

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

Issue 4 – August 17, 2022

It is just a little over seven months until the new single council for North Yorkshire replaces the eight current local authorities and August has been a very significant month in this change programme. On Yorkshire Day (1 August), we welcomed the announcement and signing of a proposed devolution deal for York and North Yorkshire and today (17 August) councillors responsible for the new North Yorkshire Council have agreed the appointment of Richard Flinton as their chief executive officer. There is more information about these milestones and other updates below, which we hope are helpful to you.

**Devolution** - The proposed 30-year devolution deal could deliver funding for key policies and strategies, providing better roads and public transport, increasing affordable housing, improving education and career opportunities locally, boosting the economy and placing York and North Yorkshire at the forefront of climate friendly business growth. The deal could also give people who live in the region the chance to directly elect a mayor for York and North Yorkshire. A mayor would champion our region at a national level and increase access to new and more funding.

The proposed deal would mean new powers are transferred directly to the elected mayor for York and North Yorkshire who will oversee upwards of £540m of Government investment. Currently, the deal offer is being reviewed by councillors in York and North Yorkshire and next month they will decide whether to take it forward to public consultation before the end of this year.

It is the first deal offer of its kind in that it would bring a mayor to champion a large rural area alongside the City of York. That in itself is noteworthy. You can read more on that here: [North Yorkshire's rural communities set to benefit from devolution | News | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

The proposed deal can be read here [York and North Yorkshire devolution deal - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

## Proposed York and North Yorkshire Devolution Timeline

Milestone	Date (subject to change)
Proposed devolution deal for York and North Yorkshire announced and signed	1 August 2022 – Yorkshire Day
Local councillors review whether to proceed to a statutory public consultation	August/September 2022
Collective decision from North Yorkshire and City of York on whether to consult	Late September 2022
If agreed, statutory 12-week public consultation	Mid-October 2022 to January 2023
Consultation findings submitted to government	Winter 2023
Full councils meet to consider consultation feedback and councillors asked whether to progress the devolution deal.	February 2023
Act of Parliament	Spring 2023
Formation of new combined authority	Autumn 2023
Mayoral Elections	Spring 2024

**Stay informed – visit [www.ynydevolution.com](http://www.ynydevolution.com)** to sign up for the ‘We are York and North Yorkshire’ newsletter. Follow #weareYNY on social media.

There is a [briefing](#) that you may find useful - please share this information with your networks, colleagues and anyone else with an interest or yet to have an interest!

**Chief Executive appointed for new North Yorkshire Council** - Richard Flinton has today (Wednesday, 17 August) been confirmed in the role of the most senior officer to oversee the new North Yorkshire Council. Mr Flinton’s forthcoming role involves overseeing approximately 10,500 staff, excluding schools, who will deliver the essential public services provided by the eight councils currently operating across England’s largest county. Currently chief executive of North Yorkshire County Council, in his new role he will also be responsible for overseeing a budget of £1.4 billion.

**Working at local level** - As partners you will be keen to know more about how the new council will work at a local level. We are pleased to tell you that a great deal of good work continues on our plans for Community Networks. We recognise that our commitment to be the ‘most local’, geographically large, council in England is dependent on building on, and strengthening, the successful working relationships we have with all of you. To support this we are developing a framework, which we will be coming out to discuss with you in detail in a few weeks’ time. Ahead of this, we want to share the latest planning. **It is important to note that all of this work will go to the councillors elected to represent our communities at an Executive meeting before North Yorkshire Council comes into being.**

Our aim is to support the creation of around 25 to 30 Community Networks based around towns and their surrounding areas and reflecting natural geographies. These will bring together local residents, councillors, town and parish councils, MPs, businesses, voluntary sector and community groups and other public sector partners such as health, police, schools and so on. Together, communities will be empowered and supported to set local priorities and address local challenges.

Our planning is that these Community Networks will:

- Mobilise communities, unleash energy and ambition and give them a stronger voice;
- Be action oriented - developing local priorities and action plans utilising the skills and assets in communities;
- Provide a vehicle for inclusive and effective local engagement with communities;
- Provide a vehicle for accessing external investment.

While we hope these will be independent in many ways, they will also be supported to access the new council’s advice and expertise via a designated senior named officer. Our plan is that the networks will have a strong focus on prevention and reducing inequalities, improve the local economy and create community wealth, improve community, environmental and individual wellbeing and improve community resilience. They will not all happen at once. Each will be carefully considered based on local needs.

This is a huge task, which is part of the greater change programme for Local Government Reorganisation, and we have always been clear that your views matter. With that in mind, we are launching a programme of

engagement under the banner of ‘Let’s Talk...’ in mid-September. ‘Let’s Talk...’ will be North Yorkshire’s biggest countywide conversation. The aim is to find out what really matters to the public at a local level and how the new North Yorkshire Council can help to support local needs most effectively. Over four months we aim to have 1,250 local face-to-face conversations with thousands more people encouraged to take part online. These conversations will be happening right across North Yorkshire and in the places people go. ‘**Let’s Talk Local**’ is the first topic for discussion. We will start to test our early thinking around geography for Community Networks and local priorities, to inform the final paper to Executive. We hope you will support, promote and take part in this exercise, because we value your views. Some additional information and a link to the survey when it opens in September is available at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/LetsTalkNY](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/LetsTalkNY)

**Town councils for Harrogate and Scarborough** - In a move to ensure residents of two of North Yorkshire’s major towns have a strong say in decision-making at the most local level, residents of Scarborough and Harrogate are being asked their views on the creation of town councils for their areas. Parts of Scarborough and Harrogate are the only major towns in North Yorkshire not to have a parish or town council. Residents of unparished parts of Scarborough and Harrogate are being invited to give their views on creating councils for the two towns in a consultation which begins on Monday, 22 August, and runs until Friday, September 30. As two of the county’s major centres of population, it’s vital that Harrogate and Scarborough have this opportunity and we would urge people to look at the consultation and have their say. At this stage, no firm proposals are being put forward. Depending on the response to this consultation, a further consultation on detailed proposals could follow. For more information visit [www.northyorks.gov.uk/CGR](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/CGR). Printed copies and information in alternative formats can be requested from our customer support team on 01609 780 780 or via email to [CGR@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:CGR@northyorks.gov.uk)

**Please note this is not live until 22 August.**

**A new Council Tax Reduction Scheme for North Yorkshire Council – consultation now live** - Council Tax Reduction is a discount that helps people on low incomes pay their Council Tax bill. Currently, the seven borough and district councils all have slightly different Council Tax Reduction schemes, and by law the new North Yorkshire Council must introduce a single scheme covering the whole of its area. The proposal is to introduce an income-banded scheme that is more supportive, with the maximum level of reduction for the people most in need. The changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme will affect working age households in the North Yorkshire area who will get Council Tax Reduction from 1 April 2023. Pension age households will not see any change as the scheme to support this group is set out by Central Government. The aim is that the single scheme will:

- make claiming easy;
- provide up to 100% support for households on the lowest incomes;
- work better with the Universal Credit system;
- support families, carers and applicants who receive a disability benefit;
- take away the need for constant changes in awards; and
- be easier to manage.

Most applicants will get the same support as they do now and many will be better off. Although some households will have a little more to pay, the proposals set out plans for a hardship fund so that anyone affected who needs additional help will be supported. We want to know what people think about the new

Council Tax Reduction Scheme for North Yorkshire Council and we're writing to people who currently get a reduction in the council tax they pay, inviting them to share their views on the proposed changes. We would also like to hear from other North Yorkshire residents, groups and organisations.

A link to take part in the consultation and more detailed information can be found at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/CouncilTaxReduction](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/CouncilTaxReduction). The consultation will close at midnight on 18 September 2022. All comments and feedback will be considered by the executive in October, before a final decision is made by full council in November.

**Staying in touch with you** - We will be in touch again to keep you informed of progress and to highlight further opportunities for you to get involved in helping to shape the new council. We also hope to host an all-partner webinar in October and look forward to seeing you all there.

Kind regards,



Richard Flinton  
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North Yorkshire County Council



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Scarborough Borough Council



Wallace Sampson  
Chief Executive  
Hamrogate Borough Council



Justin Lees  
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