

## **NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**13 November 2019**

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR GARETH DADD**

#### Business Rates Pool

The County Council is currently a member of a Business Rates Pilot along with the City of York Council, the 7 North Yorkshire District Councils and the 5 West Yorkshire Councils. This arrangement ends in March 2020 and councils were therefore invited to submit proposals for new Business Rates Pools for the next financial year – 2020/21. A proposal has been sent into government that continues with a North & West Yorkshire pooling arrangement with all of the same constituent members with the exception of Selby District Council (due to Selby's unique position where it receives safety net support).

We await the government's consideration of the proposal and it will then be necessary to ratify the arrangement within each Council. A report will be produced for the Executive that will set out how the pool works and how the financial benefit of the aggregated levy arrangement is shared in the relevant two tier areas of the County.

#### County Hall Works

Major works to the Brierley building on the County Hall campus are now underway with the objective of rationalising and remodelling the property estate and creating workplaces that meet the requirements of a modern council. Works commenced at the end of August 2019 with site set-up complete and protective measures for historical features including staircases and floors. Campus moves have been undertaken smoothly with some staff now occupying the old courthouse on Racecourse Lane. Work has been undertaken to strip out redundant fixtures and fittings and electrical and plumbing work in most areas. Essential masonry and leadwork repairs will commence following the completion of scaffolding erection. Refurbishment of the sash windows is progressing well with the first floor north wing now complete and work underway on the ground floor. The project continues on programme and on budget. The project is scheduled to be complete by Autumn 2020. Further detail was provided at the Member's seminar on 6 November and further information and updates can be obtained on the intranet [here](#). Further updates on progress will be provided during the course of the next year.

#### Property Contracts

Following extensive market engagement and a robust procurement exercise, arrangements are being finalised for the delivery of repairs and maintenance to the council's property portfolio. This has been a significant project and officers will be working with successful contractors over the coming weeks and months to ensure that the transition to the new arrangements is as smooth as possible. A procurement exercise is

also underway for a new school development at Middle Deepdale with a delivery timescale for the new school by Spring 2021.

GARETH DADD