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Leaders agree to move devolution deal forward

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Leaders of the ten authorities in York, North Yorkshire and the East Riding met in March to discuss the draft devolution deal for a York, North Yorkshire and East Riding combined authority (YNYER), which is now at an advanced stage.

Following the meeting, the leaders agreed to move into formal negotiations with the Government on the back of the informal discussions that have been taking place since the autumn.

Although this agreement does not formally commit any of the ten authorities to the deal, as each has to go through its own approval process and consider all options, it does take the deal to the next stage.

The deal would see powers in areas such as transport and skills transferred from Whitehall to the YNYER region. It would unlock £30m every year of crucial new funding from central government which would enable the region to deliver large-scale investment in housing, transport and new jobs.

The leaders of the ten authorities (City of York Council, Craven District Council, East Riding of Yorkshire County Council, Hambleton District Council, Harrogate Borough Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Richmondshire District Council, Ryedale District Council, Selby District Council and Scarborough Borough Council) already meet

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regularly to discuss issues affecting the wider area.

They share an ambition to create the best possible conditions for growth in jobs, investment and living standards and to make the area excellent for business.

They believe strengthening governance and responding to the Government's offer of substantial devolution for areas choosing a combined authority with the potential for a directly elected mayor will enable them to deliver their ambitions.

What a York, North Yorkshire and East Riding combined authority could mean

It is anticipated the YNYER deal would in the long term bring:

- more than £400m of public and local contributions;
- £300m of transport funding;
- the ability to levy business rates;
- all in all delivering £1.1billion for strategic investments.

A combined authority could take forward big infrastructure schemes, such as:

- the Harrogate relief road;
- the dualling of the A64 and York outer ring road;
- and the re-aligning of the A59 over Kex Gill between Skipton and Harrogate.

By 2035, the aim would be to:

- create 80,000 jobs;
- build 100,000 homes;
- have 85% of the region within 45 minutes of an HS2 hub;
- have 100% broadband coverage; and
- have a strategic role for the region in developing new farming technologies.

Greater Yorkshire

The YNYER deal has been mapped out to form part of a footprint for a Greater Yorkshire deal, which leaders agreed would attract the most powerful devolution offer for the county, providing the best opportunity for all areas of Yorkshire to be key players in the Northern Powerhouse. If Greater Yorkshire cannot be achieved, YNYER still provides a great offer for the City of York, North Yorkshire and the East Riding, alongside deals for South and West Yorkshire. While all leaders agreed to move into formal negotiations on YNYER some will also continue to explore other deals, such as the Leeds City Region.

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