



City of York Council
West Offices
Station Rise
York
YO1 6GA

All District Councillors

18th February 2021

Dear Colleague,

Local Government Reorganisation

We are writing to highlight the position of City of York Council ahead of the forthcoming consultation on local government reorganisation in North Yorkshire.

It appears likely that the Government will commence consultation in the next week or so on the two proposals submitted:

- The East/West model proposed by the six of the seven District Councils which removes all existing councils in North Yorkshire and York and creates two new unitary authorities;
- The North Yorkshire proposal to create a single new unitary authority covering North Yorkshire County Council's existing footprint, with York remaining as a unitary authority in its own right.

City of York Council has been clear in setting out that it believes the best way forward for the city is to continue as a unitary authority in its own right, working alongside a new single unitary authority to cover North Yorkshire in a strategic partnership.

Unfortunately, we are aware of information being distributed which states that York has "chosen not to be involved in the submission of any proposal to Government". This is a simplistic and potentially misleading representation. York has fully engaged in the process and made two full submissions to Government.

You may wish to read the submissions made by City of York Council, identifying the benefits of York remaining as a unitary authority and the risks of any merger, available here:

[Successful Leadership from a Global city on a compact scale \(york.gov.uk\)](https://www.york.gov.uk)

[Supplementary evidence \(york.gov.uk\)](https://www.york.gov.uk)

[Telephone survey report \(york.gov.uk\)](https://www.york.gov.uk)

In order that these submissions to Government are classed as a “proposal”, it must include the removal of 2-tier local government in North Yorkshire. For York, as an existing unitary, no change is required to fulfil the Government’s objectives.

As such, given that the consultation will be framed as a choice between the proposals put forward by the County Council and some of the districts, City of York Council is clear that it will be backing the model proposed by North Yorkshire County Council.

It is worth noting that City of York Council’s case to remain as a unitary in its own right (and support for North Yorkshire’s case) has been backed by representative bodies across the health profession including the Humber Coast & Vale Health and Care Partnership, the Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group and York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

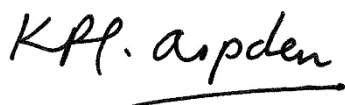
This is in addition to support from organisations in sectors including business, culture and heritage, education, science, and sport alongside a number of York’s historic Guilds and senior representatives of the city including a number of Parish Councils.

City of York Council has also sought the views of residents on the proposals, and that exercise revealed that the vast majority of residents, 70 percent of those polled, back the retention of City of York Council on its current geography, compared to only 8 percent who back a merger. Indeed, even polling conducted by the district councils has highlighted that a majority of York’s residents want the city to stay as a unitary authority in its own right.

We wanted to write to you now to ensure that you were fully aware of City of York Council’s position on this matter ahead of a formal government consultation on the alternative proposals.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this email.

Yours faithfully



Cllr Keith Aspden
Leader of City of York Council



Cllr Danny Myers
Leader of the Opposition



Ian Floyd
Chief Operating Officer