

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Thursday, 15 April 2021 at 6.30pm

(Online meeting)

Members of the Council are summoned to consider the following business

AGENDA

Please note that due to Covid-19, this meeting will be held remotely and will be livestreamed here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdfb6ZRbYnZ1-rRiiLmjUwg>

1. **Apologies for Absence** – To receive any apologies for absence.
2. **Minutes** – To confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 February 2021.
3. **Public Participation** – In the event that questions are received, the Chairman will conduct the public participation session for a period of up to fifteen minutes. Where questions are asked, one related supplementary question may be permitted at the Chairman's discretion.
4. **Declarations of Interest** – All Members are invited to declare at this point any interests they have on items appearing on this agenda, including the nature of those interests and whether they wish to apply the exception below.

Note: Declarations should be in the form of either:

- a “**disclosable pecuniary interest**” under Appendix A to the Code of Conduct, in which case the Member must leave the meeting room; or
- an “**other interest**” under Appendix B of the Code. For these interests, the Member may stay in the meeting room, although they must leave if membership of the organisation results in a conflict of interest.

Exception: Where a member of the public has a right to speak at a meeting, a Member who has a disclosable pecuniary interest or an other interest and must leave the room, has the same rights and may make representations, answer questions or give evidence, but at the conclusion of that, must then leave the room and not take part in the discussion or vote.

5. **Consultation relating to the structure of Local Government in North Yorkshire**
– The Chief Executive to submit a report on the Secretary of State’s Consultation on Local Government Review proposals; to seek a response to the invitation to Craven District Council to comment on the North Yorkshire Proposal as Consultee and to consider making further comment on the East / West Proposal that Craven District Council resolved to submit to the Secretary of State, which is now under consultation.

(Appendices A and B to follow)

6. **Any other items** which the Chairman decides are urgent in accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972.
7. **Date of Next Meeting** – Tuesday, 27 April 2021 at 6.30pm

Agenda Contact Officer:

Guy Close, Democratic Services Manager
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EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

(Online Meeting)

23 February 2021

Present – The Vice-Chairman (Councillor Sutcliffe) and Councillors Barrett, Brockbank, Brown, Foster, Handley, Harbron, Heseltine, Hull, Ireton, Jaquin, Lis, Madeley, Mercer, Metcalfe, Moorby, Morrell, Mulligan, Myers, Noland, Place, Pringle, Rose, Shuttleworth, Solloway, Staveley, Wheeler and Whitaker.

(Councillors Harbron and Whitaker were present at the meeting, but due to technical issues were unable to participate and did not vote).

Officers – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer), Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Democratic Services Manager and Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer.

Start: 6.40pm

Finish: 7.55pm

Apologies for Absence – There were no apologies for absence.

Minutes –

Resolved – That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 January 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

Public Participation – There were no members of the public in attendance.

Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

CL.1204

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONFIRMATION

Recommendations of Policy Committee held on 2 February 2021 were submitted.

For each minute, the motion was proposed and seconded “That the recommendations in the minute are confirmed”.

- POL.1120 – Revenue Budget 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25.

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.1120 are confirmed.

- POL.1121 – Council Plan 2021/22.

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.1121 are confirmed.

- POL.1122 – 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement and Annual Investment Strategy.

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.1122 are confirmed.

- POL.1123 – Pay Policy Statement 2021/22.

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.1123 are confirmed.

CL.1205

COUNCIL TAX LEVELS 2021-22

The Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) submitted a report in relation to the Council Tax requirement for 2021-22.

Councillor Mulligan, Lead Member for Finance thanked the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) and his team for all their hard work in achieving a balanced budget. He also highlighted the positive work that had been undertaken administering business grants to support small businesses due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The following motions were voted on:

- 1) That the recommendations contained in Minute POL.1119 (Revenue Budget 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25) as set out below are confirmed:**
 - 1) That the revenue budget assumptions as detailed in the report submitted are noted.
 - 2) That the revenue budget for 2021/22 of £7,132,749 detailed in Appendix B to the report now submitted is approved.
 - 3) That the schedule of growth bids of £77,348 as identified in Appendix C to the report now submitted is approved.
 - 4) That the savings of £176,000 detailed in Appendix D to the report now submitted are incorporated into the budget.
 - 5) That a net contribution from earmarked reserves of £137,000 is made to support the 2021/22 budget, subject to the realisation of the amber savings identified in Appendix D to the report now submitted.
 - 6) That the assessment of the robustness of the budget and adequacy of reserves as set out in Appendix F to the report now submitted is agreed that the Section 25 report is noted.
 - 7) That the estimated sum of £995,000 as identified as the general fund balance as at 31 March 2020 in paragraph 10 and Appendix F to the report now submitted, is approved.
 - 8) That Council Tax is increased at Band D by £5 to £182.21.
 - 9) That the revenue budget incorporates the net contributions to/(from) earmarked reserves as detailed in tables 1 and 2, appendix A and annex 1 to the report now submitted.
- 10) That,
 - a) as part of the budget setting report to Council an update is provided on the estimated Craven District Council allocation of retained business rates; and
 - b) any significant variance to the figures included within the budget report, proposals are adjusted through contributions (to) / from the business rates equalisation reserve.

- 11) That the funding sources identified in the report and appendices A and B to the report now submitted, are approved.
- 12) That the attached Medium Term Financial Plan and the estimates of future years' budgets contained therein (annex 1) are noted.
- 13) That the updated Capital Strategy included with the Medium Term Financial Plan (annex 1) is noted.

2) That the recommendations contained in the report of the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) in relation to Council Tax Levels 2021-22, as set out below are confirmed:

- 2.1 It be noted that on 20 October 2020 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base 2021/22
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 22,362.93 [Item T in the formula in Section 33 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011 (the "Act")]; and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix A.
- 2.2 Calculates that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2020/21 (excluding Parish precepts) is £4,074,749.
- 2.3 That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2021/22 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) **£24,968,357** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)a of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - (b) **£19,941,596** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)a of the Act.
 - (c) **£5,026,761** being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 32(4) of the Act).
 - (d) **£224.78** being the amount at (c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2.1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
 - (e) **£1,439,790**, being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix B).
 - (f) **£182.21** being the amount at (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by Item T (2.1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

- 2.4 To note that the County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire and Rescue Service have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.

That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2021/22 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuation bands

Craven District Council

<u>BAND A</u>	<u>BAND B</u>	<u>BAND C</u>	<u>BAND D</u>	<u>BAND E</u>	<u>BAND F</u>	<u>BAND G</u>	<u>BAND H</u>
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
121.47	141.72	161.96	182.21	222.70	263.19	303.68	364.42

North Yorkshire County Council

<u>BAND A</u>	<u>BAND B</u>	<u>BAND C</u>	<u>BAND D</u>	<u>BAND E</u>	<u>BAND F</u>	<u>BAND G</u>	<u>BAND H</u>
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
940.70	1,097.47	1,254.27	1,411.05	1,724.63	2,038.18	2,351.75	2,822.10

Police and Crime Commissioner North Yorkshire

<u>BAND A</u>	<u>BAND B</u>	<u>BAND C</u>	<u>BAND D</u>	<u>BAND E</u>	<u>BAND F</u>	<u>BAND G</u>	<u>BAND H</u>
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
180.71	210.82	240.94	271.06	331.30	391.53	451.77	542.12

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

<u>BAND A</u>	<u>BAND B</u>	<u>BAND C</u>	<u>BAND D</u>	<u>BAND E</u>	<u>BAND F</u>	<u>BAND G</u>	<u>BAND H</u>
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
49.43	57.66	65.90	74.14	90.62	107.09	123.57	148.28

Aggregate of the Council tax Requirements

<u>BAND A</u>	<u>BAND B</u>	<u>BAND C</u>	<u>BAND D</u>	<u>BAND E</u>	<u>BAND F</u>	<u>BAND G</u>	<u>BAND H</u>
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,335.18	1,557.69	1,780.23	2,002.77	2,447.85	2,892.88	3,337.95	4,005.54

- 2.5 The Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 2.6 If the formal Council Tax Resolution is approved, the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows:

	2021/22 £
Craven DC	182.21
North Yorkshire County Council	1,411.05
Police and Crime Commissioner North Yorkshire	271.06
North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service	74.14
Sub-Total	1,938.46
Town & Parish Council (average)	64.38
Total	2,002.84

- 2.7 To note the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2021/22 remains unchanged as detailed in paragraph 7.9 of the Revenue Budget 2021/22, reported to Policy Committee on 2 February 2021.

Resolved –

1. That in respect of Motion 1, Minute POL.1119 (Revenue Budget 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25) as set out above is confirmed and adopted.

For the Motion: Councillors Barrett, Brockbank, Foster, Handley, Heseltine, Hull, Ireton, Jaquin, Lis, Madeley, Mercer, Metcalfe, Moorby, Morrell, Mulligan, Myers, Place, Pringle, Rose, Shuttleworth, Solloway, Staveley, Sutcliffe and Wheeler. (24)

Against the Motion: None (0)

Abstain: Councillors Brown and Noland (2)

2. That in respect of Motion 2, the recommendations contained in the report of the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) in relation to Council Tax Levels 2021-22, as set out above, are adopted.

For the Motion: Councillors Barrett, Brockbank, Brown, Foster, Handley, Heseltine, Hull, Ireton, Jaquin, Lis, Madeley, Mercer, Metcalfe, Moorby, Morrell, Mulligan, Myers, Noland, Place, Pringle, Rose, Shuttleworth, Solloway, Staveley, Sutcliffe and Wheeler. (26)

Against the Motion: None (0)

Abstain: None (0)

CL.1206

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2021/22

The Democratic Services Manager submitted a report which presented the draft Calendar of Meetings for 2021/22 for Members' approval.

Resolved –

- a) That the Council's Calendar of Meetings for 2021/22, is approved.

- b) That a report be submitted to Planning Committee to present options contained in the Calendar of Meetings to continue meeting on a Monday at 1.30pm or alternatively on a Wednesday at 4.00pm.
- c) That at the first meeting of the new municipal year, Committees and Sub-Committees agree the start time for their meetings for the 2021/22 municipal year.

CL.1207

STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader of the Council reported that a letter had been received from Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, about local government reorganisation. As a result, the District and North Yorkshire County Council Elections had been postponed. The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner elections, by-elections and Parish elections were still going ahead.

It was advised that Councils were unable to campaign for or against the proposals for local government reorganisation during the period of consultation, which lasted for eight weeks and closed on 19 April 2021. The Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer was issuing a separate note to Elected Members and staff about the pre-election period (known as purdah) and the publicity restrictions in place.

Members emphasised the importance that the public responded to the consultation. A link to the consultation could be accessed on the Council's website as follows:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposals-for-locally-led-reorganisation-of-local-government-in-cumbria-north-yorkshire-and-somerset/consultation-on-proposals-for-locally-led-reorganisation-of-local-government-in-cumbria-north-yorkshire-and-somerset>

(Councillor Harbron left the meeting at 7.20pm during the consideration of this item.)

CL.1208

STATEMENT FROM LEAD MEMBERS, CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES AND COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Metcalfe, Lead Member for Internal Services, thanked Members for their feedback in relation to training requirements. A training programme had been agreed which covered key areas including, equalities, local government finance, planning and enforcement and climate change. Guy Close, Democratic Services Manager and Jacquie Hodgson, Human Resources Manager were thanked for their hard work in arranging the programme of events for Elected Members.

Councillor Staveley, Chair of Select Committee, provided an update on recent work undertaken by the Committee. It was advised that at its most recent meeting the Committee had received presentations on absence management and customer services. Members were also informed about the benefits of the Council's Oasis Counselling Service.

Councillor Myers, Chair of Licensing Committee, responded to a query about the installation of CCTV in all Council licensed taxi vehicles from 1 April 2021. It was advised that a petition had been submitted from the Craven Taxi Association which had expressed concerns about the cost and timing implications of installing CCTV. This issue was to be considered by the Licensing Committee at its next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, 6 April

2021. No enforcement action was to be undertaken until the Licensing Committee had reviewed the petition submitted by the Craven Taxi Association.

CL.1209 **GENERAL QUESTION / STATEMENT TIME**

Councillor Brown had submitted a question in relation to Local Government Reorganisation. The question was withdrawn on the basis that a response had already been provided under Minute CL.1207, Statement from the Leader of the Council.

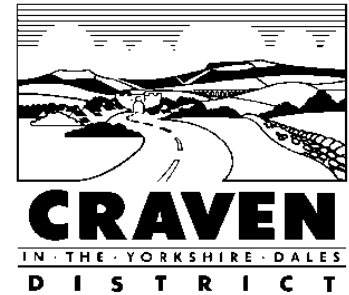
CL.1210 **ANY OTHER ITEMS**

There were no late items of business to consider.

CL.1211 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 27 April 2021 at 6.30pm.

Chairman

**Extraordinary Council Meeting –
15 April 2021****CONSULTATION RELATING TO THE
STRUCTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN
NORTH YORKSHIRE****Report of the Chief Executive****Lead Member – Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Foster****Ward(s) affected: All****1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 To inform Council of the Secretary of State's Consultation on Local Government Review proposals; to seek a response to the invitation to Craven District Council to comment on the North Yorkshire Proposal as Consultee and to consider making further comment on the East/West Proposal that Craven District Council resolved to submit to the Secretary of State which is now under consultation.

2. Recommendations – Members are recommended to:

2.1 Note that the consultation exercise is not a vote for one proposal over another. It is an opportunity to comment on the merits of both proposals and how they do (or do not) meet the Secretary of State's guidance criteria. Specific consultation questions are posed by the Secretary of State;

2.2 Note that ultimately this is a decision for the Secretary of State who has indicated that the approach to local government reorganisation should be locally led;

2.3 Note that Members can respond in their individual capacity as an elected member at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposals-for-locally-led-reorganisation-of-local-government-in-cumbria-north-yorkshire-and-somerset/consultation-on-proposals-for-locally-led-reorganisation-of-local-government-in-cumbria-north-yorkshire-and-somerset>;

2.4 Decide whether to:

(a) Respond to the consultation questions in relation to the district council East/West proposals or whether they feel that the existing submission has already addressed the consultation questions; and/or

(b) Respond to the consultation questions in relation to the North Yorkshire County Council proposals; and/or

- (c) Respond to neither and inform the Secretary of State that the Council resolved to submit the East/West proposal to ensure that an alternative proposal to the NYCC was available for consultation to maximise choice and has nothing further to add

In the event that Council chooses to respond to the consultation questions at (a) and/or (b) above, Council is invited to consider the draft responses at Appendices A and B prepared by officers and decide whether they wish to submit the same to the Secretary of State on behalf of Craven District Council and delegate authority to the Chief Executive to finalise the response in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council in order to meet the deadline of 19th April 2021.

3. Report

Introduction and Background

- 3.1 On 9 October 2020, the Secretary of State invited the councils in North Yorkshire to submit locally led proposals for unitary local government. The invitations were for proposals for a single tier of local government and could be submitted by a council individually or jointly with other councils receiving the invitation. The invitation required outline proposals to be submitted by 9 November 2020 and if a full proposal had not been submitted by that date, it required that it be submitted as soon as practicable thereafter and in any event by 9 December 2020.
- 3.2 Importantly the invitation included guidance on what the proposals should seek to achieve, to which the councils were required to have regard. These invitations started the legislative process for restructuring local government in the North Yorkshire area, which is set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the 2007 Act).
- 3.3 On 3 November 2020 this Council resolved to submit the Case for Change to the Secretary of State in response to the invitation. The Case for Change having been developed by the seven Districts with the support of KPMG. The Council recognised that further work would be required to finalise the Case for Change. The Council therefore submitted the Case for Change on 9 November 2020 and the district councils (except Hambleton) collaborated in completing the further work to finalise the Case for Change to ensure that the specific issues set out in the guidance in were addressed and this was submitted in accordance with the Council's agreed delegation on 9 December 2020.
- 3.4 When reaching the decision on the submission members had been advised that North Yorkshire County Council had prepared a proposal to be submitted which suggested that the existing North Yorkshire County Council should be merged with the seven District Councils to form one unitary authority and that City of York Council remain as a unitary Council. Members were also advised

that the research undertaken in conjunction with KPMG indicated that this would not deliver the best solution for the communities and businesses in York and North Yorkshire.

Report

- 3.5 Before implementing a proposal for reorganisation, the Secretary of State is required to consult any local authority that is affected by the proposal (but which has not submitted it), and any such other persons as he considers appropriate. The Secretary of State is therefore now consulting the councils which made the proposals, other councils affected by the proposals and the councils in neighbouring areas which may be affected by the proposals.
- 3.6 On 22 February 2021 members were advised by the Chief Executive that the Secretary of State was commencing formal consultation seeking the views on the locally-led proposals that the Secretary of State had received following his invitation to councils to submit proposals for local government reorganisation. The two proposals in this consultation being those submitted by:
- Craven District Council, Harrogate Borough Council, Richmondshire District Council, Ryedale District Council, Scarborough Borough Council and Selby District Council; and
 - North Yorkshire County Council

A copy of the written ministerial statement of 22 February 2021 is at Appendix C. It is an 8 week consultation which will run until the 19 April 2021. A copy of the full list of consultees which the Secretary of State has contacted can be found at Appendix D.

- 3.7 The consultation asks a number of specific questions about each proposal to help inform the Secretary of State's assessment of the proposals. The questions being asked in the consultation document are:
1. Is the proposal likely to improve local government and service delivery across each area? Specifically, is it likely to improve council services, will it give greater value for money, generate savings, provide stronger strategic and local leadership and create more sustainable structures?
 2. Where it is proposed that services will be delivered on a different geographic footprint than currently, through some form of joint arrangements, is this likely to improve those services? Such services may for example be children's services, waste collection and disposal, adult health and social care, planning, and transport.
 3. Is the proposal also likely to impact local public services delivered by others, such as police, fire and rescue, and health services?
 4. Do you support the proposal from this council?

5. Do the unitary councils proposed by the councils represent a credible geography?
6. Do you have any other comments with regards to the proposed reorganisation of local government in each area?

Please indicate reasons for your answers.

- 3.8 As this is not a referendum it is possible to support both proposals; support one proposal; or support neither proposal whilst answering the specific consultation questions set out above.
- 3.9 In deciding which proposal, if any, to implement in an area, subject to Parliamentary approval, the Secretary of State has advised that he will make a balanced judgement assessing the proposals against the three criteria set out in the statutory guidance accompanying the invitation, and having regard to all representations received, including responses to this consultation, and to all other relevant information available to him. These criteria, which reflect longstanding criteria for assessing unitary proposals, are that - a proposal should seek to achieve for the area concerned the establishment of a single tier of local government, that is the establishment of one or more unitary authorities:
 - which are likely to improve local government and service delivery across the area of the proposal, giving greater value for money, generating savings, providing stronger strategic and local leadership, and which are more sustainable structures;
 - which command a good deal of local support as assessed in the round overall across the whole area of the proposal; and
 - where the area of each unitary authority is a credible geography consisting of one or more existing local government areas with an aggregate population which is either within the range 300,000 to 600,000, or such other figure that, having regard to the circumstances of the authority, including local identity and geography, could be considered substantial.

Next Steps

- 3.10 The Secretary of State has allowed until 19 April 2021 for representations to be made in response to the consultations, after which he will make his minded-to decision and presuming that he decides that a unitary proposal should go ahead, then parliamentary orders will be drafted. These are anticipated to be finalised by summer of 2021 and would give the powers required to establish the new unitary authorities.
- 3.11 The Secretary of State has made it clear that the consultation is not a referendum so it is not a vote for one proposal over another. Rather the

Secretary of State is seeking local views on the specific questions set out above in relation to each proposal.

- 3.12 Officers across the district councils of Craven, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough and Selby have collaborated in assessing the proposals as against the Secretary of State's guidance and at Appendices A (East/West) and B (NYCC) further information is provided for members consideration against each of the consultation questions posed. The purpose of appending this document is to inform members deliberations as to how, if at all, they wish a further response on local government reorganisation to be submitted to the Secretary of State on behalf of Craven District Council.

4. Financial and Value for Money Implications

- 4.1 None as a consequence of the recommendations in this report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 None as a consequence of the recommendations in this report.

6. Contribution to Council Priorities

- 6.1 Consideration of the recommendations support all of the Council's priorities.

6.2 Impact on the declared Climate Emergency

No implications for the declared Climate Emergency.

7. Risk Management

- 7.1 None as a consequence of the recommendations in this report.

7.2 Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) Statement

Both proposals for change submitted for consideration include a potential range of significant financial implications for the council.

7.3 Monitoring Officer Statement

A Monitoring Officer statement is not required for this report.

8. Equality Impact Analysis

- 8.1 None as a consequence of the recommendations in this report.

9. Consultations with Others

- 9.1 None as a consequence of the recommendations in this report.

10. Background Documents

10.1 None as a consequence of the recommendations in this report.

11. Appendices

Appendix A – Draft officer response to questions on East/West Proposal;
Appendix B – Draft officer response to question on North Yorkshire Proposal;
Appendix C – Written ministerial statement of 22 February 2021; and
Appendix D – List of Consultees the Secretary of State has contacted.

12. Author of the Report

Paul Shevlin, Chief Executive
Telephone: 01756 700600
E-mail: pshevlin@cravendc.gov.uk

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP

*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and
Local Government*

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To all Council Leaders in Cumbria, North
Yorkshire and Somerset

22 February 2021

Dear Leader

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN CUMBRIA, NORTH YORKSHIRE AND SOMERSET

Councils in Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset have submitted proposals for unitary local government. I am writing to let you know that today I have launched a consultation on all eight proposals that I have received. The consultation document is available online at <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/> and responses may be made on the department's online platform 'Citizen Space' or alternatively by email to unitaryconsultation@communities.gov.uk or in writing to Governance Reform and Democracy, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF. The consultation will run for eight weeks to Monday 19 April 2021.

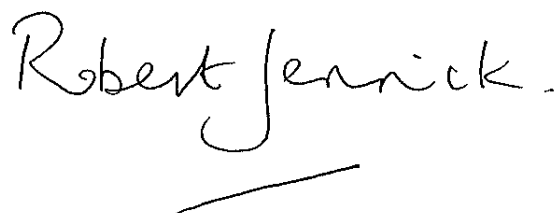
You will see that we are specifically consulting your council in relation to the unitary proposals for your county area. As the consultation document makes clear, we welcome views from any interested person, including residents, and in addition to consulting councils in the area, we are also specifically consulting neighbouring councils and certain other named consultees. I would however stress that any person or any organisation who is interested may respond and I would ask that your council seeks to bring the consultation to the attention of people and organisations in your local area.

The context for this consultation is the provision in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 which requires that before a proposal for local government reorganisation can be implemented, the Secretary of State must first consult any council affected by a proposal (i.e. a council whose area in whole or in part would become part of a proposed unitary council) that has not submitted the proposal. In addition, the statute provides that the Secretary of State may consult such other persons he considers appropriate.

Once the consultation is concluded, we will decide, subject to parliamentary approval, which, if any, proposals are to be implemented, with or without modification. In taking these decisions we will have regard to all the representations we have received, including those from the consultation, and all other relevant information available to us, and reach a balanced judgement assessing the proposals against the three criteria: whether they are likely to improve local government and service delivery across the area of the proposal, whether they command a good deal of local support as assessed in the round across the whole area of the proposal, and whether the area of any new unitary council is a credible geography.

I can also confirm that we have decided to reschedule the ordinary elections to principal councils in Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset due to be held on 6 May 2021 for one year to May 2022. PCC elections, by-elections to principal councils, and parish and town council elections in these areas will go ahead. This means that in each of the three areas the county council elections will be rescheduled, and in addition in Cumbria elections to Carlisle City Council and South Lakeland District Council and in North Yorkshire elections to Craven District Council. In reaching this decision we have carefully considered all representations received and reached a judgement having regard to the importance of local elections and the risk of holding elections to councils when we are also consulting on their possible abolition. As soon as practicable I will lay before Parliament the necessary legislation to give effect to this decision.

I enclose a copy of a Written Ministerial Statement made today announcing the consultation and the decision on local elections in these three areas.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Jenrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP

North Yorkshire consultees

Principal councils in the area

- City of York Unitary Council
- Craven District Council
- Hambleton District Council
- Harrogate Borough Council
- North Yorkshire County Council
- Richmondshire District Council
- Ryedale District Council
- Scarborough Borough Council
- Selby District Council

Neighbouring principal councils

- Bradford Metropolitan District Council
- Cumbria County Council and the district councils within Cumbria County
- Darlington Borough Council
- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
- Durham County Council
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Lancashire County Council, the district councils within Lancashire County
- Leeds City Council
- Middlesbrough Council
- Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
- Stockton on Tees Borough Council

- Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
- Sheffield City Region Combined Authority
- Tees Valley Combined Authority
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Other named consultees

Public Service Bodies

Health Bodies: Bradford and Craven CCG, Morecambe Bay CCG, North Yorkshire CCG, Vale of York CCG, Airedale NHS Trust Hospital, Bradford District Care Trust, Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust, Humber Coast and Vale ICS, Humber Teaching Foundation Trust, South Tees Foundation Trust, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, York Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Policing, Fire and Rescue Bodies: North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (Julia Mulligan), Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police, Chief Fire Officer of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Other Public Sector Bodies: Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Independent Chair of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board, Independent Chair and Scrutineer of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children's Board, Transport for the North.

Business Bodies: Federation of Small Business (Yorkshire, Humber and the North East), West and North Yorkshire Chambers of Commerce, York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Yorkshire & Humber CBI.

Voluntary Sector Bodies: Community First Yorkshire, York CVS.

Education Bodies: University of York, York St John's University.

Other Bodies: Lord-Lieutenant for North Yorkshire, Welcome to Yorkshire.

National Bodies: Environment Agency, Highways England, Local Government Association, National Housing Federation, National Association of Local Councils, Public Health England.