

An update on progress towards a new single council for North Yorkshire

Issue 1 – November 2021

Background - As you know on Wednesday 21 July, 2021 the Secretary of State, (then) Robert Jenrick MP, announced that the single new unitary council, delivering all services across the whole of the current county footprint, was the selected model for future public service delivery here.

This is subject to parliamentary approval via a **Structural Changes Order (SCO)** in early 2022 and will result in the current county council and seven district/borough councils in North Yorkshire coming together to form a single new council on the 1st of April 2023.

As a valued partner we will be keeping you informed on progress as we undertake this significant change programme and we hope you find the below of interest.

Communications – as we progress with our change and transformation programme we want to reassure you that we are committed to keeping you informed and engaged along the way. We value your views and will provide opportunities for you to help shape the new council.

This is an exciting moment for North Yorkshire and, as we deliver the transformation required, we are also keen to pursue the benefits of devolution. Early indications are that the government is open to this approach and we will have more information on this in the coming months.

Governance - A large-scale change programme, like the one we are all undertaking, needs a dedicated set of governance arrangements to ensure all councils are involved in oversight and leadership and can work collaboratively to build the best possible new council together.

As such, we have put in place a senior officer- led '**Implementation Team**'. All of the district and borough council chief executives are represented on this group, alongside the county council's management board. It is chaired by the county council's chief executive, Richard Flinton. The vice chair is Paul Shevlin the chief executive of Craven District Council.

An '**Implementation Board**' provides oversight of the officer team's progress and direction. All eight councils have an elected leader or political representative on this board. It is chaired by the leader of the county council, Cllr Carl Les. The vice chair is Cllr Mark Crane, the leader of Selby District Council.

The Implementation team and board are holding monthly meetings.

NB – The eight councils will continue to operate their own business-as-usual decision-making processes outside of the local government reorganisation process until the end of March 2023.

15 core **work streams** have been set up as detailed below. These will establish and drive the key actions and priorities for each area to ensure the new council is safe and legal from day one. They will also consider any early opportunities to join services up.

Work Streams

Work Stream	Sponsor	Organisation
Corporate Governance	Barry Khan	North Yorkshire
Comms, Engagement & Branding	Richard Flinton	North Yorkshire
Culture, Leisure & Sport	Richard Webb	North Yorkshire
Customer(incl. Revs/Bens)	Wallace Sampson	Harrogate
Economic Development	Mike Greene	Scarborough
Finance	Gary Fielding	North Yorkshire
Housing	Justin Ives	Hambleton
Human Resources	Justine Brooksbank	North Yorkshire
ICT & Digital	Stuart Carlton	North Yorkshire
Locality	Paul Shevlin	Craven
Organisational Development	Stacey Burlet	Ryedale
Planning	Janet Waggott	Selby
Property	Justin Ives	Hambleton
Regulatory Services & Emergency Planning	Tony Clark	Richmondshire
Waste, Highways, Parking & Street Scene	Karl Battersby	North Yorkshire

Service areas	Day 1 planning and service continuity only
Adults	
Children's	
Public Health	

Devolution		To be pursued in parallel to the transition to unitary council
Mike Greene	Scarborough	
Richard Flinton	North Yorkshire	
Ian Floyd	York	

Staying local – we understand the value of local government remaining local and we want to take this opportunity to reassure you of some core principles on this important matter. The new council will be local, with staff continuing to live and work in the communities they serve. There will be a main office in each district and face-to-face customer access points throughout market towns. Community networks will bring together residents, councillors, town and parish councils, MPs, community groups and partners like the NHS and police and fire service. In addition, area committees will oversee decisions on matters like licensing and planning at a local level. The detail on these will be for the new council to decide but local will remain at the heart of what this new council stands for.

Next steps – ahead of the final Structural Changes Order (SCO) mentioned earlier, a draft version was shared with all eight councils by Government earlier this month (November 2021) and their comments were invited on this draft.

The draft SCO suggested the council's name would be North Yorkshire Council, 90 new elected members would represent 89 wards. It suggests elections for these new councillors will be May 2022, with members elected to serve the current county council for its final 12 months and then a further 4 years as new 'unitary' councillors. Current district and borough councillors will continue to serve their electorate until the new council launches on April 1, 2023.

It also proposes that town and parish council elections be aligned to the May 2022 election process.

Other proposals include setting in place arrangements to support new town councils for Harrogate and Scarborough.

Early in the New Year government will deliver its final SCO and lay that before Parliament for approval.

We will be in touch again to keep you informed of progress and to highlight opportunities for you to get involved in helping to shape the new council.

Kind regards,



Richard Flinton
Chief Executive
North Yorkshire County Council



Mike Greene
Chief Executive
Scarborough Borough Council



Wallace Sampson
Chief Executive
Harrogate Borough Council



Justin Ives
Chief Executive
Hambleton District Council



Tony Clark
Chief Executive
Richmondshire District Council



Janet Waggott
Chief Executive
Selby District Council



Paul Shevlin
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Craven District Council



Stacey Burlet
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