

North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Report to the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire

Precept Proposal for Fire and Rescue 2026/27

On 14 January 2026 the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire formally notified the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel (“the Panel”) of their draft 2026/27 budget and Medium Term Financial Plan proposal for the fire and rescue service. The Panel is required to review the proposed precept and budget and report on its decision, including any recommendations, to the Mayor by 8 February of the relevant financial year.

The Panel met at County Hall, Northallerton, on Wednesday, 21 January 2026. Membership of the Panel at the meeting was:

North Yorkshire Council	Cllr Chris Aldred
North Yorkshire Council	Cllr David Chance
North Yorkshire Council	Cllr Kevin Foster
North Yorkshire Council	Cllr Tim Grogan
North Yorkshire Council	Cllr Greg White (Sub)
North Yorkshire Council	Cllr Steve Shaw-Wright
North Yorkshire Council	Cllr Peter Wilkinson
City of York Council	Cllr Danny Myers
City of York Council	Cllr Andrew Waller (Sub)
Independent co-opted	Fraser Forsyth
Independent co-opted	Mags Godderidge
Independent co-opted	Caroline O'Neill

The Panel would like to thank the Mayor Deputy Mayor, Chief Fire Officer and the Assistant Director of Resources (Deputy s73 Officer for Police, Fire and Crime functions) for assisting in providing responses to the questions and issues raised by the Panel.

Fire budget and precept proposal

The Mayor presented the proposed budget for North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (“the FRS”) for 2026/27 and the updated Medium Term Financial Plan. The Mayor proposed to set the Band D Fire Element of the Mayoral General Precept within North Yorkshire for 2026/27 at £116.62. This represents an increase of £9.60 over the 2025/26 level.

The Panel recognises the need to stabilise and invest in the service, particularly in the face of evolving environmental risks such as wildfires and flooding. Members were keen to discuss how the Mayor’s financial plans last year and this aim to deliver improved long-term financial stability of the service. It was noted that these plans included bolstering reserves, reducing borrowing levels for the Capital Programme and focussing borrowing only on investment into the fire estate.

Panel members also sought assurance regarding the assumptions in place for pay awards in 2026/27. The financial plan is based on an assumption of a 2.5% increase and Members highlighted that last year’s increase had been 3.2%. Members were invited to note that inflation has fallen since that point and that the pay reserve can also be used to help manage any risks around higher settlements if needed. The Panel reflected on the use of third party expertise in relation to vehicle maintenance for the service and were advised that the Chief Fire Officer is keen to return to a full complement of in-house skilled staff. It was helpful to note that with the close of a PFI contract in May 2027, there will also be significant cost reduction thereafter for the service and those buildings will transfer to the Mayor.

As such, the Panel felt satisfied that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Fire Officer are taking appropriate steps to ensure the service continues to remain on a stable footing and has some ability to respond to emerging threats and risks. The Panel conveyed the importance of the service receiving its full claim from the government under the Bellwin scheme of costs incurred in responding to the Langdale Moor fires and looks forward to receiving a further update on this matter in due course. It was helpful to hear that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor have continued to lobby the government regarding seeking fair funding for a rural service operating over such a large area and in the absence of statutory funding for increasing risks such as flooding. The Panel has similarly written to government on this in the last year and will continue to support the Mayor in such efforts as required.

The only area identified for further reflection during the Panel meeting discussions was around the delivery of the precept survey consultation as although members

felt that there had been a very positive response from the public overall and to proposed increases in the levy, it would have been a more reflective picture to have a greater number of respondents from the York area and also from the under-40s demographic. The Deputy Mayor fully acknowledged this and will continue to look at ways to help improve on this.

Decision – Fire precept proposal

The Police, Fire and Crime Panel supported the Mayor's proposal to increase the fire element of the Mayoral General Precept for 2026/27 to £116.62, which represents an increase of £9.60 over the 2025/26 level for a Band D property.

As far as the Panel is concerned, this ends its scrutiny process of the Mayor's proposed fire budget for 2026/27 and medium term financial plan.



Councillor Peter R Wilkinson
Chair, North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel
26 January 2026