

Leader's Statement

LGR Announcement

On 25th July the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Hazel Blears, announced that the County Council's proposal for a new single tier authority to run North Yorkshire would not proceed.

Whilst it has been a relatively quiet time since the announcement meetings are now commencing with District Councils and other partner organisations and all recognise the need to improve and deliver two tier working within North Yorkshire to seek improved outcomes.

Given the increasing emphasis on region and decentralised agenda it is imperative that all partners work together to achieve good results for North Yorkshire within a regional context - a situation which is difficult given our rural nature and compared with more urban metropolitan Local Authorities.

Regional Developments

The Leeds City Region Developments continue apace. The 28th September saw the Government Office announcements relating to housing figures which overall supported growth across the region and within sustainable communities. The level of housing growth which the North Yorkshire District Authorities are currently planning in their new local development frameworks can be supported through these proposed changes.

Similarly on a regional basis work continues in relation to economic and transport infrastructures and as stated above I am committed to ensuring that North Yorkshire "punches its weight" in relation to regional activities and allocations.

Sub-National Review (SNR)

On September 19th myself and other Leaders in the Region met DCLG Minister of State, John Healey MP. This was to discuss the future involvement of Local Government in the regional agenda when responsibility for strategies currently delivered by the Regional Assembly transferred to Yorkshire Forward. It is important that Local Government is involved in the formulation of policy, not just the signing off, or scrutiny after implementation. The Minister asked that Local Authorities themselves to submit proposals before legislation was drafted.

Securing the Regions Future Conference

I will be attending this event on Thursday 4th October. The consultation event during the conference will be chaired by Caroline Flint MP who was given the portfolio for the Yorkshire and Humber region when Gordon Brown announced his new Cabinet.

I will up-date members of the Council on the value of this event following my attendance.