

**Draft protocol between the Police and Crime Panel and the Crime and Disorder  
Overview and Scrutiny Committees in North Yorkshire and York**

This protocol concerns the relationship between the Police and Crime Panel (Panel) and the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committees of:

Craven District Council	Scarborough Borough Council
Hambleton District Council	Selby District Council
Harrogate Borough Council	North Yorkshire County Council
Richmondshire District Council	City of York Council
Ryedale District Council	

The purpose of this protocol is to encourage the Panel and Overview and Scrutiny Committees to:

- (i) work in a climate of mutual respect and courtesy;
- (ii) have a shared understanding of their respective roles, responsibilities and priorities;
- (iii) promote and foster an open relationship where issues of common interest and concern are shared in a constructive and mutually supportive way; and
- (iv) share work programmes, information or data to avoid the unnecessary duplication of effort.

## **Role of the Police and Crime Panel**

Elected Police and Crime Commissioners and Police and Crime Panels were introduced by the 2011 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act. Under the Act, the Commissioner will be responsible for holding the Chief Constable to account, securing an efficient and effective local police force and carrying out functions in relation to community safety and crime prevention.

The North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel will be responsible for publicly scrutinising the actions and decisions of the Commissioner, including:

1. Reviewing and making a report or recommendation on the draft police and crime plan.
2. Reviewing the annual report from the Police and Crime Commissioner.
3. Reviewing and scrutinising decisions, or other action taken, by the Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of her/his functions.
4. Publishing all reports and recommendations the Panel makes and sending copies to the constituent local authorities.

## **Role of the Scrutiny Committees**

### **- as the designated Crime and Disorder Committee for each Local Authority in North Yorkshire and York**

Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires every local authority to have a crime and disorder committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions taken in connection with the discharge by the Responsible Authorities\* of their crime and disorder functions.

Each of the Local Authorities in North Yorkshire and York has a committee that is designated as the Crime and Disorder Committee. Local crime and disorder issues are considered within the appropriate designated Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the District, Borough and City of York Councils. The Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee of North Yorkshire County Council provide constructive challenge at a strategic level within the County Council area.

**\* Responsible Authorities are:**

**Local Authorities**  
**Police Force**  
**Fire and Rescue Authority**  
**Primary Care Trust (or successor bodies)**  
**Probation**

*Note – the Police Authority was previously identified as a Responsible Authority. The Police and Crime Commissioner has NOT been designated as a responsible authority for these purposes. However the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act places a mutual responsibility on Police and Crime Commissioners and the responsible authorities to co-operate to reduce crime, disorder and re-offending.*

## Working principles

Given the common aims of both the Scrutiny Committees and the PCP to scrutinise the delivery and effectiveness of measures aimed at reducing crime and disorder and enhance public safety, it is vital that they:

- (i) work in a climate of mutual respect and courtesy;
- (ii) have a shared understanding of their respective roles, responsibilities and priorities;
- (iii) promote and foster an open relationship where issues of common interest and concern are shared in a constructive and mutually supportive way; and
- (v) share work programmes, information or data they have obtained to avoid the unnecessary duplication of effort.

Whilst recognising the common aims and the need for closer working, it is important to remember that the Scrutiny Committees and the PCP are independent bodies and have autonomy over their work programmes, methods of working and any views or conclusions they may reach. This protocol will not preclude either body from working with any other local, regional or national organisation to deliver their aims.

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## What will this mean in practice

### **PCP → Scrutiny**

The Police and Crime Panel shall, in discharging its responsibility for commenting on the Police and Crime Plan or any variation of it, seek the views of the Scrutiny Committees. The Scrutiny Committees may, if they so wish submit written comments to the Panel.

The Police and Crime Panel shall, in discharging its responsibility for commenting on the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report, seek the views of the Scrutiny Committees. The Scrutiny Committees may, if they so wish submit written comments or questions it considers merit raising with the Commissioner to the Panel.

### **Scrutiny → PCP**

The Scrutiny Committees may, in discharging their responsibility for reviewing and scrutinising the Annual Report of the Community Safety Partnership, and reviewing or scrutinising decisions taken in connection with the discharge by the Responsible Authorities\* of their crime and disorder functions, draw to the attention of the Panel any issues which would merit a discussion with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

### **PCP ↔ Scrutiny**

Where either the Police and Crime Panel or the Scrutiny Committees consider that a particular issue (related to crime and disorder) would merit in depth investigation either by the Committees or the Panel this should be discussed by the Chairmen and Secretariat of both bodies to determine the scope of such a review and agree to which body would take lead responsibility. The aim is to avoid duplication of effort and resources.