

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

## Summary on a Page

The Police, Fire and Crime Panel provides a check and balance function in relation to the policing, fire and crime functions of the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire, David Skaith. It comprises councillors from North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council together with three independent co-opted members. Further governance information is available on the [North Yorkshire Partnerships website](#).

The Panel's Annual Report 2025/26 provides a summary of its activity over the last year in relation to scrutinising the performance of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime. The report notes key areas for scrutiny, Panel development and an outline of key areas of interest over the coming year. The full report is available [here](#). The below provides a precis of some of the key points.

- The Panel has met five times in person and in public during the reporting period. Meetings have continued to be live broadcasted and recorded where possible, with an average 132 views per live meeting. Recordings are available on the [North Yorkshire Council website](#).
- The Panel has effectively conducted its statutory business in relation to **reviewing and making recommendations on the Mayor's Council Tax precept proposals** for policing and fire. In addition, the Panel has incorporated a number of key areas for scrutiny within its programme of work over the last year including:
  - **Scrutiny of how well 'hidden harms' such as wildlife crime are being tackled in rural areas.** Further to the Panel's scrutiny, the Deputy Mayor has written to the Crown Prosecution Service to flag the Panel's queries and concerns around the levels of wildlife crime in North Yorkshire and the challenges around securing prosecutions. The CPS has since provided further detail around how it approaches such cases.
  - **Scrutiny of the management of police complaints.** The Panel sought opportunity to review progress with the Deputy Mayor in addressing the backlog of cases being handled last year. Members welcomed the measures put in place to secure improvements – such as additional staffing - and the greater emphasis withing the police service on embedding learning from complaints. The Panel will be returning to this issue in 2026.
  - **Reviewing the outcomes of the latest inspection report for North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.** The Panel commended the service and the Deputy Mayor on the significant improvements identified by the inspectorate since the previous report a few years ago, particularly in terms of its response to emergencies, making best use of its resources, and recruiting and developing staff and future leaders.
  - **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 the fire and rescue service, both while the consultation was live and as final decisions were brought forward. This included exploring how consultation feedback had been analysed and the influence of the Langdale Moor wildfire on public perceptions. The Panel also considered business engagement on fire prevention and changes to the Automatic Fire Alarm attendance policy.