

## **Annex A**

### **Police & Crime Plan Consultation City of York Council Response**

City of York Council are pleased to have the opportunity to respond to consultation on the Draft Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017. As a Local Authority, we have a strong and well established relationship with North Yorkshire Police which extends to before the Crime and Disorder Act established a statutory requirement for police and local authorities to work together.

We are delighted that North Yorkshire Police is the safest force area in the country. We believe that City of York Council has made a significant contribution to that achievement and we look forward to working closely with the Police and Crime Commissioner in ensuring that we continue to retain this position.

The City of York Councils priorities in relation to community safety are embedded within the Council Plan as part of the Building Stronger Communities and Protect Vulnerable People priorities and are also set out in the Safer York Partnership Community Safety Plan. In order to respond to the draft police and crime plan, a piece of work has been undertaken to consider our priorities in the context of those highlighted by the commissioner, with a view to identifying synergies and areas where the city can support and enhance.

### **GOALS**

#### **Reducing Harm**

We support collaboration with neighbouring forces to tackle cross border crime. Within the City we already work closely with neighbouring districts and regionally to share intelligence and information that helps to identify offenders who may target York. Specifically, we have information sharing agreements in place which enable us to share intelligence relating to travelling criminals targeting our retail community.

We support the development of work deliver the national alcohol strategy at a local level. Joint work is under way between the community safety partnership and the health and wellbeing board to ensure that we tackle the underlying causes of crime and anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol misuse as well as deal with the effects.

Safer York Partnership has recently produced a Hate Crime Strategy which is due to be launched in the late spring. The action plans underpinning this strategy will ensure that within City of York Council, we are able to contribute to a partnership approach to providing better co-ordinated support to victims. As part of our work within the authority to achieve Equalities Excellence, we see the hate crime strategy as part of wider work to enhance support to communities of interest.

There is synergy between the Police and Crime Plan and the Council Plan in the shared aim to protect vulnerable people. We are working closely with North Yorkshire Police to implement a more robust system of sharing intelligence and information relating to vulnerable victims and developing the multi-agency problem solving case meeting to develop appropriate actions.

Our community safety team within the council works very closely with the Safer Neighbourhood Policing Teams to tackle anti-social behaviour and we welcome the introduction of an anti-social behaviour task force to support this local work.

### **People First**

We support the development of an 'Insight Centre' to harness data and intelligence more effectively. We have already adopted this approach within City of York Council and would offer our support in helping to shape the developments envisaged within the plan.

We are interested in the expansion of the special constabulary and volunteers to extend the policing family. There are opportunities for City of York Council to work closely with the police through the delivery of our community contracts to provide support and shared information and intelligence at the local level.

We welcome the introduction of a less process focused approach. We believe that if we are to continue to achieve successful reductions in crime and the fear of crime, we need to work closely in partnership to develop a greater focus on early intervention and prevention.

We are pleased to see commitment to retaining the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Within City of York Council, our front line staff work very closely with their local SNTs and have achieved some excellent joint results in terms of reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and improving quality of life.

### **More with Less**

We fully understand the pressures on North Yorkshire Police to preserve front line services within the current economic pressures. We are keen to work closely with our Safer Neighbourhood Commander to identify opportunities for us to develop shared services and utilise opportunities for co-location. Within our new Headquarters at West Offices, we will be facilitating opportunities for PVP staff to be co-located with our safeguarding team and creating the IT links to ensure continued access to our CCTV system.

### **Fit for the Future**

We support the proposals to reduce overheads and develop a sustainable and cost effective service. We have facilitated shared accommodation within West Offices and are keen to explore other opportunities for delivering shared services that will benefit our communities within the city.

### **To Drive Justice**

Reducing reoffending is a priority identified within our Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment for York and one which sits within the priorities of the Safer York Partnership.

We are keen to increase opportunities for restorative justice as an alternative to custodial sentencing and support work with the CPS

and other Criminal Justice Agencies to develop better outcomes in relation to reducing reoffending in the city.

We work closely with our local probation trust in supporting the Integrated Offender Management programme and also in utilising Community Payback to deliver projects across the city. We are keen to continue this relationship irrespective of the outcome of proposed probation reforms.

## **Police UK**

City of York Council shares a responsibility to deal with civil contingencies and is keen to develop work to ensure that we collaboratively deliver the best possible service to our communities in relation to emergency situations.

Our Chief Executive Chairs the Prevent Gold group and we are committed to ensuring that we have measures in place to deal with the consequences of radicalisation and protect our communities from extremist or terrorist activity.

Overall we believe the police and crime plan sets out the strategic platform from which the police can work in partnership with local authorities and other key stakeholders to maintain the position as safest force area within the country.

**Cllr Dafydd Williams**  
**Cabinet Member for Crime and Community Safety.**

## Consultation questions

### 1. Generally, how much do you agree with the Commissioner's goals?

(please circle)

- a) They are about right
- b) There are only one or two I think are right
- c) I'm not sure either way
- d) I disagree with most of them

*North Yorkshire is the safest police force areas in the country. The goals provide a good balance between focusing on service improvement whilst also acknowledging the need to drive further efficiencies.*

### 2. In what order would you rank the priorities? (1 =top priority and 6= lowest)

- a) Reducing harm 1 2 3 4 5 6
- b) Putting people first 1 2 3 4 5 6
- c) Delivering more with less 1 2 3 4 5 6
- d) Fit for the future 1 2 3 4 5 6
- e) Driving justice 1 2 3 4 5 6
- f) Police UK 1 2 3 4 5 6

*It is actually difficult to rank these as some are interdependent and they are all equally important to maintaining North Yorkshire as the safest force area. Driving Justice may prove the most challenging of these priorities as the co-operation of Criminal Justice Partners will be crucial to success.*

### 3. What additions or changes would you make? (1 = top priority and 5 = lowest)

- a) More emphasis on police performance 1 2 3 4 5
- b) A harder line on dealing with criminals 1 2 3 4 5
- c) Greater emphasis on causes of crime 1 2 3 4 5
- d) Not enough focus on rural areas 1 2 3 4 5
- e) Not enough focus on urban issues 1 2 3 4 5

f) Other (please state) **More emphasis from a police perspective on early intervention and prevention rather than response**

*There is a need to be outcome focused, particularly in relation to placing greater emphasis on a victim based approach. However, crime stats play a crucial role in determining where to place resource to greatest benefit. The continued reductions in crime will not be sustained without greater emphasis being placed on early intervention, prevention and gaining greater understanding of the underlying causes of crime. A more holistic approach is required which will necessitate a cultural change within NYP of moving from a response based approach.*

**4. Do you have any comments or suggestions on what else could be done to improve the performance of North Yorkshire Police either generally or regarding a specific area of crime or concern? Please state:**

*Intelligence led multi-agency problem solving works well in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. However the current way in which the police approach their tactical tasking and co-ordination is not always conducive to partnership working. Too much emphasis is placed on the here and now, responding to emerging issues and not enough on gaining a deeper understanding of the causes and underlying factors that lead to crime and anti-social behaviour in the first place.*

**5. Do you think that the balance is right between cutting costs and protecting frontline policing, given that major savings are needed over the coming years?**

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Not sure

*Like every public sector organisation, the police must still strive to achieve greater efficiencies. However, this needs to be through scrutiny of back room functions to retain greater emphasis on front line services. Strong partnership working at the local level which*

*allows the police to use their warranted powers while other partners provide support will assist in achieving greater effectiveness and efficiency within the police.*

**6. Do you think that the right mix between urban and rural issues has been achieved?**

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Not sure

*North Yorkshire is a large police force area with little commonality between either rural or urban areas. Anti-social behaviour is rightly highlighted within the plan and is probably the area that affects quality of life across both rural and urban communities. By adopting a more victim based approach, the geography is largely removed as emphasis is placed on increasing quality of service across all communities irrespective of where they are located. Again, it is crucial that this work is tackled in partnership, particularly with local authorities as they have a greater understanding of their community needs.*

**7. What, if any, other measures could be taken to help drive justice, given that the courts, judges and Crown Prosecution Service are independent of the police?**

- a) More cases brought to court **Yes** No Not sure
- b) Specific notice taken of North Yorkshire's needs **Yes** No Not sure
- c) More people charged rather than cautioned **Yes** No Not sure
- d) Increased use of restorative justice **Yes** No Not sure
- e) Crack down on anti-social behaviour **Yes** No Not sure
- f) Other (please state) *Engage more closely with partners to address anti-social behaviour through a multi-agency problem solving approach.*

*There is still a need for closer collaboration and shared understanding between all criminal justice agencies.*

**8. Are there any other issues you would like included in the plan?**

Please state:

*Whilst reference is made to working in partnership, the specific role of community safety partnerships is not mentioned. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 still requires the police to work in partnership with local authorities to tackle crime and disorder in each local authority are. This approach is well embedded and has been in place for fifteen years. Where this works well, it should be acknowledged and developed as the basis for future working to address local problems of crime and anti-social behaviour, bringing in the public health and troubled families agenda as a strong opportunity for more early intervention and preventative work.*

**9. Do you believe that confidence in North Yorkshire Police needs to be improved?**

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Not sure

**10. Any other comments you would like to add? Please state:**

*Overall, the plan sets out a balanced approach to service improvement within the police. Given the year on year success in reducing crime across the force, it is crucial that the emphasis changes to develop a greater understanding of the causes of crime and anti-social behaviour and putting in place early intervention and prevention measures alongside response. Working in partnership is crucial to this approach and close collaborative working with local authorities and the community safety partnerships will help to ensure successful delivery of the plan.*