



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

<b>Service areas</b>	<b>Day 1 planning and service continuity only</b>
<b>Adults</b>	
<b>Children's</b>	
<b>Public Health</b>	

<b>Devolution</b>		<b>To be pursued in parallel to the transition to unitary council</b>
<b>Mike Greene</b>	Scarborough	
<b>Richard Flinton</b>	North Yorkshire	
<b>Ian Floyd</b>	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  
Chief Executive  
Craven District Council



Stacey Buriel  
Chief Executive  
Ryedale District Council