

North Yorkshire County Council

North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Wednesday, 16th March, 2022 commencing at 1.30 pm.

Councillors: Peter Wilkinson (Hambleton District Council, in the Chair), Mike Chambers (Harrogate Borough Council), Tim Grogan (Selby District Council) and Darryl Smalley (City of York Council).

Community Co-opted Members: Fraser Forsyth, Mags Godderidge and Martin Walker

Zoë Metcalfe (Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner)

In attendance: Lisa Winward (Chief Constable) (North Yorkshire Police), Jonathan Foster (North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service) and Ray Ward (Managing Director) (EnableNY).

Officers from the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner: Caroline Blackburn (Asst Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer), Tom Thorp (Asst Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer), Simon Dennis (Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer) and Sarah Arnott (Commissioning and Partnerships Manager).

Officers present: Diane Parsons (Principal Scrutiny Officer).

Apologies: Councillors Carl Les (North Yorkshire County Council) (Chair), Keith Aspden (City of York Council) (Vice-Chair), Helen Grant (Richmondshire District Council), Carl Maw (Scarborough Borough Council) and Patrick Mulligan (Craven District Council).

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

589 Welcome and apologies

The Chair reminded all present of the decision-making arrangements for the meeting as set out on the agenda frontsheet. Following the expiry of the legislation permitting remote committee meetings in May 2021, the County Council resolved at its meeting on 5th May 2021 that in light of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic circumstances, remote live-broadcast committee meetings should continue, with any formal decision required being taken by the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency decision-making powers and after consultation with other officers and Members as appropriate and after taking into account any views of the relevant Committee Members. As the Panel is constituted as a committee of the council, those present were reminded that the meeting was as such being held informally and any formal decisions required would be taken by the Chief Executive Officer under the terms advised.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Councillors Les, Aspden, Mulligan, Grant and Maw.

590 Declarations of Interest

Martin Walker notified that he is a Trustee of IDAS. Mags Godderidge notified that she is the Chief Executive officer of Survive.

591 Minutes of the Informal Panel Meeting held on 7th February 2022

Resolved – that the following be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration under his emergency delegated powers:-

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2022, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

592 Public Questions or Statements to the Panel

The Panel were advised that no public questions or statements had been received.

593 Members' Questions

In response to a Member question regarding increasing bike thefts, the Commissioner highlighted that she is looking to integrate work to help tackle this issue into her key plans and that she would also be happy to hear further about specific concerns.

The Commissioner was asked to outline any external stakeholder meetings or facilitated training as part of her induction to her role and this focussed in particular on support via the national association of police and crime commissioners (APCC).

Members also raised concerns regarding recent national reporting that North Yorkshire has one of the lowest clear-up rates in relation to fraud. The Chief Constable provided further context around how reports of fraud are handled and offered to provide a briefing session for Panel outside of the meeting.

594 The legal framework and guidance for Panels in relation to review of the draft Plans

Resolved –

That the guidance provided is noted by the Panel.

595 Overview of the draft Police and Crime Plan and Fire and Rescue Plans 2021/24

The Commissioner highlighted that in preparing both draft Plans, she wanted to ensure a degree of continuity but also a realistic vision for the term. Public feedback has shaped the priorities but the Plans are in draft only and the Commissioner welcomed the Panel's feedback.

Resolved –

That the Panel notes the covering report and update provided.

596 The Draft Police and Crime Plan 2021/24

Considered –

The Commissioner's draft Police and Crime Plan 2022/25.

Panel members acknowledged the time constraints under which the Commissioner and her team have had to work to produce mature drafts of both Plans. Members also commended the Commissioner's acknowledgment in both draft Plans of the need to restore public trust and confidence in the Office of Commissioner over the next few years.

However, the Commissioner was advised that her own personal focus and passion for the role had not been as strongly reflected in both drafts as may have been expected.

A key point of Panel feedback was that while the aspirations and key objectives of both the draft Police and Crime Plan and Fire and Rescue Plan are tonally appropriate and set a broader direction of travel for the services, the absence of specific performance targets or benchmarks undermines the efficacy and impact of the draft Plans. The Commissioner agreed to review the presentation of the Plans in this regard.

Some specific observations and/or recommendations were made for the draft Police and Crime Plan as follows:

- Making explicit reference to sexual violence in the context of improving outcomes for victims, in order to render it more 'visible', in particular at Outcome 1a and at page 18 (under "hidden harms");
- Fraud is becoming one of the most prominent crimes; as such the draft would benefit from more emphasis to help explain what is being done to tackle fraud;
- The draft should fully convey the importance of police being responsive to calls from the public; not only via handling of calls for service but also through the actual response deployed within communities;
- Public safety should be viewed as a 24-hour partnership issue in areas such as York city centre and should not be viewed as linked solely to the night-time economy.

The Commissioner thanked the Panel for their feedback and offered to engage further with individual Members on the points raised after the meeting. On this basis, the Panel agreed that it was happy to recommend approval of the draft Police and Crime Plan 2022/25.

Resolved – that the following be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration under his emergency delegated powers:-

That the Panel approves the Commissioner's draft Police and Crime Plan 2022/25, subject to the Commissioner's further consideration of the Panel's recommendations.

597

The Draft Fire and Rescue Plan 2021/24

Considered –

The Commissioner's draft Fire and Rescue Plan 2022/25.

The Panel's broader comments around the content and presentation of the draft Police and Crime Plan also applied to the draft Fire and Rescue Plan; in particular that in order to effectively measure progress, performance targets or benchmarks needed to be incorporated within the objectives.

Members sought further operational detail from the Interim Chief Fire Officer around some of the references in the draft such as around the use of mass decontamination units and the development of the on-call service. Members noted the ambitions of the draft Plan but reflected that the changes in senior leadership within the service over the last three or four years risked impacting on morale. The Commissioner concurred that a period of stability in leadership will be important and that the recruitment exercise for Chief Fire Officer had just been launched, following the announcement of Jonathan Foster's forthcoming retirement.

Resolved – that the following be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration under his emergency delegated powers:-

That the Panel approves the Commissioner's draft Fire and Rescue Plan 2022/25, subject to the Commissioner's further consideration of the Panel's recommendations.

598 Enable NY programme: progress update

Considered –

The Commissioner's progress update report on the EnableNY programme.

Ray Ward, Managing Director of EnableNY, outlined the key points from the report. EnableNY has been fully functional operationally since July 2021. Reference was made to the various ways in which the shared services provision had been developed, such as through new contracts and job roles to enable some staff to work across both services. The Panel were advised that the changes have been challenging for staff, having to adjust to working collaboratively across a shared service. A recent staff survey provided a useful mechanism for reviewing how staff had found the changes. Technology is a key area for development where equipment has been consolidated. The programme is taking the opportunity where agreements come to an end to cycle police and fire together.

Panel Members were keen to establish that the programme will deliver against its initial aims. The Commissioner expressed confidence that Enable continues to provide the right vehicle for the changes needed. The Panel were also keen to identify whether there are further opportunities being explored around shared estates. A piece of work has been commissioned from EnableNY on this and is currently underway.

The Commissioner was thanked for the update report and Panel requested that a further update is provided early next year. It was also suggested that it would be helpful for Panel members undertaking a familiarisation visit to the OPFCC in future to also receive an overview of the Enable programme.

Resolved –

That the Panel notes the report provided.

599 Work Programme

Considered –

The outline work programme for the Police, Fire and Crime Panel.

It was agreed that an item on tackling fraud would be incorporated into the work programme. Hate crime will also continue to feature as a regular annual update; the

next update to be taken in early 2023.

Members discussed with the Commissioner around the new Victims' Centre in York and how it will enable victims to give evidence remotely for example via video recording. It was noted that the Panel is taking an update on violence against women and girls in October, which could usefully include a further update on the Victims' Centre.

Resolved –

That the Panel agrees its work programme, with the inclusion of an additional item on efforts to tackle fraud.

600 Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman, should, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

The Panel were advised that no urgent business had been notified to the Chair.

The meeting concluded at 2.40 pm.

DP.