

Town Hall
St Nicholas Street
Scarborough
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Tel: 01723 232323



Councillor Linda Wild
Whitby Town Council

Your Ref:
Our Ref:
4 August 2020

Dear Linda

Local Government Reorganisation

You may have seen reports in the media that the Government wants the district and county two-tier system of local government to change so that we have one council for our area – a so-called unitary council. I wanted to let you know my general thoughts at this stage and to seek the views of you and your parish/town council colleagues.




The government requires us to submit proposals for unitary government by early September so time is uncomfortably tight to ensure that we get the best result of the options available to us.

My council has always had a frank, honest and positive relationship with the parish and town councils and so I think your views are important in determining what the outcome will be. Along with other leaders in North Yorkshire, I have commissioned a piece of work to draw up proposals and, through that, I want to know your thoughts on how local government should be organised.

While much is unclear at this stage, one thing we do know. North Yorkshire County Council is determined that there will be a single super-council going forward based on the whole of North Yorkshire.

I know many parish and town councillors will view this with a degree of alarm. Many tell me how remote Northallerton feels – even those areas which are geographically close to it. They point at the roads, the grass verges, planning decisions, the lack of road safety measures among many other things. They also point at the lack of effective communication between the county council, and the parish and town councils.

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   do it online www.scarborough.gov.uk

I would not want to see this replicated in a super-council controlling almost everything that happens here. I think that local government should be based as closely to the people it serves as it possibly can be.

I hope you feel like me and I would be interested to hear your views. You can email me on getchangeright@scarborough.gov.uk.

For the super-council scheme to go forward it needs the support of a majority of county councillors. Many are against it but some are supporting the proposal going forward because they say they want the government to be able to choose between all the options. But we should only give the government choices here in North Yorkshire that we are comfortable with. I, for one, am not happy with a single super council - are you?

That is why I do not think this option should even be presented to government. To do so runs the risk that we will end up with something that few of us want.






Whether you are for or against North Yorkshire's super-council proposal, I would urge you to seek out your county councillor and lobby them strongly with your views and ask them to vote accordingly when the decision comes to the County Council.

I look forward to hearing from you about these proposals and will endeavour to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely



Steve Siddons,
Leader

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5th August 2020

Councillor Carl Les
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By email to all Parish Clerks – please also forward to all parish and town councillors

Dear Colleagues

As you may have seen in media reports, the Government has asked the County and District Councils in North Yorkshire to submit proposals to change the two-tier system and form one or more larger councils.

I have asked council officers to develop a proposal for a strong single unitary council for North Yorkshire working in a stronger partnership with town and parish councils and parish meetings, where they want it, to boost grass-root decision making and empower local communities.

A single council for North Yorkshire working in a stronger partnership with town and parish councils and parish meetings will:

- Simplify – remove confusion over which council does what; end complex partnership arrangements that don't deliver for North Yorkshire; streamline services by joining them up effectively; provide a single contact point for people, businesses and local councils.
- Strengthen – the say that local residents have over decisions; strengthen the county's voice at national level; strengthen accountability with fewer councillors but more transparency; give greater roles to town and parish councils and communities where they want it; strengthen and protect high quality services; reinvest savings in stronger local services that people can count on.
- Save – estimated savings of £25 million every year in North Yorkshire by reducing duplication, senior management and back office costs and by having one single council instead of eight.

While some might argue that a single council here would be too large, the facts don't back that view up. Our neighbours in Durham (population circa 530k) are one example of where forming one council to serve the whole county has strengthened services. In Cornwall (population circa 570k) the benefits realised also include stronger town and parish councils, with a significantly

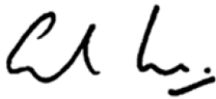
increased role in influencing and delivering local services. Our intention would be to be more local and not a remote "super council" as some scaremongering has stated. The County Council already works locally, you see that with our local highway teams but we want a new council for North Yorkshire to be more local still and with a strong connection to Town and Parish Councils. We want you to help us achieve that.

We are developing our proposal and I would like to invite parish and town councillors and parish clerks to a 90 minute online seminar on 19 August 2020 at 2pm to hear more about this and to contribute to our thinking. This will include:

- A presentation on our developing proposal – from myself as Leader of the County Council and our Chief Executive Richard Flinton
- Presentations on how on the stronger partnership with town and parish councils and parish meetings works in Cornwall and could work in North Yorkshire – from Sarah Mason, County Executive Officer of the Cornwall Association of Local Councils; Mark Williams, Town Clerk & RFO of Falmouth Town Council; and Michael King, Chairman of the national Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and Clerk to Whitby Town Council
- A question and answer session

I hope that you will be able to join me at the seminar, which can be accessed through any computer connected to the internet (specialist software is not required), at www.northyorks.gov.uk/ptc. A separate email, which can be forwarded to colleagues, is being sent that will include the joining instructions.

Yours sincerely



Carl Les
Leader of the Council