

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN NORTH YORKSHIRE

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR SAY!

a message from Buckden Parish Council

Despite it being an unusual time to undertake major change, the Government is pursuing its 'localism agenda' by asking for proposals which will fundamentally alter our current local government arrangements.

At the moment, we pay our Council Tax to Craven District Council (CDC) which passes on about 90% of the tax to North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), the Police and Fire Services and to Town and Parish Councils. The lion's share goes to NYCC which provides services such as Transport, Children's Services (schools), Highways, Health and Social Care, etc.

With its share, CDC provides waste disposal, environmental services and a host of other local services but, importantly, it acts as a focal point for local issues and is capable of representing our area in a wider context.

This is described as a two-tier system and the Government is concerned that having both District Councils and a County Council is unnecessarily costly and is susceptible to inefficiencies. Supporters of the current two-tier model say that it provides a formal means for local issues to be raised and acted upon or communicated effectively to the responsible authorities.

Two sets of proposals have been put forward:-

1. NYCC are proposing one large unitary authority covering the whole county other than the city of York which would remain separate. This proposal means that all seven existing District Councils, including CDC, would be dissolved. Details can be found at :- <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/stronger-together>
2. Six District Councils, including CDC, have joined together to put forward a proposal which would divide the county into two areas, one in the East consisting of the areas currently covered by Selby, Ryedale, Scarborough and the City of York (about 465,000 people) and one in the West consisting of Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate and Richmondshire (about 363,000 people). Details can be found at :- <https://www.get-change-right.com/>

The Government is now carrying out a consultation to gauge local responses to these proposals. This is to be carried out online, by email or by post and full details of how to participate can be found at the end of this message. The deadline for responses is 11.45pm on 19 April 2021.

Buckden Parish Council (BPC) will be responding as a Parish Council and would be interested in your views whilst at the same time encouraging you strongly to respond as an individual. We have discussed the issue and are minded to support the District Councils' proposal for two authorities or the East/West option as it is being referred to. The alternative, one big authority with nothing between it and the Parish Council, seems unlikely to offer sufficient sensitivity to the unique conditions in which we live and work. We would also like our elected representatives to have a close connection with our locality which the East/West option alone offers.

However, this is all far from cut and dried. Buckden and its neighbours have developed very good relationships with NYCC officers particularly on Schools and Transport. We have a concern that these relationships may be disturbed by the creation of two new authorities and are seeking reassurances from East/West to the contrary.

We urge you to participate and have your say and here's how:

In order that multiple responses can more easily be compared and contrasted, the consultation requires that answers to six questions are given. The process will only take these answers into account. They are:

Q1. Is the councils' proposal likely to improve local government and service delivery across each area? Specifically, is it likely to improve council services, give greater value for money, generate savings, provide stronger strategic and local leadership, and create more sustainable structures?

Q2. Where it is proposed that services will be delivered on a different geographic footprint to currently, or through some form of joint arrangements is this likely to improve those services? Such services may for example be children's services, waste collection and disposal, adult health and social care, planning, and transport.

Q3. Is the councils' proposal also likely to impact local public services delivered by others, such as police, fire and rescue, and health services?

Q4. Do you support the proposal from the councils?

Q5. Do the unitary councils proposed by the councils represent a credible geography?

Q6. Do you have any other comments with regards to the proposed reorganisation of local government in each area?

You can respond to either proposal or both online by following the link [here](#).

OR

Email to:

unitaryconsultation@communities.gov.uk

OR

Write to:

Governance Reform and Democracy
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Buckden Parish Council will be responding to the consultation in the week commencing 12 April 2021 following the Parish Council meeting to be held on that day. This is also the date of the Annual Parish Meeting to which all are welcome (details to be published on www.buckden.org). It would be very helpful to the Parish Council if you would share your views on this important issue which will affect all of us. We have set up a special email address for this purpose lgr-comments@buckden.org. Please let us know what you think. If you don't use email but want to share your views please call me on 01756 760817 before 12 April 2021.

Peter Breen Chairman

For and on behalf of Buckden Parish Council