

NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL

REPORT OF THE PANEL CHAIRMAN

TO THE NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

DRAFT FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN 2019/21

INTRODUCTION

1. This report describes the views and recommendations of the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel in respect of the Commissioner's draft Fire and Rescue Plan 2019/21. It is submitted to the Commissioner in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule A2 to the Fire and Rescue Act 2004 ("the Act").
2. The Panel would like to thank you and Mr Andrew Brodie for attending its meeting on Thursday 18 July 2019 and the responses which you provided to the questions and issues that Panel Members raised.
3. The report expresses the Panel's preparedness to support the draft plan as submitted but also sets out the Panel's comments on some specific points and issues that it wishes to bring to your attention for further consideration when finalising the Plan for publication and for taking further work forward.

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4. Under the requirements of the Act, the Commissioner is required to:
 - Prepare a draft Fire and Rescue Plan;
 - send the draft plan to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel
 - have regard to any report or recommendations made by the Panel in relation to the draft plan
 - give the Panel a response to any such report or recommendations, and
 - publish any such response.
5. The Panel is required to review the draft plan and to make a report or recommendations on it to the Commissioner.
6. The Panel considered the draft Fire and Rescue Plan 2019/21 at its meeting on 18 July 2019.

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE PANEL

7. The membership of the Panel for the discussions held at the 18 July meeting was as follows:

Craven District Council	Cllr Richard Foster
Hambleton District Council	Cllr Peter Wilkinson
Harrogate Borough Council	Cllr Michael Chambers MBE
North Yorkshire County Council	Cllr Carl Les
Richmondshire District Council	Cllr Kevin Foster
Scarborough Borough Council	Cllr Liz Colling
Selby District Council	Cllr Tim Grogan
City of York Council	Cllr Keith Aspden
City of York Council	Cllr Ashley Mason
Santokh Singh Sidhu	Community Co-opted
Paula Stott	Community Co-opted

PANEL VIEWS

8. The Panel feel the Plan sets out positive aspirations for the fire and rescue service (“FRS”) moving forward. However, Members expressed concern that the lack of performance indicators or measures for evaluating how well the service is progressing render it difficult to fully scrutinise the document on its current merits.
9. The Panel acknowledge that the priorities of the Plan will inform what goes into the Integrated Risk Management Plan and operational delivery planning and that the Plan in itself is intended to indicate a ‘direction of travel’. However, the Panel would have liked to see a greater articulation around evaluation and assessment within the Plan; to better understand how the Plan will inform further planning and the development of a performance framework.
10. Members also acknowledge the forecasted process, as outlined at the meeting, around the FRS continuing with an IRMP which will require mid-year changes, prior to a new IRMP being agreed after the elections for Commissioner have taken place in 2020. The Panel would welcome a further paper on the changes made to the

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IRMP mid-year and a sense of how the Panel may engage on this developmental process.

11. Members also reflected on the aspirations set within the Plan around equality and diversity and highlighted that some fire and rescue services nationally have set a high bar for attainment of goals in this area. The Panel would welcome a greater expression of the scale of ambition in this regard for North Yorkshire FRS.
12. The Panel would, additionally, ask the Commissioner to consider the wording used within the Plan to ensure that it is a document intended to be read for and about the public. Specifically, Members felt that it would be helpful to give greater clarity to the distinction between “collaboration” and “engagement” in respect of the key priority areas.

PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

13. The Panel recommends that the Commissioner:
 - (a) gives consideration to evaluation and assessment of service performance against the priorities of the Plan and whether more specific information could be provided to indicate target performance outcomes;
 - (b) consider the targets for greater equality and diversity within the Plan and whether these could be more aspirational;
 - (c) reflects more roundly on the language of the Plan to ensure that it is clear and accessible to the public.
14. The Panel would like to be engaged further in reviewing mid-year changes to the IRMP and would welcome further information on the performance framework for evaluating the Plan.
15. Further to submitting the above recommendations for your consideration, I am happy to confirm the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel’s support for your Fire and Rescue Plan 2019/21.

CARL LES

Chairman, North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

19th August 2019