

North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

16 March 2022

Panel's review of the draft Police and Crime Plan and Fire and Rescue Plan

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To outline the legal framework and guidance around reviewing the Commissioner's draft Police and Crime Plan and Fire and Rescue Plan 2021/24.
- 2 The Commissioner is required under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to issue a Police and Crime Plan "as soon as is practicable" after taking office and, in any case, before the end of the financial year in which the election took place; hence by the end of March 2022 at the latest.
- 3 The Plan will determine and explain the Commissioner's priorities for her term of office and is a critical means of securing efficient and effective police, criminal justice and community safety services, holding the Chief Constable to account and setting the budget and strategic direction of police and other services under the Commissioner's remit.
- 4 As the Fire and Rescue Authority, the Commissioner is also required under the Policing and Crime Act 2017 to publish a Fire and Rescue Plan which similarly sets out the strategic vision, priorities and objectives for the Fire and Rescue Service.
- 5 These Plans act as planning tools for the Commissioner's office and are also an important mechanism for communicating the Commissioner's intentions to the public, police, fire and rescue service, partner agencies, Panel and other stakeholders. As such, consultation with the public and key partners is a key part of the development process for the Plans. A consultation with the public and other key stakeholders was held last year and ended on 7th November 2021. Panel members were invited to engage in a focus group session to help feed into the early development of the key priorities for both Plans on 14th October 2021. An outline framework for both Plans was also presented to the Panel in January 2022.
- 6 In terms of the core legal role around preparing and agreeing the Plans, the Commissioner's role is to:
- Prepare a draft of the Plans or variation
 - Consult the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer in preparing the draft Plans or variations
 - Send the draft Plans or variations to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel

- Have regard to any report or recommendations made by the Panel in relation to the draft Plans or variations
- Provide a response to any such report or recommendations from the Panel; and
- Publish any such response given.

7 In terms of the role of the Panel in this process, the legislation guides that the Panel must review the draft Plans and make a report or recommendations on them to the Commissioner. This report must be published. In the national guidance for Panels published in 2019 by the LGA, CfPS and Frontline Consulting, it is highlighted that “*Panels are...able to make recommendations for priorities in the plan[s], on performance measures to be used around delivery of the plan[s] and for improvements in services to meet the commissioner’s objectives.*” Panel members are now invited to review the mature drafts of the Plans and consider aspects such as overall presentation of information/accessibility of information in addition to any aspects around the proposed content of the Plans.

8 Subsequent to any recommendations made within the meeting and finalisation by the Commissioner of her Plans, the Panel will wish to give further consideration as to how it will seek to review progress and performance against the Commissioner’s objectives and the kind of information that would assist.

9 Recommendations

9.1 That the Panel notes the information provided.

Diane Parsons
Principal Scrutiny Officer
North Yorkshire County Council

7th March 2022

Background Documents: None.