since the previous inspection cycle, and reflects the journey towards outstanding grades.

2.0 Use of Digital, Data and Technology

NYFRS has significantly strengthened the way it uses data to identify who is most at risk, the nature of those risks, and where they are most likely to occur. The Community Risk Profile 2025, available to read at [Community Risk Profile 2025 - North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service](#)², sets out all foreseeable fire and rescue-related risks, including accidental 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 across York and North Yorkshire, supporting targeted prevention, protection and response activity. It brings together:

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

This has enabled a targeted approach, prioritising households, individuals, and premises assessed as being at *High* or *Very High* risk, as well as specific locations such as particular stretches of road or waterways. It also supports tailoring the most appropriate type of engagement, ranging from universal prevention activity to targeted education and engagement programmes, and specialist risk-reduction interventions.

3.0 Interventions and Impact

3.1 Home Fire Safety Visits

The most tangible impact of the data-driven, people-centred approach is seen in prevention delivery:

- During 2025/26, Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) increased by 42% to 6,353, significantly exceeding the target of 5,500. This included a 31% increase in visits to *High* and *Very High* risk households compared with the previous year. Overall, 68% of all HFSVs were delivered to households assessed as *High* or *Very High* risk.
- The introduction of a digital partner referral application (developed with Safelincs and the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC)) enables health, housing, and social care partners to refer vulnerable individuals quickly and securely. NYFRS was the first service to implement this with NHS partners. Pater referrals into NYFRS increased by 30% in 2025/26 to 2,345, demonstrating strong partner engagement and improved identification of vulnerable residents.
- Implementation of a Post-Incident Engagement (PIE) Policy, supported by full crew training, has resulted in a significant increase in post-incident HFSVs.

These interventions demonstrate a clear shift from volume-based activity to risk-led early intervention and education.

3.2 Public Safety Service

Within Craven, NYFRS and NYP fund a joint Public Safety Service. Public Safety Officers proactively find and engage isolated or minoritised residents; deliver person centred prevention aligned to fire, police and NHS priorities; and help build rural community resilience. This aligns with the focus on early intervention, safeguarding and reducing harm.

3.3 Emerging Technologies

² <https://www.northyorkshirefire.gov.uk/about-us/who-and-what/community-risk-profile-2025/>

The way we power our lives and heat our homes is changing, with infrastructure projects being developed across our region to harness renewable technologies.

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 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 - North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service](#)³.

The NFCC has published comprehensive fire safety guidance for e-bikes and e-scooters aimed at both the public and fire and rescue services. This guidance focuses on safe purchasing, charging, storage, and battery disposal, highlighting risks such as thermal runaway, rapid fire spread, toxic fumes, and re-ignition. It strongly advises against charging devices on escape routes or overnight and stresses the importance of using approved chargers and batteries.

This guidance is reinforced through the NFCC's *Charge Safe* campaign, which promotes consistent national prevention messaging. The campaign targets households, delivery riders, landlords, and residents of flats and HMOs, where risk is higher due to charging in shared or confined spaces.

NYFRS has incorporated this guidance into HFSVs, updating content to reflect risks associated with emerging technologies such as lithium-ion batteries used in e-scooters.

NYFRS has also developed and rolled out specific training for crews to deal with electric vehicle fires and will continue to monitor developments and plan its response accordingly.

3.4 Road Safety

NYFRS works in partnership with other organisations through the York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership to deliver targeted road safety education and engagement, with a particular focus on vulnerable road users.

The methodology developed by the National Fire Chiefs Council in collaboration with Operational Research in Health Limited is used to identify the likelihood, consequence and overall risk of road traffic collisions by road type, helping to target interventions more effectively.

NYFRS FireBike deployments increased from 32 in 2023/24 to 58 in 2024/25, concentrating on high-risk motorcycling routes and known collision hotspots.

3.5 Water Safety and Climate-Related Events

Climate-related incidents such as flooding and wildfires are reflected as risks and *Areas of Focus* in the NYFRS Community Risk Management Plan 2025–2029. Through Local Resilience Forums, NYFRS contributes to shared risk assessments, joint training, and coordinated response arrangements, ensuring alignment of resources and expertise across agencies.

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.

The risk assessment undertaken as part of the previous CRMP (the Risk and Resource Model 2022–25) led to the introduction and investment in a specialist water rescue unit in Craven.

The Service has increased engagement activity in response to emerging incident trends and environmental risk data, including risks associated with waterways and wildfires. 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

³ <https://www.northyorkshire.gov.uk/business-safety/battery-energy-storage-systems/>

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.

At the Deputy Mayor's OPM in June 2025, NYFRS delivered a presentation outlining its approach to wildfire risk reduction and response. This highlighted targeted prevention activity, education and engagement programmes, including youth-focused initiatives delivered during summer holiday periods. The presentation also set out partnership working arrangements through the Local Resilience Forum, collaboration with National Trust Rangers, delivery of the Farm Fire Safety campaign, and joint working with organisations whose activities may increase wildfire risk. This includes joint patrols in known high-risk areas during peak periods. Further detail is available in the presentation at [Online Public Meeting – June 2025 - Prevention and Response to Wild/Moor Fires](#)⁴

Following the Langdale Moor fire, NYFRS has strengthened its preventative work with partners by enhancing public safety messaging across social media. This includes working with partners on the planned installation of additional safety signage at high-risk locations, as well as a constructive site visit with Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The visit underscored the importance of closer coordination between national government departments, local services and other key stakeholders to effectively mitigate wildfire risk in the months ahead.

NYFRS is also increasing its provision of wildfire teams equipped with specialist vehicles, equipment, and training. A community asset register is being developed to formalise arrangements with partners who can support these incidents. The Service will enhance wildfire training and identify alternative vehicles, equipment, and personal protective equipment to strengthen its wildfire and rural response.

NYFRS is developing a Community Asset Register and formalising contracts with third-party providers to support our response to wildfires and other Major Incidents.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor, alongside the Panel, continue to make representations to Government to ensure that the funding formula reflects geographic scale and climate-related risks. They have strongly urged that flooding response is made a statutory firefighter duty and reflected in future funding formulas.

3.6 Protection (Business Fire Safety)

NYFRS Protection teams help keep businesses, buildings, and building users safe by providing support, guidance, and, where appropriate, enforcement to ensure fire safety standards are met. The Service has implemented a 24/7 response from specialist Protection Officers to support operational crews and the public where issues arise.

Intervention visits are allocated through the data- and intelligence-led Risk-Based Intervention Programme (RBIP), ensuring resources are directed at the highest-risk premises. All known *High Risk* premises are visited by specialist staff within a rolling three-year period, in line with national guidance.

A quality-assurance process has also been introduced to ensure audits are completed to the appropriate standard and by suitably trained and qualified staff.

Following the Grenfell Tower tragedy, the Government committed to remediating buildings with unsafe cladding and wider fire safety issues. The National Remediation Acceleration Plan sets out expectations that:

- All buildings over 18m within government-funded schemes are remediated by 2029.
- All buildings over 11m are either remediated, scheduled for remediation, or subject to enforcement by 2029.

To date, all 18m+ high-rise buildings in York and North Yorkshire audited by NYFRS have been assessed as not requiring remediation. Over the past 18 months, the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, NYFRS, and local authority partners have actively started to implement a Local Remediation Acceleration Plan for medium-rise buildings (11m–18m). This plan sets out a clear strategy for identifying, prioritising, and remediating higher-risk

⁴ <https://www.northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk/police-oversight/governance/governance-process/corporate-scrutiny-board/opm19june2025/>

buildings, supported by enhanced data analysis, risk-based prioritisation, and strengthened oversight to accelerate delivery.

4.0 Key Areas for Future Focus

Looking ahead, NYFRS is focusing on:

- Further embedding data analytics to evaluate impact, not just activity levels.
- Deepening partner data-sharing to strengthen and develop collaboration opportunities with partner organisations to deliver effective, data driven interventions that reduce risk, with a particular focus on strengthening relationships with housing, social care and health sectors.
- Strengthening referral pathways for Home Fire Safety Visits through trusted partners, alongside proactive use of incident data to identify vulnerable individuals.
- Strengthening wildfire learning and prevention by working with partners including local authorities, Yorkshire Water, national wildfire leads, academic partners and DEFRA.
- Using learning from HMICFRS to refine targeting and prioritisation.
- Improving outcome measures to demonstrate reductions in risk and harm over time.

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North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

23 April 2026

Annual Report of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel 2025/26

1.0 Purpose of report

- 1.1 For the Panel to receive and comment upon the draft Annual Report of the Panel for 2025/26.

2.0 An Annual Report is normally prepared for the Panel each year, providing a summary reflection of the Panel's work and key outcomes from the municipal year. This stems from a historical request from the Home Office to report annually against grant spend relating to performance and budget. While this reporting requirement has now been re-focussed, it is considered good practice for scrutiny committees to undergo this exercise; to help reflect on business undertaken and planned and to help demonstrate the range of issues reviewed and rigour of those discussions to the wider public and partners. An Annual Report therefore continues to be prepared for the Panel each summer.

3.0 As North Yorkshire Council has agreed to receive a copy of the Panel's Annual Report at its Council meeting each July, a draft of the Annual Report is being brought before Panel members on 23 April 2026 in order to receive approval in principle to the content and/or any further comments or suggestions prior to full Council on 15 July.

4.0 As we are still therefore in the early stages of a draft, information relating to the Panel budget in section 7 of the report has yet to be updated because the year-end return to the Home Office will not be completed until mid-May. An updated version of the report can therefore be circulated via email to Members with the final data in due course.

5.0 The finalised report will also be shared with City of York Council, to be circulated to its Members. A copy will also be placed, following full Council, on the North Yorkshire Partnerships website.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.

7.0 Legal Implications

7.1 There are no significant legal implications arising from this report.

8.0 Equalities Implications

8.1 There are no significant equalities implications arising from this report.

9.0 Climate Change Implications

9.1 There are no significant climate change implications arising from this report.

10.0 Recommendation

10.1 The Panel is asked to give its in-principle approval to the draft Annual Report for 2025/26, subject to any additions or amendments agreed.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Draft Annual Report of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel 2025/26

Background Documents: None

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services
County Hall
Northallerton
14 April 2026

Report Author: Diane Parsons, Principal Scrutiny Officer.
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North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Annual Report 2025/26

Foreword from the Chair

As Chair of the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel I am pleased to introduce the Panel's Annual Report for 2025/26.

Last year I highlighted our ongoing support for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in seeking more resilient funding arrangements from government for our fire and rescue service. This has included highlighting the increasing need for the service to respond to volatile environmental issues such as flooding and wildfires and the impact this has on the service's resources. The fragility of this position could not then have been driven home more clearly than through the devastating impact of the Langdale Moor wildfire in the summer of 2025, which required fire and rescue resource from North Yorkshire and a number of other areas over a number of weeks in order to get the blaze fully under control. 'Lessons learned' from the response effort will certainly help the service and partners going forward but resilient funding and cost recovery in these circumstances become particularly important. We will continue to review with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor how they are ensuring that an efficient and effective service is delivered, which is also able to mitigate and plan for a changing environmental climate.

Looking to our policing service, the government published its White Paper "From local to national: a new model for policing", in January of this year. This signals significant changes to the policing landscape nationally. Closer to home it also outlines a government commitment to abolish Police (Fire) and Crime Panels at the end of the Mayoral term in spring 2028. It is unclear at this stage what the detail of these reforms will look like for our police area. Regardless of what 2028 brings, the Panel members – and our constituent local councils – are committed to ensuring that robust scrutiny arrangements continue and that the Panel can scrutinise the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in relation to their performance against the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan and Fire and Rescue Plan.

In closing these comments may I take opportunity to extend my thanks to the various colleagues and partners who have guided and inputted to our scrutiny process over the last year; to the officers of the Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA), particularly those from the Policing, Fire and Crime Directorate; to the Chief Officers from policing and fire and rescue for attending our meetings and providing the Panel with briefing opportunities; and of course to those officers from Legal and Democratic Services at North Yorkshire Council who have continued to support and counsel the Panel.

CLlr Peter R Wilkinson
Chair

June 2026

1. What is the Police, Fire and Crime Panel?

Police and Crime Panels were established in England and Wales in 2012 to provide a check and balance function in relation to the performance of Police and Crime Commissioners, who also came into being at that time. Panels have a wide remit to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other actions taken, by the Commissioner in connection with the discharge of the Commissioner's functions. Panels have oversight of some of the Commissioner's key documents, decisions and reports, requiring them to provide information and answer any questions which the Panel considers necessary.

Police and Crime Panels are joint scrutiny bodies of the local authorities in the police service area. They are mainly comprised of elected members from these authorities, with normally at least two independent members who are co-opted to bring additional or complementary skills and knowledge. Councillor membership of a Panel must be geographically and politically proportionate. The Panel's membership in this reporting period is outlined in section 9, below.

With the transfer of fire and rescue governance to the Commissioner in 2018, the North Yorkshire Panel duly became the Police, Fire and Crime Panel ("the Panel"), to reflect a broadening out of its scrutiny functions.

The Panel does not scrutinise the Chief Constable or Chief Fire Officer or hold them to account. They are not required to attend Panel meetings but can be asked to attend with the Commissioner where it is felt that providing further operational context or clarification to a discussion would be helpful.

With the advent of devolution in York and North Yorkshire in 2024, the policing, fire and crime responsibilities of the area's Commissioner transferred to the Mayor, David Skaith, on 7 May 2024. The Mayor is legally able to delegate policing and crime functions to a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and, in this area, this delegation extended to the fire and rescue authority functions which passed to the Mayor. A Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime – Jo Coles - commenced in post on 8 July 2024.

Similarly to the role of Commissioner, the Mayor has responsibility for setting the direction, objectives and budgets of North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, and for holding the Chief Constable/Chief Fire Officer to account. The Panel's role is to scrutinise and support the performance of the Mayor (and Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime) and specifically to conduct the following statutory functions:

- To review the Mayor's draft Police and Crime / Fire and Rescue Plans and make recommendations on these;
- To review and make recommendations on proposed appointments for the roles of Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer – the Panel also has the power to veto these proposed appointments;
- To review and make recommendations on the Mayor's proposed level of Council Tax precept for policing and fire – the Panel has a power of veto for the Mayor's first policing precept proposal;
- To review and make recommendations on the Mayor's draft Annual Reports for Policing and Fire and Rescue;
- To consider non-criminal complaints made against the Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime.

The Mayor may delegate some of the policing and crime functions to a Deputy Mayor with the exception of:

- Issuing a Police and Crime Plan / Fire and Rescue Plan;
- Calculating the Council Tax precept requirement for policing and fire and rescue; and
- Appointing, suspending or requiring a Chief Constable or Chief Fire Officer to retire or resign.

Further details about the Panel's governance and recent publications can be found on the [North Yorkshire Partnerships website](#). Meeting papers and agendas can be found on the [North Yorkshire Council website](#).

Panel meetings take place roughly five to six times per year and are held in public. Support to the Panel is provided by the host authority, which is North Yorkshire Council.

2. Meetings held during 2025/26

Formal Panel meetings are held in person and generally rotate venue between Northallerton, York and Selby. The Panel convened in person and in public on five occasions to undertake Panel business in the last municipal year. Panel meetings are live broadcasted and recorded where possible and recordings can be viewed on the ['Live Meetings' page](#) of the North Yorkshire Council website.

The Panel remains keen to hear from and engage with the public in its role. In addition to its governance web site as referenced in section 1, meeting agendas and papers are published at least five clear working days prior to each meeting and the North Yorkshire Council Communications Team also support in disseminating social media messaging to promote upcoming meetings.

While there were only two members of the public who submitted questions or statements to the Panel in this reporting period, it is notable that as at end of March 2026, the average viewing figures for recorded Panel meetings in the 2025/26 municipal year were 132 per meeting via YouTube. This indicates that the public continue to make use of the ability to view Panel proceedings at a time and manner of their choosing.

Panel members have also continued to meet remotely for more informal briefings and development sessions during the period and these are outlined through this report.

3. Key Areas of Focus for the Panel in 2025/26

The Panel has reviewed a number of items over the course of the 2025/26 municipal year and the following provides an overview of some of these.

a) Scrutiny of how well 'hidden harms' are being tackled in our rural areas

Wildlife crime

We live in a beautiful, expansive area of the country but that brings with it many challenges for communities and for policing in our most rural areas. A key area for scrutiny by the Panel continues to be how effectively the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are holding to account the police service for tackling the 'hidden harms' of rural crime, aligned to the Mayor's priority of "Building Stronger Communities".

North Yorkshire has for a number of years had a poor reputation nationally for its record on raptor persecution, in addition to numerous incidences of other forms of wildlife crime such as hare coursing and poaching. There have been relatively low numbers of prosecutions historically for wildlife crime due to various factors including the fact that wildlife offences are often discovered

long after the offence, making forensic recovery and identification of suspects very difficult. The Panel has been keen to understand how this is being improved. We benefit from having a dedicated Rural Task Force (RTF) in the area, who work closely with communities and farmers. As a result of their work, we were pleased to note in May 2025 that there had been a 61% reduction in poaching over the last three years. However, the Panel is aware that they are a small team and we were keen to understand the Deputy Mayor's level of reassurance around resourcing for the RTF. We heard that the Chief Constable's plans for developing neighbourhood policing will incorporate support for rural communities but also that resourcing would be monitored to align with crime levels.

The Panel has also sought to scrutinise the factors around difficulties in securing prosecutions for wildlife crime. This highlighted Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) concerns on the potential costs of bringing a prosecution; the fact that the estates being prosecuted were likely to employ King's Counsel in their defence and that the cost of bringing the prosecution would be too high. Following a Panel request, the Deputy Mayor has agreed to pursue further conversations on this with the CPS.

Panel members have previously benefited from contextual briefings with members of the RTF and it has been agreed that we will continue to take up this opportunity as needed going forward.

Domestic abuse

In May 2025, the Panel also requested a report on how effectively domestic abuse is being tackled in rural communities, particularly as domestic abuse is nationally under-reported and rural victims of domestic abuse are half as likely as urban victims to report their abuse. The Panel heard from the Deputy Mayor about the work being done to ensure that rural spaces are reached through commissioned services as well as partnership working with the farming community. It was helpful to note that IDAS had reported a 9% increase in referrals in comparison with the previous year's figures, which appeared to reflect the hard work being done to raise awareness of support and break down barriers of under-reporting.

The Panel made reference to the report entitled "Captive and Controlled" on rural domestic abuse, led by a former Commissioner of North Yorkshire and that a recent BBC report indicated that while reporting of crime is higher, conviction rates are very low. The Deputy Mayor was asked about the factors behind these low conviction figures and for assurance around the police service taking necessary steps to improve the current rate. The Deputy Mayor considered the Panel request and responded subsequently to outline that North Yorkshire Police (NYP) has one of the highest domestic violence arrest rates in the country and are victim-led in their prosecution of offences (dependent on the severity of the offences reported). The service works closely with the third sector and commissioned services to understand the reasons for the outcome rates and how force performance can be improved. The Panel heard that the Deputy Mayor chairs the Local Criminal Justice Partnership for York and North Yorkshire, which brings together local criminal justice leaders to maintain oversight of the system and promote a collaborative approach to addressing challenges. This includes improving the experiences of victims and witnesses. A Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel is also in place in York and North Yorkshire, led by the Police, Fire and Crime directorate, which examines domestic abuse cases which have received a 'no further action' outcome. The multi-agency panel provides an opportunity to highlight learning opportunities for the police and partner agencies and increase transparency for victims/survivors.

The Panel will continue to scrutinise the efficacy of services for victims of rural crime and domestic abuse in addition to outcomes regarding wildlife crime.

b) HMICFRS report on ‘Effectiveness, Efficiency and People’ at North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service 2023-25

Reports from His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) on the effectiveness of both of our services continue to provide a useful source for scrutiny by the Panel in terms of how effectively the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are ensuring that the services continue to develop and embed improvements made.

A report from HMICFRS on [‘Effectiveness, Efficiency and People’](#) at the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (NYFRS) for the period 2023 to 2025 was published in June 2025. The Panel commended the service and Deputy Mayor on the positive report and the significant improvements made since the previous inspection a few years ago. These included marked improvements in:

- responding to fires and other emergencies
- making best use of resources
- getting the right people with the right skills
- managing performance and developing leaders

At the point of the HMICFRS report, there was still further work identified to improve areas such as investing in the fire estate and responding to major and multi-agency incidents, but as HMICFRS reports are published a number of months after initial fieldwork, the next reporting cycle will bring a more up-to-date picture on progress.

Panel Members have been keen to establish whether the service will pursue cost recovery for automatic alarm callouts (unwanted fire signals) as while there is a policy in place to address this, cost recovery hasn’t yet been implemented. The Panel heard that the Chief Fire Officer places emphasis on engagement with the business community and while the service will retain the potential to charge, success is measured around securing engagement.

The Panel has continued to access the regular performance packs produced by the Deputy Mayor for the Online Public Meetings, which provide a useful source of information for scrutiny on matters such as call-outs, response times and automatic alarms.

Panel members will continue to scrutinise how the Mayor and Deputy Mayor hold the service to account on the affordability of the service and its focus on supporting the workforce.

c) Scrutiny of the Management of Police Complaints

In July 2025, the Panel held the Deputy Mayor to account for how effectively complaints about North Yorkshire Police are being managed, following concerns raised by a recent inspection of integrity arrangements and also some direct feedback from members of the public.

The Panel examined both the scale of the challenge and the progress being made. Members questioned the timeliness of responses to complaints, noting dissatisfaction expressed by complainants about delays at both force level and within the Deputy Mayor’s Policing, Fire and Crime Team. The Panel raised particular concern about Independent Office for Police Conduct data showing slower-than-average complaint logging and initial contact in North Yorkshire. In response, the Deputy Mayor acknowledged that there had been a backlog issue but outlined the steps undertaken to help address this both within the Policing, Fire and Crime Team and within NYP’s Professional Standards team which now showed greatly improved performance. The Panel were also apprised of the national perspective that complaints levels have risen.

Members also challenged how well learning from complaints is being captured, prompting discussion on new approaches to analysing themes, behaviours and service areas generating dissatisfaction.

The Panel will revert to reviewing this area again in the next year.

d) Review of the Mayor's Council Tax precept proposals for policing and fire 2026/27

Policing precept

The Mayor formally proposed an increase of £15 to the policing precept for 2026/27, bringing it to £335.86, which represented an increase of 4.67% above the 2025/26 level for a Band D property. This followed strong public support for an increase within the public consultation and the Mayor highlighted the various pressures on policing services including inflation and pay awards.

Panel members were pleased to note the 9% reduction in crime overall in North Yorkshire and York in the last two years and commended improvements made in neighbourhood policing in particular. However, in the context of the removal of national funding for police officer uplifts and the freezing of the Neighbourhood Policing grant, Members expressed concern around the continued commitment to deliver sustained, visible local policing moving forward.

The Panel noted the Chief Constable's assurance that the planned 17 additional neighbourhood officers will still be delivered in 2026/27 as funding will be at risk if this is not achieved. However, concern was expressed that in view of the funding pressures and challenges facing the police service locally, an increase in the precept of £15 will still leave a funding gap for the service. The Panel heard that the resulting 'worst case' scenario could lead to a reduction of up to 21 police officers. The Chief Constable acknowledged the concerns but also highlighted the need for the service to balance resource across frontline and specialist functions (such as cyber crime). Members felt it important that within communities, people perceive that they are safe. The Panel has requested a financial and resourcing update from the Deputy Mayor in the autumn, to be apprised of the status of any officer reductions within the force.

We welcomed the efforts of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to make ongoing representations to government around the challenges of policing such a large rural area, particularly in view of the changes signalled around policing following the government's White Paper.

Fire and rescue draft budget 2026/27 and Medium Term Financial Plan proposal

Under the Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) framework, the Mayor determines how much of their general budget requirement will be allocated to fire and rescue services. While the MCA therefore makes the final decision on the fire and rescue budget and the Council Tax levy for fire and rescue for the coming year, the Panel continues to have an important role in reviewing these proposals and giving recommendations to the Mayor on the proposed levy.

The Mayor proposed a precept increase in January of this year of £9.60, bringing it to £116.62 for a Band D property in 2026/27 and representing a 9% increase. The Panel heard from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor around the need to stabilise and invest in the service, recognising evolving risks such as wildfires and flooding, and the importance of road safety. The public consultation on the fire precept indicated a high level of support for an increase.

In relation to reimbursement of costs incurred by the service during the Langdale Moor wildfire, the Panel heard that a claim has been submitted to government under the Bellwin scheme for around £2.6m and that the outcome is pending. The Panel has as such been keen to explore financial

resilience further and took opportunity to consider with the Mayor around rural risks and the lack of statutory basis for funding flood response. The Panel welcomes the continued efforts to lobby government by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor around realigning funding for a rural service.

Historically, the service has been unable to invest in the estate and in critical appliances to the degree required due to limits on precept levies but the increases in precept afforded by the Mayor over the last two years have helped to put the fire and rescue service into a more financially stable position. The Panel noted that a joint estates maintenance contract is also helping to improve responsiveness and planned works; in addition to a PFI contract coming to an end in May 2027, which will enable significant cost reduction and transfer of buildings to the Mayor.

e) Tackling Online Fraud and Cyber Crime

In October 2025, the Panel scrutinised how effectively cyber crime and online fraud are being addressed across North Yorkshire, and the role of the Deputy Mayor in holding the police service to account for tackling this growing and complex threat.

The Deputy Mayor set out the scale and changing nature of cyber crime and online fraud, highlighting that victims span all age groups and that patterns of offending continue to evolve rapidly. The Panel examined how North Yorkshire Police is responding through its dedicated Economic Crime Unit and tested how partnership working underpins this approach, including emerging engagement with the North Yorkshire Youth Commission to better understand risks facing younger people.

Members also explored how well victims are supported and how public awareness is being raised. The Panel pressed the Deputy Mayor on whether more could be done to promote reporting routes, such as Action Fraud (now [Report Fraud](#)), and to ensure that advice keeps pace with rapidly changing online threats. Particular concern was expressed about the risk of younger people being targeted by online blackmail and “sextortion” scams, with the Deputy Mayor agreeing to pursue further information and assurances on this issue.

The Panel were keen to reinforce the importance of prevention and education, highlighting that cyber crime and fraud can have devastating, life-changing consequences. Members advocated making better use of existing community networks, such as Town and Parish Councils, to strengthen local awareness and resilience.

f) Scrutiny of shared services collaboration between policing and fire and rescue (formerly EnableNY)

The Panel has had a longstanding interest in the development and efficacy of shared services collaboration between policing and fire and rescue. During a discussion in January 2026, Panel concerns were noted as being around a historic lack of savings realised under the previous guise of shared services collaboration (EnableNY) and some flawed governance/oversight structures under that rubric. The Panel received an update on the renewed approach to shared services work from the Deputy Mayor, who acknowledged the Panel’s concerns. The Deputy Mayor highlighted the core purpose of the Assurance Framework, under which she holds the two services to account for shared services collaboration.

As highlighted in section b, a generally highly positive inspection report on NYFRS was received last year in which HMICFRS commended the improvements made by both services in relation to the shared service collaboration. The Panel has been apprised by the Deputy Mayor that specific

benefits under the renewed shared service approach have included ICT resilience and logistics support (for example during the Langdale wildfires incident), improved radio coverage at York Designer Outlet, strengthened financial management, and tangible estates improvements.

Panel Members welcomed the clearer scope, governance and delivery approach to shared services between policing and fire and rescue.

g) Scrutiny of the Community Risk Management Plan Consultation

The Panel played a constructive role in scrutinising the Mayor’s consultation on the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) for North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, both while the consultation was live and as final decisions were brought forward.

In October 2025, the Panel received an update from the Deputy Mayor on the progress and early findings from the public consultation on the CRMP 2025/29. Members welcomed the strong level of engagement and acknowledged the significant operational pressures faced by NYFRS during the consultation period, particularly the Langdale Moor wildfire. The Panel explored how consultation feedback had been analysed, including the decision to segment responses before and after the wildfire, to understand whether public perceptions were influenced by major incidents.

The Panel examined the proposal to extend the Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) attendance policy to operate 24 hours a day at commercial premises with no sleeping risk. Panel members raised concerns about how this change might affect rural response times and the safety of commercial premises located close to housing, seeking reassurance that these risks had been fully considered. The Panel also scrutinised the proposal to replace one of the service’s two water bowsers, querying resilience planning and the capacity to respond to multiple or large-scale incidents following the experience of the wildfire, where extensive additional resources had been required.

Workforce resilience formed another key theme of the Panel’s scrutiny. Members asked about the availability of on-call firefighters in rural areas and tested the steps being taken, alongside partners and employers, to improve recruitment, retention and facilities to support on-call staff.

In January 2026, the Panel returned to the CRMP to scrutinise the outcomes of the consultation and the Mayor’s subsequent decision-making. The Chief Fire Officer and Deputy Mayor outlined how consultation feedback, operational evidence and national best practice had shaped final proposals, highlighting the service’s broader shift from “save to survive” towards “invest to improve”. The Panel examined the additional assurances sought on rural impacts, continued life-risk responses, business engagement on fire prevention and partnership arrangements to maintain resilience during concurrent major incidents.

h) Road Safety – Progress in York and North Yorkshire

At its February 2026 meeting, the Panel undertook detailed scrutiny of road safety across York and North Yorkshire, examining progress against this key partnership priority and the challenges that remain. Members considered a report from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor which set out the region’s commitment to *Vision Zero*, alignment with the new national Road Safety Strategy and the importance of strong collaboration between policing, fire, highways and local authority partners.

The discussion focused on how effectively current arrangements are reducing fatalities and serious injuries on the road network. Panel members expressed concern about the region’s limited use of fixed and average speed cameras, particularly when compared with neighbouring areas. This issue was reinforced by the Chief Constable’s assessment that the current position is “untenable”, given

the number of people killed or seriously injured on North Yorkshire’s roads over the past decade. Members explored how a balanced approach of engineering, education and enforcement – with modern speed camera infrastructure playing a key role – could help change driver behaviour and improve safety.

The Panel also tested how well the partnership is learning from recent improvements. Members sought clearer data on the causes of collisions and asked what lessons could be drawn from the welcome reduction in fatalities during 2023/24. They emphasised the need for a clearer, time-bound delivery plan for road safety activity and greater certainty around future funding for the Road Safety Partnership.

Further scrutiny covered practical and emerging issues, including the enforcement challenges associated with 20mph zones, the pressures created by seasonal spikes in visitor traffic, and the growing road safety risks linked to e-bikes and e-scooters. Panel members also highlighted the importance of early and sustained engagement with schools and communities to embed safer behaviours from a young age.

Overall, the Panel’s discussion underscored the need for partners to ensure that strategic ambition on road safety is matched by effective delivery, clear accountability and tangible improvements for communities across York and North Yorkshire.

i) Appointment of co-opted members

Following a recruitment and selection process last year, the Panel was pleased to approve the appointments of its three co-opted independent members in January 2026, as follows:

Fraser Forsyth

Mags Godderidge

Caroline O’Neill

Co-opted independent members bring a unique set of expertise, complementing the skills and knowledge of the Panel’s elected membership, thereby fulfilling the legal requirement to ensure the Panel can discharge its functions effectively. Thanks were given to Martin Walker, the outgoing co-opted member, for his insight and contribution over the last four years.

4. Forward Plan – Key Issues for 2026/27

The Panel has a number of issues on the forward work programme for the 2026/27 municipal year, including statutory and non-statutory business such as:

- How policing and fire use data-driven approaches to identify high-risk areas and individuals and put in place impactful programmes.
- How fire and rescue service is ensuring that it can best meet emerging environmental and technological changes (flooding, e-bikes etc)
- Review impact of government funding changes on police officer numbers
- Review and make recommendations on the Mayor’s draft Annual Reports for Policing and Fire and Rescue 2025/26;
- Review and make recommendations on the Mayor’s proposed Council Tax precept level for 2027/28 for policing;
- Review and make recommendations on the Mayor’s proposed fire and rescue budget for 2027/28 which includes the proposed precept levy for fire and rescue;

- Scrutinise how rural crime is being tackled, including wildlife crime;
- Scrutinise progress against recent HMCFRS inspection outcomes for both services;
- Scrutinise the efficacy of complaints handling within both the Policing, Fire and Crime Directorate (MCA) and at NYP.

5. Development of the Panel

The Panel has continued to seek opportunities for informal briefings, training opportunities and development workshops to help continue members' awareness of regional and national issues and to enhance their scrutiny role. Panel Members and supporting officers have been involved in the following during 2025/26:

- **Operational Briefings for Panel Members at Police HQ.** An informal briefing was facilitated by the Chief Constable for the Panel in May 2025, to support the Panel in getting further context into a range of current topics of interest including neighbourhood policing and rural crime. An additional briefing has been arranged for the Panel for May 2026.
- **Operational Briefing for Panel Members on Fire and Rescue.** An informal briefing was facilitated by the Chief Fire Officer for the Panel in October 2025, to support Panel members in developing their understanding of the strategic planning, prevention and protection work.
- **Induction Briefings for new Panel members.** Three new members have joined the Panel in the last year and have been provided with contextual briefings by the Chair and Secretariat, with support from the Policing, Fire and Crime Directorate.
- **Attendance at the National Rural Crime Network Conference 2026.** Two Panel members attended the NRCN conference in March 2026 in York, which brought together Police and Crime Commissioners, law enforcement leaders, policy makers and frontline practitioners to name a few to share best practice and help shape strategies around the protection of rural people and communities. This event built further upon the Panel's knowledge of issues such as rural domestic abuse and wildlife crime, as considered in section 3.
- **National Police (Fire) and Crime Panel Network Meeting.** An online networking session for Panel members and officers was held mid-March 2026, hosted by the National Association for Police, Fire and Crime Panels and Frontline Consulting to consider 'live' issues for Panels such as the future scrutiny of policing, fire and crime scrutiny. Two members of the Panel attended this and shared their observations back with the wider Panel.
- **Regional Yorkshire and Humberside Panel Officer Network.** The Panel's supporting officer continues to participate in informal quarterly meetings of counterparts from neighbouring Panels in the Yorkshire and Humber area, providing a helpful touchstone for considering national developments, briefings and sharing good practice around Panel support.

6. Complaints handling by the Panel

The Panel has a statutory role to consider non-criminal complaints made regarding the conduct of the Commissioner (now Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime). Complaints regarding the Mayor are handled differently as described below.

During the municipal year 2025/26:

- Eleven complaints were received by the Panel. Three of these were recorded against the Deputy Mayor (see below) and one against the Mayor, due to the legal requirement to record those complaints referencing the Mayor/Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime for this area.

- Complaints regarding the Mayor must be recorded by the Panel but cannot legally be considered by the Panel so are diverted to the Monitoring Officer of the Mayoral Combined Authority to review under their Code of Conduct.
- In relation to the three complaints recorded regarding the Deputy Mayor, it was determined that no further action was required. The majority of the complaints received related to dissatisfaction around service levels in handling of police complaints, rather than having regard to the personal conduct of the Deputy Mayor and as such were diverted by the Panel’s Lead Officer to the Complaints Team for North Yorkshire Police.

Further information about the Panel’s complaints handling process and complaints publications can be found on the [North Yorkshire Partnerships website](#).

7. Panel budget for 2025/26 [Section to be updated following year-end return]

As host authority, North Yorkshire Council receives an annual grant from the Home Office to support the administration of the Panel. For the 2025/26 financial year the Home Office grant was **£65,260**. The Panel is required to report biannually to the Home Office as to how the grant has been spent, including provision of a performance report against Key Performance Indicators.

North Yorkshire Council has submitted its year-end return in May 2026 to claim the full amount of £65,260 for the 2025/26 financial year.

The Panel also received £7,760 from City of York Council for the 2025/26 financial year, to contribute towards both administration costs and Member allowances. This is slightly less than was received in previous years, commensurate with the reduction in Member allowances (see below).

For the 2025/26 financial year, North Yorkshire Council absorbed an estimated £XX,XXX in costs for the running of the Panel, in addition to the grant and income received.

North Yorkshire Council anticipates that it will be offered a grant of £65,260 for the 2026/27 financial year by the Home Office. However, the award will not be confirmed until August 2026. The council will need to review with the Panel Chair how any further overspends are best managed. A review of Special Responsibility Allowances undertaken by North Yorkshire Council’s Independent Remuneration Panel in 2024 resulted in some reductions to Member allowances from 2025, which has helped to reduce overspends slightly.

In relation to the planned changes by government to policing, fire and crime scrutiny arrangements from May 2028, it is anticipated that local authorities may need to fund ongoing scrutiny in part or wholly.

The following table highlights actual spend for 2025/26.

Expenditure Breakdown 2025/26 financial year (£)

XX,XXX

made up of:

Support to the Panel (inc on-costs) Secretariat, Legal, Finance, Business Support & Communications staff

XX,XXX

Printing / Postage / Admin / Meeting costs

X,XXX

Subscriptions, training and conferences

XXX

Panel Member expenses (inc Member allowances, expenses)	<u>XX,XXX</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>XX,XXX</u>
Home Office total grant 2025-26	<u>65,260</u>
Income received from City of York 2023-24	<u>7,760</u>
Total Income Received	<u>73,020</u>
Total overspend incurred by NYC	<u>XX,XXX</u>

8. Membership

Membership of the Panel during the 2025/26 municipal year was as follows:

North Yorkshire Council	Cllr Chris Aldred Cllr Lindsay Burr MBE (to November 2025) Cllr David Chance (appointed July 2025) Cllr Kevin Foster (appointed November 2025) Cllr Tim Grogan Cllr Heather Moorhouse Cllr Steve Shaw-Wright Cllr Peter Wilkinson
City of York Council	Cllr Emilie Knight Cllr Danny Myers Cllr Michael Pavlovic
Co-opted independent member	Fraser Forsyth
Co-opted independent member	Mags Godderidge
Co-opted independent member	Caroline O'Neill (appointed January 2026)
Co-opted independent member	Martin Walker (to January 2026)

North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

23 April 2026

Work Programme

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To invite the Panel to consider its future work programme.

2.0 The Panel is responsible for setting its own work programme taking into account the statutory duties that the Panel must undertake and the priorities defined within the context of the Police and Crime Plan and Fire and Rescue Plan. The work programme at Appendix A highlights those issues which have been previously agreed or which have been raised through the Chair since the last meeting.

3.0 The Mayor has published a [Police and Crime Plan](#) and [Fire and Rescue Plan](#) for 2025/29. These plans identify several key priorities – some of which are common to both plans, others which are not – which are intended to drive forward the Mayor’s vision for York and North Yorkshire to be safe places for all. The below list identifies where the priorities may be best grouped together thematically for the purposes of the Panel work programme, with the headings in bold highlighting which plan the priority is drawn from. Beneath this are some of the key features of these priorities which may best align with the Panel’s scrutiny work.

- **Stronger Communities (NYP/FRS) / Protected Built Environment (FRS)**
 - Rural and wildlife crime
 - Tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG)
 - Tackling hate crime
 - Neighbourhood policing
 - Flooding response / environmental factors (fire and rescue)
 - Working with and advising businesses to develop resilience and ensure compliance (fire and rescue)
- **Protecting the Public (NYP) / Effective Emergency Response (FRS) / Supported, Safe and Skilled Staff (FRS)**
 - Fire and rescue response, in particular overcoming the challenges of rurality.
 - Force control room performance inc Right Care, Right Person
 - Online fraud and cyber crime
 - Staffing / recruitment / retention / EDI (policing and fire)
 - Trust and confidence (policing)
 - Cross-border collaboration on resilience and cross-border issues (policing and fire)
- **Financial stability (FRS) – to incorporate both services**
 - Shared collaboration between the services (post-EnableNY)
 - Budget position, planning and investment, inc working collaboratively to achieve best value
 - Precept proposals for both services

- **Prevention and Early Intervention (NYP) / Targeted Prevention (FRS) / Working with Partners (NYP)**
 - Development of the Community Risk Management Plan (Fire and Rescue)
 - Development of preventative data-driven approaches to identify high-risk areas and individuals and put in place appropriate, impactful programmes.
 - How effectively a 'trauma-informed approach' is being used to reduce crime and prevent reoffending.
 - How the Mayor/Deputy Mayor is engaging with the public to understand their perceptions of crime and using this feedback to monitor the impact of crime reduction work.
 - How effectively both services are working with partners in health, education and councils among others.
 - County Lines and pervasive drug crime
 - How the fire and rescue service is ensuring that it can best meet emerging environmental and technological changes (flooding, e-bikes) through suitable investment, collaboration and preventative work.
 - Road safety – monitoring of multi-agency prevention work including NYP and NYFRS.

4.0 Enclosed at Appendix A is an outline of the Panel's work programme across the next year, based on the above priorities. Members are invited to consider the topics identified and identify others which may need to be included.

5.0 Members are reminded that it is preferable for the Panel to agree just a couple of key substantive reports to come to each meeting to enable sufficient time for discussion. All full Panel meetings will continue to be held in person and venues are highlighted on the programme where these have been confirmed.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.

7.0 Legal Implications

7.1 There are no significant legal implications arising from this report.

8.0 Equalities Implications

8.1 There are no significant equalities implications arising from this report.

9.0 Climate Change Implications

9.1 There are no significant climate change implications arising from this report.

<h2>10.0 Recommendations</h2> <p>10.1 That the Panel agrees its outline work programme.</p>
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Appendices:

Appendix A – Police, Fire and Crime Panel Work Programme 2026/27

Background Documents:

None.

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services
County Hall
Northallerton
13 April 2026

Report Author: Diane Parsons, Principal Scrutiny Officer
nypfcp@northyorks.gov.uk

<p>July 2026</p>	<p>Thursday, 16th July 2026 at 2.00pm Annual Meeting County Hall, Northallerton</p>	<p>Election of Chair and Vice Chair Stronger Communities Neighbourhood Policing update <u>Other reports</u> Complaints handling update - <i>following report taken to July 25 meeting</i> Mayor's Annual Reports for Policing and Fire 2025/26</p>
<p>October 2026</p>	<p>Wednesday, 14th October 2026 at 10:30am City of York Council West Offices, York</p>	<p>Focus On: Workforce (NYP/NYFRS) Recruitment and retention; embedding a positive culture. Also: Mid-year update on impact of savings at NYP particularly with ref to possible officer reductions. Focus On: Review of commissioned services – outcomes of prevention/early intervention programmes including perpetrator behaviour change</p>
<p>January 2027</p>	<p>Thursday, 21st January 2027 at 10:30am County Hall, Northallerton</p>	<p>Financial stability (FRS) Panel's consideration of the Mayor's draft budget and precept proposal for fire and rescue 2027/28</p>
<p>February 2027</p>	<p>Thursday, 4th February 2027 at 10:30am County Hall, Northallerton</p>	<p>Panel's consideration of the Mayor's precept proposal for policing 2026/27</p>

	Thursday, 18 th February at 2pm County Hall, Northallerton	Policing Precept Reserve Meeting (if needed).
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Possible Items for consideration

Item	Last reviewed by Panel
Rural and wildlife crime (Stronger Communities)	May 2025
Emergency response and triage – 999 and 101 services, Right Care, Right Person (Stronger Communities)	February 2025
Progress against the VAWG strategy (Protect the Public)	October 2024 (specific update on supporting vulnerable people October 2025)
Cross-border collaboration on tackling crime (NYP) and working with partners to enhance resilience (NYFRS) (Working with Partners/Stronger Communities)	-

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