

North Yorkshire County Council

North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Monday, 22nd February, 2021 commencing at 3.00 pm.

Councillors Carl Les (North Yorkshire County Council) in the Chair; Keith Aspden (City of York Council), Mike Chambers MBE (Harrogate Borough Council), Richard Foster (Craven District Council), Helen Grant (Richmondshire District Council), Tim Grogan (Selby District Council), Ashley Mason (City of York Council) and Carl Maw (Scarborough Borough Council).

Officers from the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner: Julia Mulligan (Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire), Caroline Blackburn (Asst Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer), Michael Porter (Chief Financial Officer), Tom Thorp (Asst Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer) and Simon Dennis (Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer).

Officers present: Diane Parsons (Principal Scrutiny Officer, NYCC).

Apologies: Councillors Peter Wilkinson (Hambleton District Council) (Vice-Chair) and Eric Hope (Ryedale District Council).

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

492 Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Eric Hope and Councillor Peter Wilkinson.

493 Minutes of the Panel Meeting held on 5th February 2021

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2021, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

494 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 5th February 2021

No matters arising were raised by the Panel.

495 Declarations of Interest

The Commissioner declared an interest in relation to Item 8 (Covid-19 response) that she is Chair of IDAS.

Councillor Keith Aspden declared that he is a Member of the LGA Fire Services Management Committee, Fire Commission and the NJC for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services.

496 Public Questions or Statements to the Panel

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

497 Progress on issues Raised by the Panel

Considered –

The report of the Panel Secretariat updating the Panel about progress made on issues raised at previous Panel meetings.

Resolved –

That the Panel notes the report provided.

498 Members' Questions

No questions were raised by Members of the Panel.

499 Covid-19 Pandemic Response and Issues Presented for Policing and Fire and Rescue

Considered –

The verbal update by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner regarding the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and issues presented for the police and fire and rescue service.

Victims services

The Commissioner outlined the impact of the pandemic on support services for victims and trends around case referrals. Referrals to IDAS, for example, have almost doubled during the pandemic. Specialist counselling services have had to become more focussed on mental health as a result of the pandemic rather than purely the impact of crime. Some areas have seen a reduction in referrals, such as sexual assault referrals for children, and the Commissioner noted that this was a concern to be monitored coming out of the pandemic. It was noted that while there has been a significant increase in victim support caseloads, a significant amount of funding has been attracted in to support these services.

Policing

The Commissioner highlighted the numbers of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued by North Yorkshire Police in recent weeks and how the force continues to take a robust approach to enforcement. Surge funding from the government is being used to put on extra patrols, particularly in areas where there have been high incidences of indoor gatherings. The police are looking ahead at how to tackle coming out of lockdown, the potential for an influx of visitors and also at positive engagement with young people in harder to reach areas. Lateral flow testing has been available to police officers and staff since the beginning of February at five sites.

Fire and rescue service

The Commissioner referred to the recent inspection report by HMICFRS, that this was largely positive, and that the service will need to continue to embed new

practices it has adopted during the pandemic for the longer term. The service has been on standby to help support the response to the pandemic and has made 5,500 phone calls to vulnerable members of the community.

The Commissioner was thanked for her work on various partnership fora during the pandemic, such as outbreak management boards. In response to a question around how the benefits of successful partnership working might be embedded going forward, the Commissioner felt that this would need a concerted effort by all partners and that she would like to formally look at this issue with partners to identify opportunities and embed the positives of working together.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel, gave thanks to the Commissioner for all of her efforts in post and for her work on behalf of the residents of North Yorkshire.

The Commissioner left the meeting at 3:35pm.

Resolved –

That the Panel notes the update provided.

500

Recruitment of Co-opted Independent Members to the Panel

Considered –

The report of the Panel Secretariat seeking agreement to the membership of a task group from the Panel to oversee the recruitment of the Panel's two independent co-opted members.

The Panel will progress this deferred recruitment exercise over the spring and summer, with the aim of formally proposing two independent co-opted members to the Panel in October 2021. It was provisionally agreed that the Panel Chair and Vice Chairs will sit on the initial task group, along with Councillors Chambers and Grogan. Councillor Grant advised that she would be happy to assist later on in the process if additional members were needed.

Resolved –

That the Panel:

- (a) notes the report provided; and
- (b) agrees the membership of the task group to comprise Councillors Les, Aspden, Wilkinson, Chambers and Grogan.

501

Work Programme

Considered –

The report by the Panel Secretariat proposing a programme of work for the Panel.

It was noted that while the next scheduled meeting – in April 2021 – had been cancelled due to the heightened sensitivity around pre-election activity, it was likely that the Panel would need to meet again just prior to 'purdah' starting to hold a confirmation hearing for the Commissioner's Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer.

A suggestion for future consideration was made around the move of Harrogate

Football Club back to their ground at Harrogate from Doncaster and seeking a response from the Chief Constable around management of this process.

Resolved –

That the Panel:

- (a) agrees its outline work programme; and
- (b) seeks an update from North Yorkshire Police regarding the move of Harrogate Football Club back to their home ground.

502 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 3.45 pm.

DP.

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