



## Agenda

**Meeting:** Executive

**To:** Councillors Carl Les (Chairman), Gareth Dadd, Derek Bastiman, Michael Harrison, Simon Myers, Janet Sanderson, David Chance, Keane Duncan, Greg White and Annabel Wilkinson.

**Date:** Tuesday, 14th February 2023

**Time:** 11.00 am

**Venue:** Meeting Room 3, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD

This meeting is being held as an in-person meeting that is being broadcast and recorded and will be available to view via the following link - [Live meetings | North Yorkshire County Council](#). The meeting is also 'hybrid', which enables people to attend the meeting remotely using MS Teams. Please contact the named supporting officer for the committee if you would like to find out more.

The government position is that of learning to live with COVID-19, removing domestic restrictions while encouraging safer behaviours through public health advice. In view of this, hand cleanser and masks will be available for attendees upon request. The committee room will be well ventilated, and attendees encouraged to avoid bottlenecks and maintain an element of social distancing. Please contact the named supporting officer for the committee, if you have any queries or concerns about the management of the meeting and the approach to COVID-19 safety.

Please do not attend if on the day you have COVID-19 symptoms or have had a recent positive Lateral Flow Test.

### **Business**

1. **Introductions**

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 February 2023** (To Follow)

3. **Declarations of Interest**

4. **Public Questions and Statements**

Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have given notice to Melanie Carr of Democratic and Scrutiny Services and supplied the text (contact details below) by midday on Thursday 9 February 2023, three working days before the day of the meeting. Each speaker should limit themselves to 3 minutes on any item. Members of the public who have given notice will be invited to speak:

- at this point in the meeting if their questions/statements relate to matters which are not otherwise on the Agenda (subject to an overall time limit of 30 minutes);
- when the relevant Agenda item is being considered if they wish to speak on a matter

which is on the Agenda for this meeting.

If you are exercising your right to speak at this meeting, but do not wish to be recorded, please inform the Chairman who will instruct anyone who may be taking a recording to cease while you speak.

**5. Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy: use of additional MOD properties (Pages 5 - 48)**

**Recommendations:**

The Executive is asked to:

- (i) Approve in principle the use of 10 additional SFA properties in Catterick Garrison for eligible Afghan citizens currently residing in Afghanistan or in third countries seeking relocation to the UK under the ARAP.
- (ii) Authorise the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources to accept the MOD’s Sub Underlease Agreement on behalf of North Yorkshire Council after consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services).

**6. Consideration of the outcomes of consultation process regarding the pausing of the offer of residential provisions at Welburn Hall Special school (Pages 49 - 100)**

**Recommendations**

The Executive is recommended to:

- i. Approve the publication of the statutory proposals and a statutory notice on 22 February 2023, proposing to pause residential provision at Welburn Hall School for a period of two academic years from September 2023.
- ii. Schedule a final decision on these proposals on 18 April 2023.

**7. York and North Yorkshire Devolution - Outcome of Consultation (Pages 101 - 254)**

**Recommendations**

The Executive is asked to:

- i. Approve the submission of a Consultation Summary Report to Government.
- ii. Approve amendments to the Scheme and proposals for the operating model of the Combined Authority, for submission to Government.
- iii. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to undertake any action necessary to submit the Consultation Summary Report and Scheme to Government, in line with recommendations (i) & (ii).
- iv. Approve amendments to the Terms of Reference for the York and North Yorkshire Joint Devolution Committee outlined in paragraphs 6.1 - 6.5 of the report, and attached at Appendix 2.
- v. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to undertake any action necessary to provide consent to the Order facilitating the creation of the Combined Authority in line with the scheme submitted to Government, as outlined in paragraphs 8.1 to 8.5 of the report.
- vi. Refer the decisions made by Executive in the recommendations above to Full Council for endorsement to ensure the views of all Members of the Council are taken into account on this matter.

**8. Forward Plan (Pages 255 - 268)**

**9. Other business which the Leader agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances**

**Contact Details**

Enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Melanie Carr Tel: 01609 533849 or e-mail: [Melanie.carr1@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Melanie.carr1@northyorks.gov.uk)

Website: [www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)

Barry Khan  
Assistant Chief Executive  
(Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall  
Northallerton

Monday, 6 February 2023

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## North Yorkshire County Council

### Executive Member for Stronger Communities

14 February 2023

#### Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy: use of additional MOD properties

##### Report of the Assistant Director – Policy, Partnerships and Communities

### 1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the Ministry of Defence's offer to provide additional temporary homes in North Yorkshire for eligible Afghan citizens currently residing in Afghanistan or in third countries seeking relocation to the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy.

### 2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) is for Afghan citizens ('Locally Employed Staff') who worked for or with the UK Government in Afghanistan in exposed or meaningful roles. It includes the offer of relocation to the UK for those deemed eligible. The policy was implemented in April 2021 to reflect the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan and consequent 'serious risk to life' of Afghan Locally Employed Staff (LES).
- 2.2 Afghan citizens who are eligible for relocation to the UK under the ARAP may relocate with a partner, dependent children and additional family members who are also deemed eligible for relocation. Those arriving in the UK under the scheme are granted indefinite leave to remain. There is currently no end date for the scheme.
- 2.3 Following the announcement that NATO military forces would withdraw from Afghanistan, the UK government accelerated the pace of relocations under the ARAP. In August 2021 British military personnel arrived in Afghanistan as part of Operation Pitting to evacuate British and eligible Afghan nationals from Kabul following the rapid insurgency of the Taliban to take control of Afghanistan. Over 15,000 eligible Afghans and British nationals were evacuated during Operation Pitting<sup>1</sup> (13 August to 28 August 2021).
- 2.4 The chaotic nature of the evacuation and the apparent failure of intelligence and contingency planning<sup>2</sup> concerning the speed and impact of the Taliban insurgency, led to several thousand people who had worked alongside the British authorities left stranded in Afghanistan after the 31 August 2021 deadline set by President Biden for US troops to withdraw had passed.

<sup>1</sup> [Afghan Resettlement Programme: operational data - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data)

<sup>2</sup> [Missing in action: UK leadership and the withdrawal from Afghanistan - Foreign Affairs Committee \(parliament.uk\)](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/foreign-affairs-committee/committees-a-z/foreign-affairs-committee/missing-in-action-uk-leadership-and-the-withdrawal-from-afghanistan/)

- 2.5 The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan has since led to the collapse of public services and deepening economic crisis, compounded by 45 years of conflict, natural disasters, chronic poverty, corruption, and food insecurity.
- 2.6 An estimated 24 million people (over half the population) require vital humanitarian relief<sup>3</sup> and 18.9 million people are experiencing acute food shortages including 6 million on the edge of famine.<sup>4</sup> An estimated 3.5 million people are internally displaced in Afghanistan and 5.7 million Afghans and host communities are in neighbouring countries.<sup>5</sup> Women and girls have lost many of their fundamental human rights. There have been Taliban reprisals against persons identified as having worked for the previous Afghan regime and there are reports of those eligible to come to the UK remaining in hiding for fear of being captured, tortured, and even killed<sup>6</sup>.
- 2.7 North Yorkshire County Council in partnership with Craven District Council, Hambleton District Council, Harrogate Borough Council, Richmondshire District Council and Selby District Council has relocated 132 persons (29 families) since August 2021, representing under 1% share of the maximum anticipated final number of Afghan ARAP evacuees based upon arrivals to date and those eligible to come to the UK under the scheme. A mix of council/social housing, private rented and temporary housing provided by the Ministry of Defence has been used.
- 2.8 The pace of arrivals for Afghans evacuated to the UK after Operation Pitting has been much reduced due to the difficulties that Afghans face crossing the Afghan border into neighbouring countries to seek UK consular support. The UK government also no longer provides consular support within Afghanistan.
- 3.0 Existing accommodation routes for Afghan evacuees: bridging accommodation and formal offers of permanent housing from local authorities**
- 3.1 The families who arrived in the UK prior to the commencement of Operation Pitting on 13 August 2021 stood a significantly higher chance of being offered permanent housing shortly after arrival than did their counterparts who arrived under Operation Pitting. Subsequently, the high number of people arriving under Operation Pitting and in such a concentrated period meant that it was not possible to provide housing to most of those families shortly after arrival. A significant number of local authorities outside of the Yorkshire and Humber region had also not agreed to take part in the scheme at that point. The Home Office was left with few options but to use temporary accommodation (chiefly hotel 'bridging accommodation'<sup>7</sup>) to accommodate the Afghan arrivals whilst permanent housing was found.
- 3.2 As of 24 November 2022, 22,833 people had arrived in the UK from Afghanistan including British Nationals.<sup>8</sup> Of that number 11,600 people had been relocated to the UK under the ARAP scheme (including during the August 2021 evacuation).<sup>9</sup> 9242 people remained in bridging accommodation in the UK. 7,572 people had been moved into a home (this figure does not include families who had made their own accommodation arrangements), with 779 people matched to a home and waiting to move in.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>3</sup> [UNHCR - Afghanistan emergency](#)

<sup>4</sup> [WFP at a glance | World Food Programme](#)

<sup>5</sup> [UNHCR - Afghanistan emergency](#)

<sup>6</sup> [How UK's broken promises have left Afghans living in terror for a year and counting | The Independent](#)

<sup>7</sup> 'Bridging accommodation' includes all accommodation procured by the Home Office for the purpose of providing temporary accommodation for those brought over to the UK because of events in Afghanistan following the fall of Kabul in August 2021.

<sup>8</sup> [Afghan Resettlement Programme: operational data - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9307/>

<sup>10</sup> [Afghan Resettlement Programme: operational data - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

- 3.3 The longer than anticipated use of hotels as bridging accommodation and lack of progress in resolving barriers to finding suitable long-term accommodation has hindered the effective integration of the families into British society.<sup>11</sup> The use of bridging accommodation has also come at considerable cost to the taxpayer. Consequently, the Home Office is seeking to move away from using bridging accommodation to securing property offers prior to eligible families travelling to the UK. The number of hotels was reduced from 84 in October 2021 to 63 by November 2022.<sup>12</sup>
- 3.4 Since May 2022, the Home Office provides Afghan households in bridging accommodation with a maximum of two appropriate offers of accommodation. If both offers are rejected without good reason, the Home Office gives a minimum of 56 days' notice for the household to leave the bridging hotel. Households are required to seek to make their own accommodation arrangements or to consent to a referral to a local authority (on behalf of the Home Office) for assessment of duties owed to them if homeless. This approach has reduced the number of households rejecting housing offers. However there has continued to be a shortage of suitable housing offers and large families remain difficult to place.
- 3.5 The shortage of housing offers from local authorities has meant that for families remaining in bridging accommodation, the Home Office has increasingly been encouraging local authorities with bridging accommodation in their area to support those families to find their own accommodation in the private rental sector. This can include utilising the Home Office grant to support a household into private rented accommodation by funding deposits, letting fees, and providing other landlord incentives. The large size of Afghan families by UK standards poses a significant barrier, as has a reluctance amongst some families to move to areas where they have no connection to family or friends. Private landlords are also often reluctant to accept families who are not in employment, have no guarantor and face language barriers.

#### **4.0 Use of additional Ministry of Defence empty homes in the UK for ARAP families currently not in the UK**

- 4.1 The MOD estimates that there are still around 4,600 Afghans (including dependants) eligible for relocation under the ARAP scheme. Around 1,600 of those have already received a relocation offer, of whom around 625 have already left Afghanistan for a third country. Not all remaining eligible persons are expected to take up the offer of relocation, especially if they have already settled in another country. The MOD is prioritising finding the remaining eligible people.<sup>13</sup>
- 4.2 The MOD offered the use of some of its vacant Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties early in the evacuation process in 2021 to help move families out of the bridging accommodation. At that time North Yorkshire utilised nine of those properties in Richmondshire district.
- 4.3 The MOD is now offering additional empty SFA properties in various parts of the UK to accommodate eligible Afghan families still stranded in Afghanistan or in third countries. The intention is to try to ensure that more families who qualify under the ARAP who are currently living in Afghanistan or third countries, can still come to the UK at a time that the Home Office is seeking to reduce and ultimately end the use of bridging accommodation.
- 4.4 The MOD has recently offered a further 38 SFA properties in North Yorkshire for families who qualify for the ARAP but who are not currently living in the UK. 25 of the properties are

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<sup>11</sup> <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9307/>

<sup>12</sup> [Afghan Resettlement Programme: operational data - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/research-data-and-analysis/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data)

<sup>13</sup> <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9307/CBP-9307.pdf>

in Catterick Garrison. Of the remaining locations in the county most are in remote rural areas and/or where there is no history of previous refugee resettlement.

- 4.5 In assessing the offer, existing pressures on local services in particular school places, access to services and staff resources have been considered by County Council staff. The presence of existing volunteer support groups and other infrastructure in the area including venues for the English classes has also been factored in, as have existing refugee resettlement demands in the county on the housing supply. Taking the above into account, a maximum of 10 additional Afghan households, utilising a mix of three and four bedroomed empty SFA properties in Catterick Garrison would be manageable. Arrivals would need to be no earlier than summer 2023 to give sufficient preparation time.
- 4.6 The MOD Sub Underlease agreement ('the lease') is attached at **Appendix 1**. It is a standard lease agreement provided for all MOD SFA properties accommodating Afghan LES and their families. The MOD will not make local variations to the clauses in the lease, other than to accommodate requests from the local authority to extend the length of the lease beyond the initial 12 months term up to a possible maximum of five years depending upon MOD housing pressures at the time. The MOD would be 'the Landlord' and the local authority would become 'the Tenant'. A list of Questions and Answers is attached at **Appendix 2**. The MOD has since confirmed that the latest offer of additional SFA properties is specifically for eligible Afghan families currently not residing in the UK. This is an update to the information in Appendix 2 which refers to the use of the SFA being for families in bridging accommodation in the UK.

#### Benefits:

- 4.7 Families would be required to accept the offer of SFA properties before coming to the UK. This reduces the risk of them failing to move-in to the property unlike has been the case with some families placed initially in bridging accommodation.
- 4.8 The use of empty SFA properties means that it is not putting an immediate strain on the general housing supply in the UK.
- 4.9 Families can move straight into housing upon arrival in the UK, which is more likely to help rebuild their lives quicker than they could do in a bridging hotel.
- 4.10 The government intends to wind down the bridging accommodation estate and there is a shortage of immediate housing offers from local authorities. There are also challenges to securing affordable private rented properties for this client group when first arriving in the UK.
- 4.11 Using the SFA properties as a first step could be seen as helping to meet a collective moral responsibility across British authorities to provide sanctuary for people who worked to support the UK in Afghanistan, at some risk to their own lives. Afghan LES and their immediate families remaining in Afghanistan now face even greater risks to their lives, whilst many of those who have fled to neighbouring countries have a lack of foreseeable alternative durable solutions in those countries and could be at risk of being deported back to Afghanistan.<sup>14</sup>

#### Issues and Risks:

- Finding move-on permanent properties

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<sup>14</sup> [UNHCR - News Comment: UNHCR: Afghans struggle to seek safety as borders remain shut to most](#)

- 4.12 The new unitary North Yorkshire Council would be responsible for finding permanent affordable homes in the county for the families occupying the SFA properties and would need to do so in good time before the lease term expired. Some families however might wish to make their own arrangements to find move-on accommodation, especially if they wanted to move outside of North Yorkshire.
- 4.13 Richmondshire District Council has calculated that it could take up to 24 months to move the existing nine Afghan families from the temporary SFA properties into affordable permanent housing in the local area. Of the current families, at least six families are likely to remain living in the local area and to date four permanent replacement properties have been found within Richmondshire district's boundaries. Families requiring four-bedroom replacement properties will be particularly difficult to re-house. Richmondshire District Council's housing department is concerned about the subsequent impact of re-housing additional Afghan families, especially if the focus is on finding permanent housing in the local area.
- 4.14 The inception of the new unitary council for North Yorkshire on 1 April 2023 would subsequently provide opportunities to permanently re-house the additional households across a much wider geographical area of the county, rather than searching for properties chiefly within Richmondshire district's boundaries. There are however housing pressures building up across the county in relation to growing levels of local homelessness and long housing waiting lists. These factors could hinder the pace of implementing any move-on plans.
- Legal costs
- 4.15 There is the risk that families could refuse to move out of the SFA properties at the end of the agreed lease period with the MOD. To try to mitigate this risk Richmondshire District Council has put in place a weekly periodic temporary non-secure tenancy, as attached at **Appendix 3**. This provides the local authority with maximum flexibility to determine when families should move out. Non-secure tenancies do not have the same rights as flexible fixed term or secure tenancies. In turn, Richmondshire District Council signed an initial 12 months' lease with the MOD and has renewed it for a further 12 months. Renewal of the lease for a further 12 months' (Year 3) might be required in relation to some of the properties.
- 4.16 From the outset the existing Afghan families have been made aware that the SFA properties are for temporary use only and they will be required to move out as and when the district council finds suitable permanent housing for them. Housing briefings are currently being held with the existing families to manage expectations, explain about the move-on process and the district council's responsibility in discharging its homelessness duties. These briefings would be arranged for the additional families. The non-secure tenancy agreements are translated into the families' native languages and signed by the adults upon arrival so that they are cognisant of their rights and responsibilities in residing in the MOD properties.
- 4.17 The local authority would incur legal costs in evicting the families from the MOD properties if they refused to move out after their tenancy had been terminated. The legal costs would need to be paid from the Home Office grant. If a family did not accept an offer of suitable accommodation from the local authority, homelessness legislation would apply. A refusal would be seen as a refusal of a suitable offer of accommodation, and the Housing Options team would have discharged their duty to that family.
- Failure of the families to pay rent on the properties



- 4.18 The lease requires ‘the Tenant’ (the local authority) to pay the rent for the properties monthly. In turn Richmondshire District Council in its weekly periodic temporary non-secure tenancy requires the occupier (tenant) to pay the rent every week, and to ensure that those payments are made on time. As with the existing families, new arrivals would receive Universal Credit payments. The annual rent is £5000 per annum, which is comfortably below the local housing allowance rates for the area for private rented properties.
- Repairs and maintenance costs and liabilities
- 4.19 The lease transfers liability to the local authority to maintain and repair the properties. The MOD is not required to transfer the properties over to the local authority in a move-in, good condition. Richmondshire District Council undertook visual inspections of the SFA properties used to date prior to signing the leases but recommends that if additional properties are used full surveys should be undertaken to highlight any defects. With hindsight the visual inspections were not sufficient.
- 4.20 As time passes, repair requests from the households may become more frequent. To try to mitigate this, expenditure on repairs is undertaken for urgent repairs only to avoid the budget being spent on minor snagging issues. Richmondshire District Council has set aside a funding reserve for each property to cover the costs of repairs and maintenance. It would be advisable to do the same for any further SFA properties used. The funding would be paid from the Home Office grant provided to the local authority.
- Insurance costs
- 4.21 The lease requires the local authority to maintain and insure the properties at its own cost. This includes indemnifying the MOD in relation to damage caused to the properties directly or indirectly by the occupation of the properties.
- Community tensions
- 4.22 There is a risk of community tensions arising in view of the families being accommodated in MOD properties, albeit empty ones, and then being offered permanent affordable housing. Mitigations to be put in place would include avoiding placing families in areas where community tensions are likely. North Yorkshire Police would undertake a postcode check on the area that the property is located to highlight any relevant historical community tensions and race-related problems before the property is accepted. Subsequently should community tensions occur, communications including press releases would need to be managed in partnership between the local authority, North Yorkshire Police, and the Garrison.
- 4.23 Securing the move-on permanent properties across a wider area than Richmondshire district’s boundaries would help to minimise community tensions in the longer term. However, to reduce the families’ loneliness and isolation in their ‘move-on’ areas, replacement properties would need to be found in the county’s towns where there are already Afghan families living there on a permanent basis. Historically, those towns have been chosen for permanent resettlement due to their higher population size and good access to services.
- 4.24 Utilising the Home Office grant provided to local authorities, three years integration support would be provided to the families if they stayed in the county for that duration. This includes Refugee Council commissioned support to provide general support and signposting to services; Adult Learning English language classes and employability support; and a support package provided to schools by the local authority’s Minority Inclusion

Support Team. The Home Office provides separate funding to the Integrated Care Board for primary and secondary healthcare.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

5.1 Funding is in the form of a grant agreement between the UK Government (the 'Authority') and participating local authorities.<sup>15</sup> The ARAP is wholly grant funded by the UK government and so it is not anticipated that there will be a call on expenditure from North Yorkshire Council's budget.

## **6.0 Legal Implications**

6.1 Local authorities participating in the ARAP scheme are required to meet the obligations set out in the Home Office Funding Instruction.<sup>16</sup>

## **7.0 Consultation Undertaken and Responses**

7.1 The Assistant Director - Policy, Partnerships and Communities has consulted with the Executive Member Portfolio Holder and North Yorkshire County Council's Leader on the MOD's latest offer.

7.2 Richmondshire District Council has been consulted to establish resourcing pressures and North Yorkshire County Council School admissions has been consulted to establish school place pressures in the areas where the MOD properties have been offered.

7.3 Consultation will take place with the Corporate Director - Strategic Resources and the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) in respect of the MOD's Sub Underlease Agreement.

## **8.0 Impact on Other Services/Organisations**

8.1 In general because of current economies of scale, the existing resources being used for the refugee resettlement programme in the county could be used to support the additional 10 households. However, some additional resources or staff time would be required as follows, especially if all 10 properties were utilised:

- An additional Adult Learning English language teacher employed on a pro-rata basis (funded from the Home Office grant to local authorities).
- Additional staff time/resource required in the local authority's housing department. This would include preparing the properties for arrival, responding to repair issues, maintaining the tenancies with the households and the lease with the MOD.
- Move-on support arrangements to be put in place by the housing department for the families wanting to remain in North Yorkshire. This would include finding replacement properties in the county and supporting the households to move into those properties.

8.2 Participation in the ARAP scheme is not intended to replace the joint commitment made by North Yorkshire County Council and district councils to resettle 200 persons by 2024 under the United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme. Starting in February 2021, North Yorkshire has to date resettled 147 persons under that scheme, with a further 13 persons (three families) accepted for arrival by late spring.

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<sup>15</sup> [Afghan relocation and assistance: funding instruction - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/90112/Afghan_relocation_and_assistance_funding_instruction.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> [Afghan relocation and assistance: funding instruction - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/90112/Afghan_relocation_and_assistance_funding_instruction.pdf)

## 9.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 9.1 A collaborative, cross-government approach has been put in place to support the effective integration of the Afghan families eligible to come to the UK under the ARAP.
- 9.2 Several thousand people eligible to come to the UK under the ARAP remain in Afghanistan or have fled to third countries. Consequently, the UK Government is continuing to ask for local authority support and assistance to fulfil a moral obligation to support those who served the UK in circumstances where they risked their own lives and where their lives are now at even greater peril following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

## 10.0 Recommendations

10.1 That the Executive:

- (i) Approves in principle the use of 10 additional SFA properties in Catterick Garrison for eligible Afghan citizens currently residing in Afghanistan or in third countries seeking relocation to the UK under the ARAP.
- (ii) Agrees to acquire the leases from the MoD as set out in paragraph 4.5 on terms to be agreed by the Corporate Director - Strategic Resources.

**Neil Irving**

**Assistant Director - Policy, Partnerships and Communities**

County Hall  
Northallerton

6 February 2023

Report Author:  
Jonathan Spencer  
Refugee Resettlement Manager

### Background Documents:

- [Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy: further information on eligibility criteria, offer details and how to apply - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy)
- [Afghanistan resettlement and immigration policy statement - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy)

### Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Ministry of Defence Sub Underlease Agreement
- Appendix 2: Q&A: Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties for Afghan families
- Appendix 3: Richmondshire District Council Non-Secure Tenancy Agreement







**THIS LEASE is** made the

2023

Between

**PARTIES:**

- (1) THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE care of the Defence Infrastructure Organization .....(the “Landlord”); and
- (2) ..... COUNCIL of ..... (the “Tenant”)

**WITNESSES** as follows:

**1 INTERPRETATION**

In this Lease unless the context requires otherwise:

**1.1** The following words and expressions mean:

**Accessways:** all roads and footpaths on the Estate;

**Break Date:** A date which is at least one month after service of the Break Notice.

**Break Notice:** Written notice to terminate this Lease specifying the Break Date.

**Conducting Media:** pipes, sewers, drains, conduits, gutters, watercourses, wires, cables, channels, ducts, flues, aerials, cisterns, tanks, balancing ponds and all other conducting media and ancillary items and apparatus and any enclosures for them;

**Consent:** the Landlord's consent or approval;

**Contents:** means those items of furniture and other household items within the Premises as detailed in the inventory annexed to this Lease;

**the Contractual Term:** the term from and including 2023 up to and including 2024;

**the End of the Term:** the end of the Term however that happens;

**Environmental Legislation:** the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Water Resources Act 1991, the Water Industry Act 1991, the Environment Act 1995, the Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2010 and any other statute of a similar nature in force at any time during the Term;

**EPC:** an energy performance certificate and associated recommendation report as defined in The Energy Performance of Buildings (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 and **ACIR** means an air conditioning inspection report as referred to in Part 4 of those regulations;

**Estate:** the Landlord's neighbouring estate including any future extensions, alterations or additions to it;

**Event of Insolvency:**

Where the entity concerned is a corporation:

- (1) the taking of any step in connection with any voluntary arrangement or any other compromise or arrangement for the benefit of any of its creditors;
- (2) the making of an application for an administration order or the making of an administration order in relation to it;
- (3) the giving of any notice of intention to appoint an administrator, the filing at court of the prescribed documents in connection with the appointment of an administrator or the appointment of an administrator, in relation to it;
- (4) the appointment of a receiver or manager or an administrative receiver in relation to any of its property or income;
- (5) the commencement of a voluntary winding-up in relation to it except a winding-up for the purpose of amalgamation or reconstruction of a solvent company in respect of which a statutory declaration of solvency has been filed with the Registrar of Companies;
- (6) the making of a petition for a winding-up order or a winding-up order in relation to it;
- (7) it being unable to pay its debts as they fall due or its assets being less than its liabilities, taking into account its contingent and prospective liabilities;
- (8) it being struck-off the Register of Companies or the making of an application for it to be struck-off; or
- (9) it otherwise ceasing to exist and the paragraphs above shall apply to a partnership (as defined in the Partnership Act 1890), a limited partnership (as defined in the Limited Partnerships Act 1907) and

a limited liability partnership (as defined in the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2000) subject to the modifications referred to in the Insolvent Partnerships Order 1994 and the Limited Liability Partnership Regulations 2001 as appropriate.

**the Exceptions:** the exceptions and reservations referred to and set out in the Third Schedule;

**Headlease:** two leases both dated 5 November 1996 made between Annington Property Limited and the Landlord relating to the Premises together with other property;

**the Insured Risks:** fire, lightning, explosion, storm, tempest, flood, bursting and overflowing of water tanks, apparatus or pipes, aircraft and other aerial devices, earthquake, riot, civil commotion, labour disturbance, malicious damage and/or any other risks that the Tenant reasonably considers appropriate at any time subject to the exclusions, excesses and limitations that are applicable to any relevant insurance policy at any time and excluding any risks which are refused by the insurers at any time;

**the Interest Rate:** four per cent per annum above the base rate from time to time of any bank that is a member of the British Banking Association and that the Landlord specifies at any time or, if those base rates cease to exist, such other equivalent rate of interest as the Landlord reasonably specifies at any time both before and after any judgment;

**the Landlord:** includes the reversioner for the time being immediately expectant on the End of the Term;

**this Lease:** this Lease and any documents supplemental to it or entered into in accordance with or under it;

**a Letting:** the granting of a periodic tenancy substantially in the form as annexed to this Lease at Annex 1 of the Premises by the Tenant;

**Plan:** the plan annexed to this Lease;

**the Planning Acts:** the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990, the Planning (Consequential Provisions) Act 1990, the Planning and Compensation Act 1991, the Planning Act 2008 and any other statute of a similar nature in force at any time during the Term;

**the Premises:** the property described in the First Schedule;

**the Rent Commencement Date:** 2023;

**Reinstatement Value:** the full reinstatement value of the Property as reasonably determined by the Tenant from time to time, taking into account inflation of building costs and including any costs of demolition, site clearance, site protection, shoring up, professional fees and expenses and the costs of any other work to the Property that may be required by law and any VAT on any such costs, fees and expenses.

**the Rights:** the rights referred to and set out in the Second Schedule;

**the Schedule of Condition:** the photographic schedule evidencing the condition of the Premises as at the date of this Lease annexed to this Lease at Annex 2;

**Superior Lessor:** everyone having a title to the Premises in reversion, however remotely, on the termination of the Landlord's title at any time during the Term;

**the Tenant:** includes its successors in title and assigns and all persons deriving title through or under it;

**the Term:** the Contractual Term;

**Uninsured Risks:** any risk which is either:

- a) not listed in the definition of Insured Risks; or
- b) listed in the definition of Insured Risks but which has not been insured by the Tenant because insurance is not available or is not available in the London insurance market on reasonable terms;

but shall not include any risk which is either uninsured or not fully insured due to the application of an exclusion, limitation, condition or excess imposed by the insurer of the Premises.

**Utilities:** data transmission, drainage, electricity, energy of any other type, gas, telephone, water and all other services;

**VAT:** Value Added Tax and any tax of a similar nature substituted for it or imposed in addition to it at any time during the Term and any penalties or fines in relation to them;

**the Yearly Rent:** £5000 per annum;

**the 1954 Act:** the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954.

- 1.2** Any reference to any statute, including any reference in any definition in this clause 1, includes:
  - 1.2.1** any amendment, modification, extension or re-enactment of it at any time; and
  - 1.2.2** all instruments, orders, plans, regulations, permissions, directions and any other form of subsidiary legislation at any time made, issued or given under or drawing validity from any statute.
- 1.3** Any reference to any form of legal entity includes all other forms of legal entity.
- 1.4** In the following cases references to the Landlord include references to any Superior Lessor and any mortgagee of the Landlord or any Superior Lessor:
  - 1.4.1** where there is any obligation on the Tenant to obtain Consent or the Landlord's approval or any acknowledgement from the Landlord, to carry out any act to the satisfaction of the Landlord or to give any form of notice to the Landlord, however in each case the requirement is expressed, but nothing in this Lease imposes any obligation on any Superior Lessor or any mortgagee not to unreasonably refuse any consent, approval, acknowledgement or expression of satisfaction;
  - 1.4.2** where there is any obligation to pay any costs or fees to the Landlord or to reimburse the Landlord for any payment made or expense incurred;
  - 1.4.3** where there is any indemnity in the Landlord's favour.
- 1.5** Where Consent is required under this Lease, it will only be valid if it is given by deed unless it is given in writing and expressly states that the Landlord waives the requirement for a deed in that particular case.
- 1.6** Obligations by more than one person are joint and several and where any party under this Lease at any time is more than one person references to it are to each person individually as well as jointly with the others comprising it.
- 1.7** Any obligation on the Tenant not to do something is an obligation not to do it, omit it, allow it or suffer it to be done or omitted.

- 1.8** Rights excepted, reserved or granted to the Landlord are excepted, reserved or granted to the Landlord any Superior Lessor and everyone authorised by them.
- 1.9** Rights granted by the Landlord are granted only to the extent that the Landlord is able to grant them and in common with the Landlord, any Superior Lessor and everyone authorised by them.
- 1.10** The clause headings in this Lease are for reference only and are not to be taken into account in its construction or interpretation.

## **2 THE DEMISE**

The Landlord demises the Premises to the Tenant with the Rights but excepting and reserving the Exceptions for the Contractual Term subject to all rights, easements, privileges, restrictions, covenants, stipulations and other matters of any nature affecting them paying throughout the Term from the Rent Commencement Date the Yearly Rent by equal monthly instalments in advance on the first day of each month and so in proportion for any period less than a year, the first payment being a proportionate sum in respect of the period from and including the Rent Commencement Date to the first day of the month following the Rent Commencement Date to be paid on the Rent Commencement Date.

## **3 TENANT'S COVENANTS**

The Tenant covenants with the Landlord:

### **3.1 Payments**

- 3.1.1** To pay the rent reserved by clause 2 of this Lease as set out in that clause with payment being made by electronic payment.
- 3.1.2** To make all payments referred to in this clause 3.1 and all other payments due to the Landlord under this Lease, without any deduction (except as required by law) or counterclaim and without exercising any right of legal or equitable set off.

### **3.2 Outgoings and Utilities**

- 3.2.1** To pay all rates, taxes, assessments, duties, charges, impositions and other outgoings of any type charged, assessed or imposed on or in respect of the Premises or their owner or occupier at any time (including any of a capital or non-recurring nature but excluding any tax payable by the Landlord on the receipt of the



monies payable by the Tenant under this Lease (other than VAT) or as a result of any dealing with its reversion to this Lease);

**3.2.2** To pay for all Utilities used at or available to the Premises, including standing charges, and to comply at its own expense with their suppliers' regulations and requirements.

### **3.3 Interest**

**3.3.1** If the Landlord does not receive payment of:

- (a) the rent reserved by clause 2 of this Lease and the VAT due in respect of it on the due date whether formally demanded or not; or
- (b) any other money due under this Lease (other than any money which this Lease states is to bear interest from the date of expenditure by the Landlord) within 21 working days of the due date to pay interest on the money concerned to the Landlord at the Interest Rate from and including the due date to the date of actual receipt by the Landlord;

**3.3.2** If the Landlord refuses payment of any money due from the Tenant under this Lease whilst there is a breach of the Tenant's obligations under this Lease to pay interest on that money at the Interest Rate from and including the due date to the date on which the Landlord accepts or should properly accept payment provided that this clause 3.3 shall not prejudice any other right or remedy of the Landlord for the recovery of any money due.

### **3.4 VAT**

To pay and indemnify the Landlord upon receipt of a valid VAT invoice addressed to the Tenant against any VAT chargeable in respect of or levied on:

**3.4.1** any payment due from or any supply made to the Tenant under or in connection with this Lease; and

**3.4.2** any payment made by or any supply made to the Landlord where the Tenant is liable to reimburse it for that payment or in respect of that supply but only to the extent that the Landlord is unable to recover the VAT concerned as input tax in each case in addition to the payment or supply concerned.

### **3.5 Repair**

- 3.5.1** To keep the Premises clean and tidy and in good repair and condition to a similar standard as at the date of this Lease as evidenced by the Schedule of Condition (fair wear and tear excepted).
- 3.5.2** To repair or replace fixtures and fittings or the Contents which are destroyed, damaged, removed or lost during the Term through negligence, neglect or misuse of the Tenant or the occupier (fair wear and tear excepted).
- 3.5.3** To keep any gardens included with the Premises neat and tidy.
- 3.5.4** To dispose of all rubbish in an appropriate manner and at the appropriate time.
- 3.5.5** To carry out all work required under this clause 3.5 or any other provision of this Lease in a good and workmanlike manner and in accordance with good modern practice from time to time, all relevant codes of practice and all British Standards.

### **3.6 Alterations**

Not to commit waste, change the existing design or appearance of the Premises divide them or merge them with other premises or make any alterations or additions of any type to them.

### **3.7 Statutory obligations**

- 3.7.1** At its own expense to comply with all requirements of, and execute all works required by, any statute or any competent authority in respect of the Premises, any activity at or use of them or the use of any plant machinery or other equipment in them and to indemnify the Landlord against all liability which it may have under any such statute or requirement.
- 3.7.2** To pay and satisfy any charge or levy that is imposed under the Planning Acts or any Environmental Legislation in respect of any operation or use referred to in clause 3.7.2.
- 3.7.3** That if it receives any compensation in respect of its interest in the Premises because of any restriction imposed on their use under the Planning Acts and this Lease is determined by surrender or re-entry to immediately make such payment to the

Landlord as is reasonable to ensure that the Landlord receives due benefit from that compensation.

**3.7.4** To produce to the Landlord on demand all notices, orders, proposals, permissions, consents, plans and other evidence which the Landlord reasonably requires in order to be satisfied that this clause 3.7 has been fully complied with.

### **3.8 Inspection and notice to repair**

To allow the Landlord and everyone authorised by it and any Superior Lessor to enter the Premises at all times during the Term on reasonable prior notice (except in the case of emergency) to:

**3.8.1** take inventories of fixtures, fittings and other items to be yielded up at the End of the Term;

**3.8.2** establish whether the Tenant's obligations under this Lease have been complied with including the right to open up any part of the Premises when that is necessary to view the state of repair or condition of the Premises and:

**(a)** if any breach of obligation is found the Landlord may serve written notice on the Tenant requiring it to remedy the breach concerned including making good any opening up made;

**(b)** if no breach of obligation is found the Landlord shall make good any opening up made at its own cost;

**(c)** if the Tenant does not start to rectify any breach of obligation notified to it within one month of service of the Landlord's notice, or sooner if needed, or does not complete the rectification within two months of service of the Landlord's notice, or sooner if practicable, the Landlord may enter the Premises with all necessary workmen and equipment to rectify the breach concerned and the Tenant shall pay to the Landlord on demand as a debt the costs and expenses of doing so, including legal and surveyors' fees;

**3.8.3** inspect the Premises in connection with any proposed action under Part II of the 1954 Act and to supply any information relevant to those purposes which is reasonably requested by the Landlord or anyone having a right of entry under this clause 3.9;

**3.8.4** exercise any right of the Landlord under this Lease or fulfil any obligation of the Landlord in respect of the Premises, or any neighboring or adjoining property however it arises;

**3.8.5** exercise any right of entry under the Headlease subject to the conditions for such entry set out in the Headlease.

**3.9 User**

**3.9.1** Not to do anything at the Premises which may be, become or cause a legal nuisance, injury or damage to the Landlord or any owner or occupier of any neighboring or adjoining property.

**3.9.2** Not to use the Premises or any part of them for any purpose other than as for residential housing.

**3.10 Notices**

Within seven days of any notice, direction or order (or any proposal for any of them) from any competent authority being received by it or otherwise coming to its knowledge to give full details of it to the Landlord and, if required by the Landlord, to produce it to the Landlord and/or take all steps necessary to comply with it and/or make or join with the Landlord in making any objection or representation against it or in respect of it that the Landlord reasonably requires.

**3.11 Alienation**

Not to assign, underlet, charge, part with or share possession or occupation of the whole or any part of the Premises or allow any other person to do so (save that the Tenant is permitted to underlet the Premises without consent of the Landlord where such an underletting will qualify in the Tenant's reasonable opinion as a Letting).

**3.12 Sale and re-letting**

To permit the Landlord to enter the Premises during the six months before the End of the Term to fix in a suitable place, and retain without interference, a sign or signs for re-letting or sale of the Premises and during those periods to allow everyone authorised by the Landlord to view the Premises at all reasonable times on reasonable prior notice (save in the case of emergency) without interruption.

**3.13 Indemnities**

To be responsible for and to indemnify the Landlord against:

**3.13.1** all damage caused to the Premises or any neighbouring or adjoining property or to any person or goods which is caused directly or indirectly by the occupation or use of the Premises or by the condition of the Premises which has arisen due to a breach of the covenant to repair on the part of the Tenant;

**3.13.2** all actions, claims, proceedings, costs, expenses and demands made against or incurred by the Landlord as a result of:

- (a)** any act, omission or negligence by it, any undertenant or any other occupier of the Premises or anyone at the Premises with the express or implied authority of any of them; or
- (b)** any failure to comply with its obligations under this Lease; and
- (c)** any tax or other fiscal liability imposed on the Landlord as a result of any work carried out at, any act done on or any change of use of the Premises.

### **3.14 Notices of breach and costs**

To pay to the Landlord on demand on a full indemnity basis all costs, charges and expenses (including solicitors', surveyors', bailiffs' and other professional fees) incurred by it for the purpose of, incidental to or in reasonable contemplation of:

**3.14.1** the preparation and service of a notice under section 146 of the Law of Property Act 1925 or in contemplation of proceedings under sections 146 or 147 of that Act even if forfeiture is avoided unless a competent court orders otherwise;

**3.14.2** the preparation and service of all notices relating to any failure by it to comply with their obligations under this Lease whether served before or after the End of the Term;

**3.14.3** any application for any licence or Consent under this Lease whether granted or not including where the application is withdrawn but excluding where the Landlord unreasonably withholds or delays Consent in breach of the terms of this Lease; and

**3.14.4** the enforcement or remedying of any breach of its obligations under this Lease whether or not court proceedings are involved.

### **3.15 Yield up**

At the End of the Term to:

**3.15.1** yield up the Premises (with all keys) in the state and condition required by this Lease;

**3.15.2** remove all notices, advertisements, signs, aerals and tenant's fixtures, fittings, furniture and other goods from the Premises and make good any damage caused to the Premises (including damage to decorative finishes) by their removal to the Landlord's reasonable satisfaction; and, if it does not, to pay to the Landlord on demand by way of compensation the cost of carrying out the work required to remedy the failure and a sum equal to the then open market rent of the Premises for the period between the End of the Term and the date on which the Landlord completes the work concerned.

### **3.16 Insurance and Reinstatement**

**3.16.1** To effect and maintain insurance of the Premises at its own cost in the joint names of the Landlord and the Tenant. Such insurance shall be against loss or damage caused by any of the Insured Risks for the sum which the Tenant considers to be the full Reinstatement Value subject to:

- (a)** any reasonable exclusions, limitations, conditions or excesses that may be imposed by the insurer; and
- (b)** insurance being available on reasonable terms in the London insurance market

**3.16.2** In relation to any insurance effected by the Tenant under this paragraph:

- (a)** at the request of the Landlord, to supply the Landlord with:
  - (i) a copy of the current insurance policy and schedule;
  - (ii) a copy of the application form for the policy; and
  - (iii) a copy of the receipt for the current year's premium.

- (b)** to notify the Landlord of any change in the scope, level or terms of cover as soon as reasonably practicable after the Tenant has become aware of the change.
- 3.16.3** To give the Landlord notice immediately that it becomes aware of:
  - (a)** any matter which occurs in relation to the Tenant or the Premises that any insurer or underwriter may treat as material in deciding whether or on what terms, to insure or continue insuring the Premises; and
  - (b)** any damage or loss that relates to the Premises.
- 3.16.4** If the Premises or any part of it is damaged or destroyed by an Insured Risk, the Tenant shall:
  - (a)** promptly notify the Landlord and make a claim under the insurance policy for the Property;
  - (b)** notify the Landlord immediately if the insurer indicates that the Reinstatement Value will not be recoverable in full under the insurance policy;
  - (c)** use all insurance money received and any money received from the Landlord under clause 4.3. of this Lease to repair the damage in respect of which the money was received or (as the case may be) to rebuild or reinstate the Premises and make good any shortfall out of the Tenant's own monies (save to the extent of any amount that the Landlord is to pay the Tenant pursuant to clause 4.3.1 of this Lease).
  - (d)** promptly take such steps as may be necessary and proper to obtain all planning and other consents to repair (or as the case may be) rebuild or reinstate the Premises;
  - (e)** subject to obtaining such consents, reinstate or rebuild the Premises in a manner equivalent in size, quality, layout and facilities to the Premises prior to the damage. If the relevant consents cannot be obtained then to reinstate or rebuild the Premises in a manner and with facilities that are reasonably equivalent to those previously at the Premises provided always that:

- (i) the Tenant shall obtain the Landlord's prior approval to any alterations proposed to the size, quality or layout of the Premises, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed.
- (ii) the Premises shall be rebuilt or reinstated to the reasonable satisfaction of the Landlord.

### **3.17 Anti-social behaviour and Termination of Lettings**

**3.17.1** To take reasonable steps to ensure that those who occupy the Premises together with members of their household or invitees will not cause or allow to be caused any nuisance, or disturbance to any neighbours or to the Landlord, its agents or employees;

**3.17.2** To remove the occupant from the Letting under the following circumstances:

- (a) If at any time during the Term the Landlord is made aware that any of the occupants of the Letting are behaving in such a way which would constitute serious anti-social behavior (as determined by the Landlord acting reasonably) it shall be entitled to serve notice on the Tenant requiring the occupant to be removed from the Premises as soon as is reasonably practicable after the receipt of such notice;
- (b) If at any time during the Term the Landlord is made aware that any of the occupants of the Premises are committing sustained low level anti-social behavior (as determined by the Landlord acting reasonably) the Landlord shall be entitled to serve notice on the Tenant requiring the Tenant to take action against the occupant and the Tenant will be given 30 days in which to ensure improvement in the behavior of the occupant. If this behaviour does not improve the Landlord shall be entitled to serve notice on the Tenant requiring the occupant to be removed from the Premises as soon as reasonably practicable after the receipt of such notice.

## **4 LANDLORD'S COVENANTS**

The Landlord covenants with the Tenant:

### **4.1 Quiet enjoyment**



That the Tenant may, so long as it pays the rent reserved by and complies with its obligations under this Lease, peaceably and quietly hold and enjoy the Premises during the Term without any unlawful interruption by the Landlord or any person rightfully claiming under or in trust for it.

## **4.2 Accessways**

Not to obstruct or cause any nuisance or inconvenience on the Accessways.

## **4.3 Insurance**

**4.3.1** Not to insure the Premises against any of the Insured Risks in such a manner as would permit the Tenant's insurer to cancel the Tenant's insurance or to reduce the amount of any money payable in respect of any insurance claim.

**4.3.2** If:

- (i)** the Premises is damaged or destroyed by an Insured Risk or an Uninsured Risk;
- (ii)** the Premises is wholly or partly unfit for occupation and use; and
- (iii)** the payment of the insurance monies is not wholly or partly refused because of any act or omission of the Tenant, any occupier or their respective workers, contractors or agents or any other person at the Premises with the express or implied authority of any of them then payment of the Yearly Rent or a fair proportion of it according to the nature and extent of the damage, shall be suspended until the Premises has been reinstated and made fit for occupation and use and any proportion of the Yearly Rent paid in advance shall be returned to the Tenant once the period of suspension becomes known.

**4.3.3** If, following damage or destruction caused by any of the Insured Risks, the repair, rebuilding or reinstatement of the Premises shall be impossible due to the inability to obtain the necessary planning or other consents:

- (i)** the Tenant's obligation to reinstate the Premises contained in clause 3.17.4 otherwise shall no longer apply;

- (ii) the Tenant shall hold all proceeds of any insurance in respect of the Premises on trust for itself and the Landlord in proportion to their respective interests in the Premises immediately before the damage or destruction, as agreed in writing between the Landlord and the Tenant and failing agreement, in the proportions determined pursuant to clause 4.4.7; and
- (iii) the Tenant shall pay (in cleared funds) the Landlord's proportion of such insurance proceeds within twenty Working Days of the date of receipt of the proceeds of the insurance policy or within ten Working Days of the determination pursuant to clause 4.3.5, whichever is the later.

**4.3.4** To comply with the requirements and recommendations of the insurers relating to the Premises of which the Landlord has received details in writing.

**4.3.5** Any dispute arising regarding this clause 4.3 shall be finally determined by arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the Arbitration Act 1996. The tribunal shall consist of one arbitrator appointed by the President for the time being of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

#### **4.4 Headlease**

To pay the rent reserved by the Headlease and by way of indemnity only and subject to the Tenant complying with its obligations under this Lease to comply with so far as the Tenant is not liable for compliance under the terms of this Lease the lessee's obligations under the Headlease and on receiving notice from, and at the expense of, the Tenant and against an adequate indemnity for costs to use its reasonable endeavours to enforce the tenant's obligations under the Headlease so far as they relate to or affect the Premises.

### **5 PROVISOS**

It is agreed that:

#### **5.1 Re-entry**

If any of the following occur:

- 5.1.1 the rent payable under clause 2 or any part of it is unpaid for 21 working days after it becomes due, whether formally demanded or not;
- 5.1.2 the Tenant fails to comply with any of its material obligations under this Lease and does not remedy the breach within a reasonable period of written notice;
- 5.1.3 any distress or execution is levied at the Premises;
- 5.1.4 an Event of Insolvency occurs in relation to the Tenant the Landlord may at any time afterwards, even though any earlier right of re-entry has been waived, re-enter the Premises or any part of them in the name of the whole when this Lease shall end but without prejudice to any claim by the Landlord in respect of any failure by the Tenant to comply with its obligations.

## **5.2 Recovery of payments**

All sums due to the Landlord under this Lease are payable as rent and the Landlord has the same remedies for their recovery as the Landlord has for rent in arrear.

## **5.3 Implied easements**

Section 62 of the Law of Property Act 1925 is excluded from this Lease so that the only rights granted to the Tenant are those expressly set out in this Lease and the Tenant shall not be deemed to have acquired or be entitled to and the Tenant shall not during the Term acquire or become entitled to (save on behalf of the Landlord against third parties) by any means any easement or advantage of any sort in respect of or affecting any neighbouring or adjoining property.

## **5.4 Party walls**

Any walls dividing the Premises from any other premises let or intended to be let to any other tenant of the Landlord are party walls within the meaning of section 38 of the Law of Property Act 1925 and shall be maintained at the joint expense of the respective estate owners.

## **5.5 Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999**

A person who is not a party to this Lease has no right under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 to enforce any term of this Lease but this does not affect any right or remedy of a third party which exists or is available apart from that Act.

## 5.6 Notices

5.6.1 Any notice given under or in connection with this Lease shall be:

- (a) in writing and for the purposes of this clause an email or fax is not in writing; and
- (b) given by hand or by pre-paid first-class post or other next working day delivery service if to ..... Council then addressed to ..... and if to the Landlord given by hand or by pre-paid first-class post or other next working day delivery service to [TBC]

5.6.2 If a notice complies with the criteria in clause 5.6, whether or not this Lease requires that notice to be in writing, it shall be deemed to have been received:

- (a) if delivered by hand, at the time the notice is left at the proper address; or
- (b) if sent by pre-paid first-class post or other next working day delivery service, on the second working day after posting.

5.6.3 This clause does not apply to the service of any proceedings or other documents in any legal action or, where applicable, any arbitration or other method of dispute resolution.

## 5.7 Exclusion of security- this Lease

The parties confirm that:

5.7.1 The Landlord served a notice on the Tenant, as required by section 38A(3)(a) of the 1954 Act, applying to the tenancy created by this Lease before this Lease was entered into;

5.7.2 The Tenant made a statutory declaration dated 2023 in accordance with the requirements of section 38A(3)(b) of the 1954 Act;

5.7.3 There is no agreement for lease to which this Lease gives effect and

5.7.4 The parties agree that the provisions of Sections 24 to 28 (inclusive) of the 1954 Act are excluded in relation to the tenancy created by this Lease.

## **5.8 Break Clause**

5.8.1 The Tenant may terminate this Lease by serving a Break Notice on the Landlord.

5.8.2 A Break Notice served by the Tenant shall be of no effect if, at the Break Date:

- (a) the Tenant has not paid any part of the Yearly Rent, or any VAT in respect of it, which was due to have been paid; or
- (b) vacant possession of the whole of the Premises is not given.

5.8.3 Subject to clause 5.8.2, following service of a Break Notice this Lease shall terminate on the Break Date.

5.8.4 Termination of this Lease on the Break Date shall not affect any other right or remedy that either party may have in relation to any earlier breach of this Lease.

5.8.5 If this Lease terminates in accordance with this clause 5.8 then, within 14 days after the Break Date, the Landlord shall refund to the Tenant the proportion of the Yearly Rent, and any VAT paid in respect of it, for the period from and excluding the Break Date up to and excluding the next Rent Payment Date, calculated on a daily basis.

## **5.9 Jurisdiction and governing law**

This Lease shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law and the parties irrevocably submit to the jurisdiction of the English courts.

## **6 LANDLORD'S OPTION TO DETERMINE**

6.1 The Landlord may determine this Lease as a whole at any time during the Term by providing the Tenant with six months' notice such notice to specify the termination date.

**6.2** Following termination in accordance with clause 6.2 the Landlord shall promptly return to the Tenant any part of the Yearly Rent and any other payments made under this Lease paid by the Tenant in relation to the period following the termination date

**This Lease has been entered into on the date stated at the beginning of it.**

**FIRST SCHEDULE - THE PREMISES**

**ALL THAT** property known as  
registered at Land Registry under title number

## **THE SECOND SCHEDULE - THE RIGHTS**

- 1.** The right to pass over the Accessways at any time on foot or with vehicles to gain access to and egress from the Premises.
- 2.** The right to pass the Utilities through the Conducting Media which are at any time in the Estate to the extent that they serve the Premises.
- 3.** The right on giving reasonable prior notice (except in the case of emergency) to the Landlord and the appropriate occupier of the adjoining premises to enter on adjoining premises on the Estate for the purpose of inspecting, maintaining and repairing the Premises but not further or otherwise causing as little damage disturbance or inconvenience as possible and immediately making good all damage caused to the satisfaction of the Landlord and any such adjoining occupier.
- 4.** The rights contained in the Headlease to the extent that they relate to the Premises.



## **THE THIRD SCHEDULE - THE EXCEPTIONS**

1. The right to pass over the Accessways to the extent that they serve dwellings on the Estate (other than those on the Premises) at any time in order to gain access to and egress from dwellings on the Estate (other than those on the Premises).
2. The right to carry out works to and alter or rebuild the Estate (other than the Premises) or any building or other structure erected on any neighbouring or adjoining property at any time owned by the Landlord and to use the Estate or such neighbouring or adjoining property or the buildings or structures on them at any time as the Landlord wishes Provided That the proper use of the Premises under this Lease is not prevented or materially prejudiced.
3. The right to connect into and pass the Utilities through any Conducting Media at any time forming part of or serving the Premises which serve or are to serve the remainder of the Estate or any neighbouring or adjoining property.
4. The right to enter the Premises on reasonable prior notice (except in the case of emergency) where reasonably necessary for the purpose of inspecting, maintaining, repairing or carrying out work on the Estate or any other neighbouring or adjoining property (including, without limitation, any work authorised by paragraph 1 of this Schedule) and any Conducting Media serving or to serve the remainder of the Estate or any other neighbouring or adjoining property (including, without limitation, the preparation of any EPC or ACIR) or for any other purpose connected with the management of the Estate causing as little damage and inconvenience as reasonably practicable and making good any damage actually caused to the Premises or any items belonging to the Tenant to the reasonable satisfaction of the Tenant but without liability to pay compensation.
5. All rights of light, air, support and shelter and all other easements, quasi-easements and other rights at any time existing or created for the benefit of any other part of the Estate or any neighbouring or adjoining property.
6. The right of escape through the Premises in case of fire or other emergency or practices in respect of them.
7. The right to enter on the Premises for the purposes mentioned in this Lease.
8. The right to add to or reduce the extent of the Estate (other than the Premises) as the Landlord requires at any time.

CONTENTS SCHEDULE

**ANNEX 1 - FORM OF ASSURED SHORTHOLD TENANCY AGREEMENT**

**ANNEX 2 - SCHEDULE OF CONDITION**

Signed by.....

For and on behalf of the SECRETARY  
OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

Authorised Signatory

Signed by.....

An Authorised Signatory on behalf of ..... COUNCIL

Authorised Signatory

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### **Q&A: Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties for Afghan families**

**Q: How many Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties in total have the MoD offered?**

- In total, the MoD have offered 550 SFA properties. These are largely 2, 3 and 4-bedroom properties and only for ARAP families.

**Q: Are Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties only for ARAP or can they be used for ACRS and British nationals?**

- At present the properties are only for the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP). The Secretary of State for Defence directed that SFA properties were to be offered up as a surge capacity to enable ARAP families with a Defence connection, to leave bridging accommodation. The Defence connection serves the purposes of security, established Defence affiliations, and the welfare needs of both ARAP families and our service families living in Defence estate communities.

**Q: We need housing with 4+ bedrooms to accommodate large families, can MoD help provide larger properties?**

- MoD carries out 13,000-16,000 service family moves each year. The majority of properties are 2 and 3-bedroom but larger properties have been requested by councils to match the family size of the cohort.
- The MOD has a limited stock of 4 bed houses with the vast majority of the stock being made up of 3 bed properties and there is a high demand for larger houses by Service families. Where it has been possible 4 bed properties have been offered but the scope of this is limited by regional and local demand.

**Q: Are we able to split families and accommodate them in smaller Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties which are in the area?**

- Yes, this is possible. It would mean that the family are close together and can be integrated into the same community.
- There are areas with 26, 11 and 10 x 3-beds available so it provides opportunities for people to be settled close together.

**Q: Can Government arrange for MoD properties to be used for Afghan families?**

- MoD need to have an agreed number of properties available for service families and cannot offer these properties unless they are part of the MoD offer. Some properties are currently held as vacant to meet emerging requirements, this is why some properties will only be available on a short, 12 month lease.

- If you require a longer lease term to be made available, please put the request through and MoD will try to accommodate, but there are no guarantees.

**Q. Can Local Authorities still express an interest in leasing MoD properties for Afghan ARAP families?**

- The tranche 3 offer of up to 450 properties (including a number of 4 beds) is still open to local authorities to express their interest. You are encouraged to register interest with your Home Office Contact Officer and Strategic Migration Partnership, who will make enquiries with the MOD as to the properties available in your area. See the Annex below for your relevant Strategic Migration Partnership contact details, If there are properties available, you will be provided with details and an MoD contact to enable direct engagement on lease arrangements.
- All MoD properties are offered on a full repairing and insuring lease, at a rent of £5,000 per annum. The properties are 'outside the wire' and provide good accommodation in residential areas occupied by service families. The rent payable is below the level of the private sector and MOD will work with you to accommodate lease terms beyond the initial 12 months, that is offered on a case-by-case basis. Local authorities have asked for leases between 2- and 5-year terms and these have been granted where possible. If requested, as the lease approaches expiry the MOD can look to see if it is possible to extend the lease.
- The lease is a standard form and has been agreed by a number of local authorities already so there shouldn't be a need for protracted legal negotiations. MOD are flexible in allowing the lease to be agreed in advance so that Home Office know that a property is ready. Once a family is matched then the formalities of signing the lease can be completed and the rent will only begin once the family is moved in so that there is no financial exposure for the local authority.
- Once leases are agreed, properties should be offered to the Home Office on a Property Offer Form in the usual way for matching.

**Q: Can empty MoD properties be used to house Afghan families on a temporary basis, whilst waiting for properties in a local authority area to become available?**

- Only the properties identified by the MOD can be used for temporary accommodation, within the agreed lease timings. The property can be given back to MoD at any time within the lease agreement. However, if a longer lease is needed, that must be agreed in advance with MoD.

**Q: How long are the leases on released MoD properties?**

- The leases are for an initial 12 months; this can be terminated at any point with one months' notice. The extension of the lease can be negotiated with MOD, up to a maximum of 5 years, on a case-by-case basis.
- If you require a longer lease term to be made available, please put the request through and MoD will try to accommodate, but there are no guarantees.

**Q: Will the Government find further temporary accommodation once the lease has expired or where it can no longer be extended?**



- It will be the local authority’s duty to house the Afghan family following expiry of the lease.
- MoD allow for negotiations to be held close to the expiry date to determine if the lease can be extended.

**Q: What is Operation New Hope?**

- Operation New Hope is a MoD specific offer to Afghans with a confirmed services connection who have requested that they wish to remain in contact with MoD. Operation New Hope puts these people in contact with MoD’s charitable partners for pastoral support.

**Q: How will local authorities know which MoD properties are still available?**

- Where a council has expressed an interest in leasing MOD properties for ARAP families, the Home Office has provided details of the properties available in their area. Councils can check which properties are available by contacting the MOD contact provided by the Home Office.

**Q: Can properties be matched to new arrivals from Afghanistan before they reach the UK?**

- Home Office, alongside MoD, are piloting this in the North West and if successful, will explore widening to other areas which also include MoD housing.

**Annex: Strategic Migration Partnership contact details**

REGION	SMP LEAD	EMAIL ADDRESS
South East	Roy Millard	<a href="mailto:RoyMillard@secouncils.gov.uk">RoyMillard@secouncils.gov.uk</a>
South West	Kelly-Anne Philips	<a href="mailto:kelly-anne.phillips@swcouncils.gov.uk">kelly-anne.phillips@swcouncils.gov.uk</a>
London	Mark Winterburn	<a href="mailto:Mark.Winterburn@london.gov.uk">Mark.Winterburn@london.gov.uk</a>
East of England	Gosia Strona	<a href="mailto:Malgorzata.Strona@eelga.gov.uk">Malgorzata.Strona@eelga.gov.uk</a>
East Midlands	Brein Fisher	<a href="mailto:Brein.Fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk">Brein.Fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk</a>
West Midlands	Dally Panesar	<a href="mailto:Dally.Panesar@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Dally.Panesar@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
Yorkshire and Humber	David Brown	<a href="mailto:David.2.Brown@migrationyorkshire.org">David.2.Brown@migrationyorkshire.org</a>
North East	Janine Hartley	<a href="mailto:Janine_Hartley@middlesbrough.gov.uk">Janine_Hartley@middlesbrough.gov.uk</a>
North West	Katie Jones	<a href="mailto:katie.jones@manchester.gov.uk">katie.jones@manchester.gov.uk</a>
Scotland	Andrew Morrison	<a href="mailto:andrew@cosla.gov.uk">andrew@cosla.gov.uk</a>
Wales	Anne Hubbard	<a href="mailto:anne.hubbard@wlga.gov.uk">anne.hubbard@wlga.gov.uk</a>

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## Appendix 3

### Non-Secure Tenancy Agreement

(This tenancy is being granted by Richmondshire District Council in the exercise of its duties under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996. Therefore, pursuant to paragraph 4 of Schedule 1 of the Housing Act 1985, this tenancy is not a secure tenancy).

Address of property: [property]

Superior Landlord: Secretary of State for Defence, care of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, Bldg 18 Piave Lines, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, DL9 3LR

Landlord: Richmondshire District Council holding the property under the remainder of a lease granted for a term of one year granted on [date] by the Superior Landlord.

Landlord's Address: Mercury House, Station Road, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 4JX

Tenant: [name]

Tenancy start date: [date]

Rent and charges payable each week:

Charge	Amount per week (£)
Rent	£XXX
Enter description of any other charges including utilities (be specific – electricity, gas, water etc)	£XXX
<b>Total payable each week:</b>	<b>£XXX</b>

These charges may be varied throughout the course of the tenancy agreement with one month's written notice.

## 1. Type of tenancy

- a) This is a weekly periodic temporary non-secure tenancy agreement. The weeks run from Monday to Sunday.
- b) In granting this tenancy, Richmondshire District Council is either discharging its obligations or exercising its powers under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996.
- c) This tenancy is temporary, and you may be granted an introductory or secure tenancy at either this property or another property at a later date. This is not guaranteed.
- d) This tenancy can be ended by either the Landlord or the Tenant with the service of four weeks' notice in writing. The notice will always need to end on a Sunday.
- e) This property is for occupancy by one family only.

## 2. Tenant's responsibilities (please note - your tenancy agreement may be ended if you do not comply with these)

- a) To **pay the rent** (and any other charges specified on the front page of this agreement) each and every week, and to ensure that those payments are made on time.
- b) To live in the property as your only or main home.
- c) To **engage and co-operate fully with the support provided** to you in your personal support plan, and any other support that Richmondshire District Council may offer you or arrange for you. (Richmondshire District Council may exercise its rights under Section 1 (d) to end this tenancy agreement if it considers that you have not engaged or co-operated with the support provided).
- d) To respect and look after the property:
  - 1) You should keep the property and any fixtures, fittings or furniture provided by Richmondshire District Council in good condition and **take care not to damage anything**. If you do damage the property, or something in the property which has been provided by Richmondshire District Council, you should let us know as soon as possible. If this has to be repaired or replaced you agree to pay the costs of this.
  - 2) You should **heat and ventilate** the property appropriately to keep it free from condensation. If you are unsure about how to do this you should ask us.
  - 3) You should **keep the property clean and tidy**. This means keeping the property free from excess clutter and not allowing any rubbish to build up in the property. You should be aware of your bin collection days and make sure your household rubbish is left out for collection appropriately.
  - 4) You should **tell us as soon as possible if something in the property is not working** or if you think any repairs are needed.
  - 5) You should tell us as soon as possible if you lose your keys to the property or to your bedroom. You may be charged for a replacement.
  - 6) You should **take precautions to keep the property secure**, such as locking the doors and windows when you are going out.
  - 7) You should **take precautions against fire risks**, such as making sure electrical items are switched off when they are not being used. You should not use any heating appliance; only the central heating system should be used to heat the property.

- 8) The property is strictly **no smoking** - you must not smoke inside the property.
- e) You are not permitted to decorate the property.
- f) You must not use the property, or the communal areas, for any **illegal or immoral purpose**.
- g) You **must not cause nuisance, annoyance or disturbance** to the following people, and you **must not harass, threaten or be abusive** in any way to the following people:
  - 1) Any other tenant that you may be sharing the property with
  - 2) The neighbours
  - 3) Anybody lawfully visiting the property, or anybody lawfully visiting your neighbours
  - 4) Any of the landlord's staff
  - 5) Anybody involved in providing you with the support outlined in your support plan

If you have any visitors to the property, you are responsible for their behaviour during their visit. This means that you must ensure they do not cause nuisance, annoyance or disturbance, or harass, threaten or be abusive to any of the people listed above.

- h) You must not block the communal estate roads and footpath to the property.
- i) You must not leave any items in or on the communal garden at the front and/or rear of the property.
- j) You should not allow or invite anyone else to reside or move in with you at the property.
- k) You must not keep any animals or pets in the property
- l) You must **allow access to Richmondshire District Council's staff** and contractors. They will visit the property regularly to carry out inspections, but they may also need access to carry out repairs, maintenance, improvement works or the testing and servicing of gas appliances. You should not obstruct access in anyway, which includes making sure you are present at the property when access has been agreed and making sure you answer the door. Unless it is an emergency, you will always be given at least 24 hours' notice of when access is required.
- h) You must provide us with four weeks' notice in writing if you wish to terminate this tenancy. Your notice must end on a Sunday and you will remain bound by the tenancy agreement (and will still need to pay the rent) until the notice expires.

### 3. **Landlord's responsibilities**

- a) As long as you comply with the terms of this agreement we will not interfere with your occupation of the property, unless we need access for repairs / maintenance / inspections or to respond to an emergency, or unless this tenancy has come to an end.
- b) We will provide you with one month's notice in writing of any variation to the rent or charges that you are obliged to pay.
- c) We will keep the structure of the property in good repair.
- d) We will ensure that the installations for the supply of gas, water, electricity and sanitation facilities are in good condition when you move in. Throughout your tenancy we will keep those

in good repair by responding within a reasonable time when you report any problems with these facilities.

- e) We will maintain, upgrade and decorate the communal areas of the property as often as is necessary to keep them in good condition.
- f) We will ensure that a gas safety check and service is carried out annually.
- g) We will ensure that buildings insurance is in place for the structure and exterior of the property. As this is a furnished tenancy, we will ensure that there is insurance in place for items provided with the accommodation which belong to Richmondshire District Council. (Our insurance will not cover any of your personal items or belongings that you bring with you to the property or purchase yourself. Only items owned by Richmondshire District Council will be covered by our insurance policy. You may wish to take out your own insurance policy for your own personal items).
- h) If you are the victim of anti-social behaviour, harassment, abusive or threatening behaviour during your tenancy we will take appropriate action to help you.
- i) If we decide to end this tenancy agreement we will give your at least four weeks' notice in writing. The notice will always end on a Sunday.
- j) If any of your belongings remain in the property after the termination of this tenancy we will give you the opportunity to remove them; if you do not take up this opportunity we will remove them and dispose of them. We will provide you with notice before we do this.

I confirm that I have read and understand this tenancy agreement.

Tenant's full name:

Tenant's signature:

Date:

Landlord's officer's name:

Officer's signature:

Date:

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### THE EXECUTIVE

14 February 2023

#### Review of the SEND Residential Provision Welburn Hall School

Report by the Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service

#### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report details the outcomes of the public consultation carried out on proposals to pause residential provision at Welburn Hall School for a period of two years. It asks the Executive to consider the responses to the consultation, to authorise the publication of statutory proposals and to schedule taking a final decision on the proposals on 18 April 2023.

#### **2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 On 13 December 2022 the Executive gave approval for consultation on proposals to pause residential provision at Welburn Hall School for a period of two academic years from September 2023.
- 2.2 This report details the responses to the consultation and asks the Executive to consider authorising the publication of proposals and statutory notices, and to schedule taking a final decision on the proposals on 18 April 2023.

#### **3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

- 3.1 Consultation documents (Appendix 1) were distributed to the list of consultees (Appendix 2). The documents were also published on the Welburn Hall and NYCC websites. The consultation period ran from 3 January 2023 to 31 January.
- 3.2 Two public consultation meetings were held online via Teams on 10 and 18 January 2023, and notes of these meetings and presentation are attached (Appendix 8).
- 3.3 By the closing date of 31 January 2023 18 consultation responses had been received for the proposals, these are shown in full in Appendix 3, which includes a response from the Welburn Hall School Governing Body.
- 3.4 Of the eighteen responses to the consultation, three responses were made in support of the proposal, two disagreed with the proposal and the remainder offered a range of comments and potential concerns about how the proposals were implemented.
- 3.5 The issues raised from the responses cover a range of issues. Principally, these relate to (a) managing the transitional arrangements necessary whilst residential provision is paused, and (b) views about the longer-term future of residential provision, rather than direct views about the proposal to pause the residential offer. Specifically the following issues featured prominently:
- i. A concern that the temporary accommodation arrangements will not be able to fully replicate the full range of activity that takes place within the House building (above and beyond the classroom spaces). Alongside this one response did express concern that the temporary classroom facilities would be inferior to the classroom accommodation available in the House

- ii. A strong regard for the unique environment that Welburn Hall can provide through its residential provision, to meet the needs of a cohort of young people. In addition, there were requests that the local authority should ensure that residential provision resumes at the earliest possible date. (However, in the December Executive report, we acknowledged that more detailed work needed to be undertaken to investigate the longer-term investment options, and that work is ongoing. The comments regarding the need for residential provision to be an integral part of the Welburn Hall provision will be factored into that evaluation and are not discussed further in this report).
- iii. One response was specifically challenging that the authority had not discussed the challenging situation facing the residential care staff at the school – and another made suggestions about avenues that could be explored to mitigate the risk for that staff group.

3.6 The Governing body of the school have submitted their response to the consultation. Their response is understanding of the challenges presented by the condition of the House building, and they have emphasised that their preferred route forward would be for the programme of works at the House to be undertaken and for the school to be able to resume its residential operation at the earliest possible opportunity.

## 4 RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION AND OTHER KEY ISSUES

### 4.1 ISSUE 1 – Limitations of temporary accommodation arrangements

A number of the responses have drawn attention to the extensive range of school activity taking place currently within the House building, which enriches both the breadth of the curriculum offer and experiences of pupils. A number of responses expressed that these activities are beyond the provision of replacement classrooms and dining facilities. In addition, there was some concern about the adequacy of the replacement classroom facilities.

**LA Consideration :-** Our plans are to secure two temporary classroom units for the school which will provide four temporary classroom spaces. This is currently the subject of a planning application under consideration by Ryedale Council. Our view is that these units offer excellent learning environments for pupils and that the standard of temporary units available on the market place is of a much higher standard than in previous periods. We also plan to undertake work around the new units to ensure that there are appropriate safeguarding arrangements for pupils and that the reception arrangements for the school can operate on a streamlined basis.

We do recognise the breadth of activity that has taken place in the House building, aside from the residential provision. Whilst it will be difficult to replicate those spaces precisely for the next two academic years, we will work closely with the school leadership to explore what options are available; particularly when we know more about the detailed programme of works for the school.

### 4.2. ISSUE 2 – Residential provision at Welburn Hall is highly prized and should be reinstated at the earliest opportunity

A number of responses have emphasised the high quality of residential provision provided at Welburn Hall, aligned to the unique learning environment the school can provide through the House building and its extensive grounds. Whilst being understanding of the need for the remedial planned maintenance programme to be undertaken and the consequent need to pause residential provision, there was a theme of pressing the local authority to reinstate that provision at the earliest opportunity.

**LA Consideration:-** As discussed in paragraph 3.5. above, it was recognised that further work needed to be undertaken as to the optimal longer-term strategic options. This work is progressing and these comments will be factored into that consideration.



- 4.3 ISSUE 3 – Consideration needs to be shown for the Residential Care staff group  
Two responses have referred to the vulnerable position of the residential Care Staff group.

**LA Consideration :-** Whilst the local authority is very mindful of the implications for the residential care staff, the specific purpose of this consultation is to ascertain feedback regarding the proposal to pause residential provision. We have supported the Governing Body in developing proposals and they will launch an HR consultation process in February.

## 5 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The proposal is to pause residential provision at Welburn Hall School for a period of two academic years from September 2023. The full statutory proposals are set out in Appendix 6.
- 5.2 The proposed timetable would be:

22 February 2023	Publication of Statutory Proposals
22 March 2023	Closing date for representations (4 weeks as prescribed in regulations and cannot be shortened or lengthened).
18 April 2023	Final decision by Executive
1 September 2023	Proposed temporary removal of residential provision

## 6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The implications for revenue and capital funding were detailed in the report to Executive on 13 December 2022.
- 6.2. In terms of capital expenditure, the provision of temporary units and associated works to ensure that the school is secure, has a fully functioning reception area, etc have been estimated at £300k, and will be financed from the Schools Condition Grant. The longer-term capital financing implications will be dependent upon the evaluation of longer-term strategic options for the school and residential provision which are currently ongoing.
- 6.3. In terms of the revenue position, the analysis identified that there was an actual cost reduction to the high needs budget – which increased through time because we were anticipating that the cohort of pupils needing residential placements on account of very complex needs would increase through time. We had estimated this saving would grow to £1.02 million by 2027/28 financial year. However, this saving would be more than offset by the cost of identifying alternative placements for the same cohort of young people – whilst this analysis is notional (because these young people are not currently identified as requiring placements), we have estimated this cost would be in the region of £1.8 million per annum. This highlights why having access to some form of in-house residential provision is a major consideration in our evaluation of longer-term strategic options.

## 7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The consideration and determination of school organisation proposals by the Local Authority is set out in Education & Inspections Act 2006, regulations and in guidance produced by the Department for Education<sup>1</sup>. Careful regard has been given to the proposal. The proposals are in accordance with the statutory requirements.
- 7.2 The local authority has already fulfilled its statutory responsibility under Section 27 of the Children and Families Act 2014 to formally consult on proposed changes to provision for SEND.

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<sup>1</sup> School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013; Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools: Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers (October 2018).

## **8 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The Local Authority recognises that if implemented, these proposals will have an adverse impact on a small number of pupils. However, the Local Authority is working with these pupils and their families to ensure that any impact is minimised and to ensure that they continue to have provision delivered in a suitable way to meet their assessed needs

## **9 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken in respect of these proposals and the updated version is attached as Appendix 4.
- 9.2 There may be adverse impacts for those people who fall under the protected characteristics of age, gender and disability.
- 9.3 Key stakeholders have been involved in the development of the proposal and have included NYCC Children and families service, including Disabled Children's Service.

## **10 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 10.1 A Climate Change Impact Assessment was undertaken in November 2021 to support the original report to Executive in December 2022. This assessment is attached as Appendix 7 to this report. Our assessment is that no new information has come to light that would necessitate a review of the document at this stage – although it will be reviewed in the near future when we receive details of the feasibility study for the potential programme of works at the school.

## **11 NEXT STEPS**

- 11.1 It is proposed to publish proposals and the statutory notice on 22 February 2023 (Appendix 5 and 6). The proposals would be published on the County Council's website and the statutory notice would be published in a local newspaper and displayed at the main entrance of the school. This would provide four weeks for representations to be made to the Local Authority, by 22 March 2023.
- 11.2 The Executive agreed a model for decision-making on school organisation proposals on 25 September 2007. If approval is given to publish statutory proposals and notices, it is proposed that a final decision on these proposals is taken by the Executive on 18 April 2023

## **12 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12.1 The Executive is recommended to:
- i. Approve the publication of the statutory proposals and a statutory notice on 22 February 2023, proposing to pause residential provision at Welburn Hall School for a period of two academic years from September 2023.
  - ii. Schedule a final decision on these proposals on 18 April 2023.

Stuart Carlton, Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service

Report prepared by Martin Surtees – CYPS Senior Finance – Projects

3 February 2023

## List of Appendices

- Appendix 1: Published consultation documents
- Appendix 2: List of consultees
- Appendix 3: Responses to the consultation document
- Appendix 4: Equality Impact Assessments
- Appendix 5: Draft Statutory Notice
- Appendix 6: Draft Statutory Proposals
- Appendix 7: Climate Change Impact Assessment
- Appendix 8: Public meeting notes

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# ***Consultation Document***

**School organisation proposals to temporarily  
remove residential provision at Welburn Hall  
Special School for the academic years 2023-24 and  
2024-25**

## Welburn Hall School

December 2022

This paper sets out school organisation proposals by North Yorkshire County Council to temporarily remove residential provision at Welburn Hall School, Welburn, Kirbymoorside

It follows a review of provision and consultation carried out under the Children and Families Act 2014.

This paper gives the background to the proposals. There will be virtual (on-line) public meetings on Tuesday January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and Wednesday January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6 pm via Microsoft Teams. If you wish to be part of this virtual meeting could you please let us know by emailing [schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk) and joining instructions will be provided.

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### Background

North Yorkshire County Council wants all children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in North Yorkshire:

- to have the best educational opportunities so that they achieve the best outcomes
- to be able to attend a school or provision locally, as close to their home as possible, where they can make friends and be part of their local community
- to make progress with learning, have good social and emotional health, and to prepare them for a fulfilling adult life

The County Council has a statutory responsibility under the Children and Families Act 2014 to keep its special educational provision under review, to ensure sufficiency in placements to meet the needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Under the same act, the County Council also has responsibility for ensuring that the needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are suitably assessed and that needs are met.

We have reviewed recently the residential provision at Welburn Hall and following consultation had determined that there was an ongoing need for residential provision, but that access to that provision would in future be via more specific criteria

**However, recent technical assessments have identified significant structural challenges in the main House building, which provides the residential accommodation, catering facilities and some teaching and learning space. These challenges relate to the heating and drainage systems at the school. The local authority is planning on the basis that a programme of urgent works to address buildings failure will need to be put in place from Summer 2023, with the unfortunate consequence that the main house building will be out of operation for an expected period of two academic years. We would want to**

## Appendix 1 - Consultation Document

emphasise that our assessment is that the school buildings remain a safe environment for young people to both be educated and reside in the interim.

In the light of the latest technical assessments, the implications for the main house and our concern that we provide clarity at the earliest opportunity to families and school staff, we are consulting at this stage on the potential temporary removal of residential provision at Welburn Hall school.

We appreciate that this is an unexpected development want to emphasise that it is a response to an emergency scenario. We will work closely with colleagues at Welburn Hall school as well as young people and their families to ensure any impact on those accessing the provision is minimised.

Day places will continue to be provided at Welburn Hall in a separate building while these urgent reactive maintenance works are being carried out to the main house.

### The school organisation proposals

The County Council is now consulting specifically on the school organisation proposals required to:

Remove residential provision at Welburn Hall School from 1 September 2023, on a temporary basis for a two year period.

Your views on these school organisation proposals are welcomed.

#### What is this consultation about?

This consultation is about our proposal to temporarily pause the residential offer at Welburn Hall School.

#### Under these proposals, residential provision would be unavailable at Welburn Hall school for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years - Why do we need to pause the residential offer at Welburn Hall School?

As discussed above, this proposal is a direct consequence of the significant structural failings we have identified in the heating and drainage systems at the school. These impact most significantly upon the House building. Furthermore, the proposals are solely a response to these building challenges – without these challenges, residential provision would be continuing to operate at the school.

Given that we are currently working on the basis of undertaking an urgent reactive maintenance programme over a period of two academic years, we are specifically proposing to pause the residential offer for two years

Whilst the vast majority of young people currently accessing residential provision at Welburn Hall will naturally leave in July 2023 due to their age, we recognise that a small number of pupils will have been expecting to access residential provision until July 2024. The council's SEN Case Work Team have made contact with those families affected and will be providing support to assess all available provision options to continue to meet their assessed needs.

### **What Happens Next?**

Your views about these proposals are welcomed. You can either complete and return the attached response sheet, or submit an online response.

Paper responses should be returned to North Yorkshire County Council at the address below:

FREEPOST RTKE-RKAY-CUJS  
Welburn Hall Strategic Planning  
North Yorkshire County Council  
County Hall  
NORTHALLERTON  
DL7 8AE

Online responses may be submitted by following this link:

<https://consult.northyorks.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=164914933309>

### **The closing date for responses is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

All responses to the consultation received by this date will be considered by the County Council's Executive committee on 14 February 2023.

If the County Council's Executive decides to proceed, then statutory proposals would be published on 22 February, 2023 on the County Council's website and statutory notices placed in the local press and on the school gates. These statutory proposals would provide a further four weeks for representations to be made. A final decision would then be made in November by the County Council's Executive (or by the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills, if there are no objections to statutory proposals).

### **Anticipated key dates**

All dates are subject to approvals at each stage.

Consultation opens	3 January 2023
Public meetings	10 and 18 January 2023
Consultation closes	31 January 2023
County Council's Executive considers consultation response	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Statutory Proposals published (4 weeks for representations to be made)	22 February – 22 March 2023



## Appendix 1 - Consultation Document

Final decision by County Council's Executive (or the Executive Member for Education and Skills, if there are no objections to the statutory proposals)	18 April 2023
Implementation	From 1 September 2023

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## Appendix 2 – List of Consultees

### Welburn Hall – List of Consultees

Welburn Hall	Parents
	Staff and governors via
	Headteacher
	Chair of Governors

Local Authority	North Yorkshire County Council
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Local Schools	
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Unions and Professional Associations	NAHT
	NASUWT
	NEU (formerly NUT & ATL)
	VOICE
	ASCL
	UNISON

Diocesan Directors	Diocese of York
	Middlesbrough Diocese

Neighbouring Local Authority:	
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Local County Councillors –	Kirkbymoorside & Dales
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Borough Councillors	Kirkbymoorside
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Local Parish/Town council	Welburn (Kirkbymoorside)
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	Library Service
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Local MP	Kevin Hollinrake
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Regional Director for Yorkshire and Humber	
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Secretary of State:	
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Internal distribution	Adviser
	Governor Support
	HR Advisor
	School Admissions
	Passenger Transport
	Catering/Building Cleaning
	Press Office
	FMS Officer/Finance
	Executive Members
	Others

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## **Appendix 3 - Responses to the consultation document**

**Response 1:** - Why did the local authority not know about these works before?

**Feedback to Response 1:** - The County Council has worked with Welburn Hall School to manage maintenance issues, including in respect of the heating system. A recent leak to the heating pipework demonstrated the extent to which it is corroded and at risk of further leaks / failure. Unfortunately the heating system within the main hall (House) is complex with much of the infrastructure being contained in ducts that are not easily accessible. This means that if a leak were to occur in some areas then repairs would not be able to be completed easily and the School would be at risk of closure for, potentially, extended periods.

The recommendations that have been made, therefore, represent an appropriate solution to address the risk of unexpected disruption to teaching within the School.

**Response 2:** - I agree to the be work being done as long as boarding provision is resumed as soon as possible.

**Feedback to response 2:** - Thank you for your response. We have noted that you have expressed a strong desire to see the County Council resume boarding provision at Welburn Hall at the earliest opportunity.

**Response 3:** - I notice that you do not mention anything about the staff, many who will be losing their jobs, some of them having worked for years.

**Feedback to response 3:** - Thank you for your response. In developing these proposals and considering the overall implications for the school community, we have been very mindful of the implications for the residential care staff. We have discussed with the staff group that the school will commence a consultation process in February which will focus specifically upon the implications for that staff group - but this consultation is focused upon the specific implications for the offer to families.

**Response 4:** - The maintenance work is clearly a much needed requirement for housing complex needs students in the future and will ensure the smooth running of the facility, hopefully for the foreseeable future, however it will have a huge negative impact on not only the boarding students, but the more complex students currently at Welburn as three classrooms within the house will have to be relocated to less suitable classrooms for a period of two years. Would a partial closure be possible in order to keep some students in their current rooms and with the facilities needed? Students would obviously have to vacate their classrooms for a period of time whilst work is being carried out in there.

**Feedback to Response 4:** - Thank you for your response. In the first instance I would like to reassure you that the temporary classroom units that will be sourced are modern, and their design offer good sized spaces and excellent learning environments - which we are confident will be regarded as being at least as effective as the existing classroom spaces both within the House and across the site at Welburn Hall.

In relation to your question about partial access to the House building during the programme of works, we appreciate that there are a number of benefits to the school

### **Appendix 3 - Responses to the consultation document**

having such access, but at this stage we need a more detailed planned programme of works to evaluate what is feasible and when we have that detailed programme, we will discuss more fully with school leaders.

#### **Response 5: - No**

**Feedback to response 5:** - Thank you for your feedback, which will be factored into the report to the County Council Executive

**Response 6:** - The loss of the house over a two-year period will have a huge knock on affect to the day to day running of the school. The house is so much more than a dining room, kitchen, classroom and residential facility. All the rooms in the house are used as break out space, tv areas, games rooms, reception, meeting rooms, kitchenettes for living skills, specialist toileting facilities and a fabulous sensory room. Please take into account all these essential provisions when you close the house. The provision of four temporary classrooms just won't be enough even though it appears only being a loss of three current classrooms. Our wonderful students require areas away from the classroom to eat, spend safe break times, have quiet areas for sensory issues, the use of a sensory room, a games room for socialising and safe break area and a living skill learning area. Four temporary classrooms just won't be enough. Temporary classrooms need to have secure gated surroundings to ensure the students safety. Car parking also needs revising as half the school team park currently at the house. when the project is finished, I'm sure it will be a future asset, but we need to seriously think of the current students' needs over the next two years.

**Feedback to Response 6:** - Thank you for your comments and you have raised a number of important issues which we will attempt to address individually.

We do recognise the breadth of activity that currently takes place within the House and that whilst the temporary classrooms that we are arranging to place on site will provide excellent learning environments for pupils, we understand that this will not fully replicate the areas needed to support the activities you describe. We will continue to work with the school leadership to explore solutions to these challenges, including investigating whether there is scope to make some limited use of the House building.

We recognise your comments about the safety of pupils and would want to assure you that the local authority "temporary provision" arrangements are not just about installing temporary classroom units and will also include minor works to ensure that there is secure access to the school site and that reception arrangements can work on a streamlined basis with appropriate regard to pupil safeguarding.

Finally, we have registered the importance of having sufficient staff parking spaces, and our planning application does include provision to install temporary parking bays on the school site.

**Response 7:** - The proposal is very disappointing but I can't see any other way to do this. The safety of the staff and children is absolutely paramount.

### **Appendix 3 - Responses to the consultation document**

**Feedback to response 7:** - Thank you for your comments - which have been noted

**Response 8:** - The house currently provides various services to the school, not just residential provision. Space needs to be provided for a sensory room, meeting and therapy spaces, games room, storage space etc. Practical and emotional support needs to be provided for those staff being made redundant. The proposed use of the school hall for lunches needs to be replaced by a similar size space, as the hall is currently used over lunchtimes for clubs and social space; an alternative need to be provided. Are the grounds around the house and parking at the house going to continue to be available? If not, alternative parking needs to be provided for staff and visitors. Support needs to be given for families who may need to find alternative placements for their young people if Welburn Hall no longer meets need, due to removal of residential provision. The SLT team needs to be restructured to reflect the proposed removal of the residential manager role. This role is currently a pivotal one. A safeguarding/deputy head role would be highly desirable to support the education team.

**Feedback to response 8:** - Thank you for your comments and you have raised a number of important issues which we will attempt to address individually

We do recognise the breadth of activity that currently takes place within the House and that whilst the temporary classrooms that we are arranging to place on site will provide excellent learning environments for pupils, we understand that this will not fully replicate the areas needed to support the activities you describe. We will continue to work with the school leadership to explore solutions to these challenges.

At this stage it is not possible to provide a definitive answer on your question regarding the grounds. We are anticipating a detailed programme of works which will define the extent to which the House building and surrounding grounds need to be taken out of circulation and for what periods of time, and when we receive that programme, we will work closely with the school leadership to discuss the specific implications for the school operation and possible mitigations.

However, we have registered the importance of having sufficient staff parking spaces, and our planning application does include provision to install temporary parking bays on the school site.

We are very mindful of the issue of securing appropriate alternative placements that deliver effective support for young people who would otherwise have been in residential provision at Welburn Hall. We can confirm that there are only two young people on the current roll who would have continued their residential placement into the 23/24 academic year, and we are working intensively to identify high quality alternative arrangements.

We have noted your comments that's you consider it would be opportune to review the management structure at the school in the light of the developments set out in the consultation response. However, these issues are a matter for the School Governing Body to consider.

## **Appendix 3 - Responses to the consultation document**

**Response 9:** - I do object to the two closures of residential status of Welburn. This will have huge impact on the SEN children/students.

**Feedback to Response 9:** - Thank you for your response. We do recognise that the proposal will mean that residential provision at Welburn Hall is not available for a period of two years. As outlined in our proposal we will work intensively with families to ensure that all young people who would otherwise have had their needs through residential provision at Welburn Hall have appropriate provision put in place.

**Response 10:** - Welburn Hall has been a residential school for a long time. The result of it being residential to the pupils is the fact of their independence going forward. The skills pupils learn when in a residential environment cannot be taught in school time. They learn how to interact with each other in a relaxed environment, to laugh and play. Skills they can develop in the evenings. To lose the residential side of school is such a big loss to the community of special needs children. Please ensure that Welburn WILL reopen to residential as soon as possible.

**Feedback to Response 10:** - Thank you for your comments.

We have noted your comments about the impact that the residential offer can provide to young people, and we would want to emphasise that prior to the critical buildings condition report, we had recently consulted upon the revision to the residential offer at Welburn Hall (during 2021) and concluded that we wanted to retain that provision because of those benefits it can provide to young people.

Also, we would want to emphasise that the unique nature of the Welburn Hall environment is recognised by the local authority, alongside the scope it provides to offer a wide range of enrichment activities for pupils attending both on a day provision and residential basis, and that will be an important element of our assessment of the optimal long-term strategic future for the school.

**Response 11:** - The health and safety of the whole school community is paramount and so understand the need for the works to take place. My main concern that the existing facilities and temporary buildings will meet the needs of the students who attend. For example ramps and enough disabled changing facilities. Life skills is an important part of the curriculum will the temporary buildings be able to facilitate this?

**Feedback to Response 11:** - Thank you for your comments

We do recognise the breadth of activity that currently takes place within the House and that whilst the temporary classrooms that we are arranging to place on site will provide excellent learning environments for pupils, we understand that this will not fully replicate the areas needed to support the activities you describe. We will continue to work with the school leadership to explore solutions to these challenges.

Specifically in terms of access for students with disabilities, this will be a fundamental consideration for us and the school in terms of any facilities we provide.



### **Appendix 3 - Responses to the consultation document**

**Response 12:** - There is a huge house which could benefit so many special needs students. The main restraints felt by all special schools is space so in order to offer families more options for residential and wrap round care, this provision is absolutely crucial. There just isn't anywhere with the space, staff and provision that this house could offer anywhere else in the area [and many other areas].

**Feedback to Response 12:** - Thank you for your comments. The unique nature of the Welburn Hall environment is recognised by the local authority, alongside the scope it provides to offer a wide range of enrichment activities for pupils attending both on a day provision and residential basis. There is potentially a trade-off that with the unique environment that a historic house building can offer, there comes the potential liabilities of expensive running costs and repairs implications. However, the benefits that you have discussed will be factored into the local authority evaluation of the strategic options.

**Response 13:** - I can understand the difficulties of trying to maintain a listed building with massive grounds and ancient heating systems. The environment at Welburn looks a very calm setting which looks well positioned to service vulnerable young people from central and eastern sector of an enormous county council. I can't believe that the Council or School managers would be able to meet the council's budget for heating, lighting and maintenance let alone working towards environmental targets even after the building's heating system is replaced. I would have thought that the amalgamation of the district councils into a unitary council would have released property from the estate that would be more cost effective to convert to residential standards without the restrictions of listed building status. If these young people have a need to be educated and cared for in a residential setting then I am anticipating that these N Yorks young people will have to be provided for outside the county and that this may have long term higher costs, and impact some families that are already under pressure. I have read the report of the education and care provision at Welburn Hall and am impressed that it has gained accreditation from the Autism Society and has a skilled and dedicated team of staff that are getting results and are judged as good and improving. The costs of making these valuable staff redundant is dead money and when the pause of residential provision has ended, and a building is in place the staff won't be. I am not sure what the council can do with such a building and grounds in the longer term as I know the likes of North Yorkshire Police have sold off their HQ as it didn't fit in to their modern-day estate. I am also aware a number of North Yorkshire buildings in Northallerton remain closed up. I do know that the special needs of young people are important and a statutory duty.

**Feedback to Response 13:** - Thank you for your comments

The issues you have flagged about the potential future performance of the buildings following any works programme, and the need to evaluate alternative buildings have been noted and will form an integral part of our evaluation of future long-term strategic options.

### **Appendix 3 - Responses to the consultation document**

In addition, your comments regarding the skills and expertise of the current care staff cohort and how they contribute to the excellent outcomes at the school have been noted and will be a very important consideration for the local authority.

**Response 14:** - I think this is a good idea and should go ahead

**Feedback to Response 14:** - Thank you for your comments which have been noted and will be included in the report to the Executive at the end of the consultation process

**Response 15:** - As well as the 3 formal classrooms, the house is also used for other educational purposes during the school day. The Internet Café and kitchen is regularly used as a teaching space and at lunchtimes. The Games Room and entrance area are used at breaks, particularly in winter and wet weather - and also as calming/recreation/meeting areas. The laundry room is used for storage of work clothes, boots and spare uniform. Extra provision should be made for these functions. The house and dining hall also provide a valuable welcoming and psychological space for the students which needs to be accounted for in temporary provision. To avoid or reduce compulsory redundancy, NYCC could offer voluntary redundancy terms to include education staff, creating vacancies to allow redeployment for care staff to education roles (teaching assistants) on similar pay levels, which require similar skills and qualifications. A number of staff have successfully switched from care to education jobs.

**Feedback to Response 15:** - Thank you for your comments.

We do recognise the breadth of activity that currently takes place within the House and that whilst the temporary classrooms that we are arranging to place on site will provide excellent learning environments for pupils, we understand that this will not fully replicate the areas needed to support the activities you describe. We will continue to work with the school leadership to explore solutions to these challenges. The Local Authority and the Governing Bdy of the School are committed to exploring all redeployment opportunities and minimising compulsory redundancy as far as possible.

**Response 16:** - I do hope this temporary removal of the boarding facility will only be temporary and not a cynical exercise to take the boarding away forever

**Feedback to Response 16:** - Thank you for your comments.

We have noted your comments about the impact that the residential offer can provide to young people, and we would want to emphasise that prior to the critical buildings condition report, we had recently consulted upon the revision to the residential offer at Welburn Hall (during 2021) and concluded that we wanted to retain that provision because of those benefits it can provide to young people. Also, we would want to emphasise that the unique nature of the Welburn Hall environment is recognised by the local authority, alongside the scope it provides to offer a wide range of enrichment activities for pupils attending both on a day provision and residential basis, and that will be an important element of our assessment of the optimal long-term strategic future for the school.

### Appendix 3 - Responses to the consultation document

**Response 17:** - We have concerns over the due diligence on the part of the LA. Nearly £300k of work was carried out and great hope amongst staff of a new start, buying into the new plan. We assumed there'd be new job opportunities over the weekend. Felt that the future of the school was assured. Within the current economic climate and the general lack of funding for SEND, are the LA in a financial position to be able to carry out these works or is this not in danger of becoming an issue of school having to close on this site or operate with substandard buildings for a number of years. We have been told that the temporary classrooms will be in place but for our children, we struggle to see how these buildings will be an adequate replacement for what the House provides. We would strongly urge the LA to allow the HT to keep the House open as long as possible until it's a building site. We are very concerned about parking and logistics for Sept 23. The House contains many heavy and large resources, and we are not privy to what the plans might be for these to be stored/used? We have concerns that if the information about the House heating system wasn't known to County, can we be sure that the condition of the school systems are any better? And if not, would that condemn the whole site? What is the contingency plan? We have very serious concerns about the students going into the mobiles, not having break out spaces such as exist indoors in the House. We are concerned about feeding over 100+ students in the Assembly Hall. We will definitely need significant storage spaces and we are concerned that County may overlook the fact that our students can't just use mainstream tables or facilities. We are a very popular school in a unique geographic location in the middle of NYCC and strongly urge that County consider the success of the school including the AP which has 100% customer satisfaction and the excellent Ofsted reports detailing the quality of education. we would hate to see such a unique setting closed or left to ruin due to finances, when it could be invested in and made a centre for SEND for whole county.

**Feedback to Response 17:** - Thank you for your feedback and we will respond to all of the issues you have raised.

Firstly, we understand that the school has invested resources in developing facilities in the Main House in recent years. Unfortunately, the concerns over the heating system only became apparent in Summer 2022 because a recent leak to the heating pipework demonstrated the extent to which it is corroded and at risk of further leaks / failure. The heating system within the main hall is complex with much of the infrastructure being contained in ducts that are not easily accessible. This means that if a leak were to occur in some areas, then repairs would not be able to be completed easily and the School would be at risk of closure for, potentially, extended periods.

The local authority had had recently consulted upon the revision to the residential offer at Welburn Hall (during 2021) and concluded that we wanted to retain that provision (albeit with a revision to the designated offer) because of those benefits it can provide to young people. That plan would have remained in place, were it not for the significant work required to the House building which has necessitated these proposals.

The work programme being constructed is intended to address the identified difficulties with both the heating and drainage at the school. There is no evidence

### **Appendix 3 - Responses to the consultation document**

that the heating problems associated with the House all apply to the main school buildings.

In terms of the challenges regarding the longer-term sustainability of the school, the local authority is committed to maintaining Welburn Hall school as an integral part of its specialist provision offer in the County (reflecting your comments about the strength of the school in supporting increased numbers of pupils and delivering high quality outcomes for pupils). However, the evaluation of longer-term strategic options will be required to determine the optimal future location for the school and the breadth of the offer we can put in place.

We are mindful of both the breadth of activity currently taking place in the House and the resources that need to be relocated from the school and are evaluating the extent to which this activity can be replicated in the interim period – which will also be dependent upon the technical advice received about the extent to which the House will need to be out of action during the works programme.

The interim arrangements will include specific arrangements to mitigate the impact of the temporary classroom facilities reducing the availability of car parking spaces.

**Response 18:** - My child has been at Welburn Hall since being in Primary age group, and is now moving into 6th Form. Throughout this time, there has been a gradual removal of a boarding offer, along with a shorter school day. My child and many other students have no other social contacts beyond school, they are unable to access Scouts, youth clubs, sports clubs and other social clubs in their own communities. The short school day is everything to them. The removal of the boarding sounds inevitable and perhaps unavoidable, so perhaps you need to consider putting compensatory experiences in place. This should be done in further consultation with the families involved, and could include some extended days within school, to learn to enjoy casual social activities, or regular overnight stays, perhaps at Peat Rigg or Youth Hostels around our region. I'm sure other people will be able to come up with many more suggestions of how the loss of the residential opportunity can be compensated for. I am generally supportive of Welburn Hall being the place to offer boarding for the students that are currently boarding out of County at a vast expense. However, some of the savings made, should be allocated to providing continued casual boarding experiences for the students who would have been the boarders in previous years. I have not been able to attend the virtual meetings, as the invitation arrived after the first date, and I was busy on the second date. Is there a recorded version of any of the meetings that I would be able to watch or listen to?

**Feedback to Response 18:** -Thank you for your response. Over recent years we have reviewed the residential provision across the county including the previous offer at Welburn Hall School. Having considered the options, it was approved by the councils Executive to change the existing offer so that it was targeted to those with a fully assessed social care need for residential provision. This change was planned to allow existing students in residential provision to continue and leave as planned in the Summer 2023. Following this period, the proposed model would have meant that it was no longer the case that all children on roll at the school would automatically

### **Appendix 3 - Responses to the consultation document**

continue into residential post 16 provision unless they had an assessed need for the residential element of the provision.

Whilst we recognise that this proposal will be disappointing for some members of the school community the proposal to suspend residential provision for a planned period has been developed to mitigate, as much as possible, a future failure of the heating that would initiate mid-year disruption for young people. The local authority will continue to work with families and meet their assessed education and care needs.

We do not have a recorded version of the public meetings – but the presentation delivered at the meetings and the questions raised by members of the public in attendance will be incorporated in the report to Executive.

## Appendix 3 - Responses to the consultation document

### Welburn Hall Governing Body Response Draft Response to NYCC Consultation on Temporary Closure

#### Background

The Governing Body have been struggling with the maintenance of this grade two, listed building for at least four years and have consistently pointed out to NYCC that the income does not provide sufficient resources for the maintenance and running costs of the building, a fact which shows up clearly in benchmarking against comparable schools.

We have also pointed out that there was no clarity for most of that time over the school's place in the SEND strategy, leading to difficulty in our future planning for the school.

We acknowledge that, since local authority review, this has been recognized and a good working relationship has been established with the officers appointed to assist us in the development of strategy, plans for the future of the school and to bring about a sustainable funding situation. Unfortunately the discovery of the structural problems has prevented us from carrying that forward.

#### Our Vision

Our vision has been to build upon the strengths of the school and its current staff, recognized by Ofsted as good both in educational and residential provision. We aim to maximize the opportunities that this site and our experienced personnel give us, both for our own students and parents, but also for potential outreach work with other schools.

Our plans for the future had been (and we hope still can be):

- To build on what we call The College Provision, that is sixth form work which develops students' skills for independent living and has recognised success in getting pupils into appropriate employment or further education. This provision is vital to prepare students for adulthood and to enable them to become confident, resourceful and independent young people. We seek to reduce their dependence on others and to increase their future choices and opportunities.
- To expand the number of our pupils on roll to a viable level, which has already meant that we have currently expanded by about 25%, building upon the strengths of our leadership and staff in developing cognitive skills, understanding and managing behaviour and meeting the needs of pupils with autism and with Social Emotional and Mental Health issues. This is in line with the projected needs of the Local Authority for places in the coming years. We have already developed Alternative provision which supports the latter group of students with SEMH through our farm, which is also providing support to pupils in mainstream schools. We seek to extend this provision further. We would also look to the provision of outreach support from our experienced staff to mainstream schools in developing their response to cognitive difficulties, behavioural issues, autism and SEMH within their



## Appendix 3 - Responses to the consultation document

schools. This would help to increase inclusion opportunities for young people with diverse needs in mainstream schools. Finally we recognized that the NYCC sends many pupils with high needs to provision outside the authority area at inflated costs. We had planned with NYCC officers to provide locally for 12 ambulant pupils with high needs who would otherwise be sent out of the county and had already begun the development of the Hall for that cohort. We still think that would be best for the parents and children as well as economically advantageous for ourselves and the local authority and would hope that proposal can be carried forward in the future. It is of course the latter which is at risk from the temporary closure. The day pupils who were taught in the Hall will have temporary accommodation provided under the proposals being consulted on.

### Governors Response to the Consultation

Governors accept the need for a temporary halt to the residential provision for the new cohort of pupils because of the high risk of asbestos and disruption and noise if the heating system is indeed to be replaced. Although we have not seen any costings in relation to alternative heating systems, we accept that the officers responsible were clear that any alternative system would entail high level of disruption too.

We are aware that this option is still not fully costed or certain and that the local authority has to consider other options. The temporary halt to residential provision and its prompt reinstatement as soon as the work has been completed is **our preferred option** since the site contributes so much to the ethos and special character of the school and provides enormous opportunities for the future development of the school, including its' Alternative Provision. This option would also support the longer term future of the residential provision, which we have the expertise to provide and which is so needed in the area.

Other options:

- **The relocation of the school to another building within the local authority.**

This could mean a more modern, more energy efficient building. However it would be a different school if situated elsewhere and likely to be further away for its current cohort of pupils. It would also likely not have the superb opportunities currently available on the site for our Alternative Provision and for further future developments. The Management of transition to another site would be as challenging, if not more so, than the closure for two years and would affect all pupils, parents and staff.

- **Mothballing the Hall and building somewhere else on the site**

It was said that using for example the West Lawn was not viable but our neighbours would seem to have no objection and felt other local development suggested would be possible. It would seem this could be investigated further. However governors do not like the idea of a permanently mothballed hall building which would still need some maintenance to prevent it becoming unsafe. This would be unlikely to find approval with neighbours. A solution for the future of the hall would still need to be found in the long term.

**The preferred option of the Governing Body is the continuation and development of the school on the current site** and we are committed to making that as viable as possible. We

### **Appendix 3 - Responses to the consultation document**

need commitment to this as soon as possible and there will need to be, within that commitment, a recognition that the unique and valuable opportunities that come with this site for our pupils may not be entirely able to pay for themselves, even with maximum development and that some of the additional costs of such a site need to be partly funded centrally.

We also need the Local Authority to recognise a need to 'invest to save' i.e. to recognise that a greater spend now may save authority funding in the long-term future. While the cost of repairs to heating and drainage at Welburn Hall are great, they will over time prove to be less than the cost of sending children out of county to very costly, independent residential provision. The continued development of Welburn Hall will enable North Yorkshire students with complex needs to have these needs met effectively and more locally. The costs of such future provision by NYCC need to be carefully considered as part of the overall decision making.

We also feel that there is an opportunity for further dialogue and joint planning by the Local Authority and the Department for Education with regard to the future development of Welburn Hall School. Welburn Hall is a successful and highly effective school, but could be even more successful and effective with improved accommodation and provision. We recognise that the Local Authority alone does not have the funding to provide this, but inclusion in national school building developments and initiatives for the future could help facilitate such developments. While a recent bid by the Local Authority did not meet with success, we believe that continued efforts should be made in this area.

Alan Payne  
Co-Chair of Governors



## Equality impact assessment (EIA) form: evidencing paying due regard to protected characteristics

(Form updated December 2022)

### Welburn Hall Temporary withdrawal of Residential Proposals

If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print or audio, please contact the Communications Unit on 01609 53 2013 or email [communications@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:communications@northyorks.gov.uk).

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔



Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are public documents. EIAs accompanying reports going to County Councillors for decisions are published with the committee papers on our website and are available in hard copy at the relevant meeting. To help people to find completed EIAs we also publish them in the Equality and Diversity section of our website. This will help people to see for themselves how we have paid due regard in order to meet statutory requirements.

Name of Directorate and Service Area	Inclusion - CYPS
Lead Officer and contact details	Jane Le Sage, AD Inclusion

## Appendix 4 - Equality Impact Assessment

Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the EIA	<p>Martin Surtees, Senior Finance Projects Officer, CYPS</p> <p>Lucy Wade, Project Manager</p> <p>Chris Reynolds, Head of SEND Provision and Resources</p>
How will you pay due regard? e.g. working group, individual officer	Working Group
When did the due regard process start?	November 2022

**Section 1. Please describe briefly what this EIA is about.** (e.g. are you starting a new service, changing how you do something, stopping doing something?)

It is proposed to seek permission to temporarily pause the existing residential offer at Welburn Hall school, for a period of two academic years from September 2023

**Section 2. Why is this being proposed? What are the aims? What does the authority hope to achieve by it? (e.g. to save money, meet increased demand, do things in a better way.)**

This is a specific response to an emergency scenario that the main house building at Welburn Hall school has been identified as having major shortcomings in its heating and drainage systems. Our assessment is that we need to plan on the basis of undertaking a two year programme of urgent works to address buildings failure, placing the House out of action, and that it is not possible for us to replicate the specific environment required on a temporary basis.

Our objectives are to ensure that Welburn Hall school can operate in the future with effective buildings, and that during the transitional period that there is no adverse impact on outcomes for children and young people.

Whilst the vast majority of young people currently accessing residential provision at Welburn Hall will naturally leave in July 2023 due to their age, we recognise that a small number of pupils will have been expecting to access residential provision until July 2024. The council's SEN Case Work Team have made contact with those families affected and are continuing to provide support to assess all available provision options to continue to meet their assessed needs, (including identifying the possibility of transitioning prior to September 2023, where young people would be moving onto different programmes)

## Appendix 4 - Equality Impact Assessment

### Section 3. What will change? What will be different for customers and/or staff?

In the current academic year, 2022-23, the local authority is commissioning 12 residential places at Welburn Hall school, with those young people residing in the Main House building and they access four-night boarding provision

Subject to consultation process, if the proposals are implemented the following differences will be seen from the current operating model

- There will be no residential provision at Welburn Hall school during the academic years 2023-24 and 2024-25.
- it is planned that the functions currently undertaken in the House building relating to day provision can be replicated through the provision of temporary accommodation on the school site.

The implications for the team of 12 residential care staff who work to support the young people in their residential environment will need to be assessed by the School Governing Body and consultation proposals developed for the team

### Section 4. Involvement and consultation (What involvement and consultation has been done regarding the proposal and what are the results? What consultation will be needed and how will it be done?)

Key stakeholders have been involved in the development of the proposal and have included:

- NYCC Children and Young People's Service
- NYCC Corporate Property team
- School leadership team

Under Education & Inspections Act 2006 public consultation with all stakeholders will be taking place during January 2023, to give all stakeholders, and in particular families with young people currently supported in residential provision, and the residential care staff group an opportunity to contribute to the formulation of this proposal.

### Section 5. What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?

The most immediate short-term impact will be that the acquisition of temporary accommodation units (subject to planning permission being secured) and the adaptation works required at the school will require an estimated £300,000 million of capital outlay.

The cost of the planned maintenance programme has been estimated at £4 million to £5 million. Whilst the current working assumption is that this work will be undertaken, necessitating the closure of the House, it needs to be emphasised that at this stage funding has not been identified at this stage to enable these works to proceed – and the

## Appendix 4 - Equality Impact Assessment

evaluation of those funding requirements form part of the evaluation of longer-term solutions for the school buildings.

In the interim period, it is recognised that additional costs may be incurred in making alternative arrangements for the small number of families who would otherwise have been accessing residential provision during the 2023-24 academic year (this cost has been estimated at £250k. In addition, the local authority will not have the flexibility to deploy that accommodation, should cases develop in such a way that Welburn Hall would have offered an effective new placement

Section 6. How will this proposal affect people with protected characteristics?	No impact	Make things better	Make things worse	Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.
Age			✓	There are a very small number of families (less than five) where placements for young people would have continued into the 2023-24 academic year. For each pupil impacted by this proposal, there will be further consideration as to the appropriate setting to meet their assessed needs, and we would be confident that we can find placements that effectively meet the young person's needs as defined in their EHCPs. However, the local authority's objective was to use the residential provision at Welburn Hall to meet demand for new placements, which would otherwise have required independent residential provision. That flexibility will be unavailable for a two year period, and might result in it being more challenging to find high quality appropriate placements in these scenarios
Disability			✓	It is anticipated that this will make things worse for SEND pupils due to their disability because the local authority will have fewer choices for new cases of pupils and families requiring residential provision or each pupil impacted by this proposal, there will be further consideration as to the appropriate setting to meet their needs.

## Appendix 4 - Equality Impact Assessment

Sex	Tick			It is anticipated that there would be no identifiable impact on SEND pupils due to their gender.
Race	✓			It is anticipated there would be no identifiable impact on SEND pupils due to their race.
Gender reassignment	tick	✓		It is anticipated there would be no identifiable impact on SEND pupils due to gender reassignment
Sexual orientation	✓			It is anticipated there would be no identifiable impact on SEND pupils due to sexual orientation
Religion or belief	✓			It is anticipated there would be no identifiable impact on SEND pupils due to religion or beliefs.
Pregnancy or maternity	✓			It is anticipated there would be no identifiable impact on SEND pupils due to pregnancy or maternity.
Marriage or civil partnership	✓			It is anticipated there would be no identifiable impact on SEND pupils due to marriage or civil partnership.

<b>Section 7. How will this proposal affect people who...</b>	<b>No impact</b>	<b>Make things better</b>	<b>Make things worse</b>	<b>Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.</b>
Live in a rural area?		✓		It is anticipated there would be no identifiable impact on SEND pupils due to living in a rural area.
...have a low income?	✓			It is anticipated there would be no identifiable impact on SEND pupils due to their family receiving a low income.

## Appendix 4 - Equality Impact Assessment

**Section 8. Will the proposal affect anyone more because of a combination of protected characteristics? (e.g. older women or young gay men) State what you think the effect may be and why, providing evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.**

Given the very small numbers of families impacted by these proposals, it is anticipated that there will be no further impacts from a combination of protected characteristics

<b>Section 9. Next steps to address the anticipated impact. Select one of the following options and explain why this has been chosen. (Remember: we have an anticipatory duty to make reasonable adjustments so that disabled people can access services and work for us)</b>	<b>Tick option chosen</b>
<p><b>1. No adverse impact - no major change needed to the proposal.</b> There is no potential for discrimination or adverse impact identified.</p>	
<p><b>2. Adverse impact - adjust the proposal</b> - The EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. We will change our proposal to reduce or remove these adverse impacts, or we will achieve our aim in another way which will not make things worse for people.</p>	
<p><b>3. Adverse impact - continue the proposal</b> - The EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. We cannot change our proposal to reduce or remove these adverse impacts, nor can we achieve our aim in another way which will not make things worse for people. (There must be compelling reasons for continuing with proposals which will have the most adverse impacts. Get advice from Legal Services)</p>	✓
<p><b>4. Actual or potential unlawful discrimination - stop and remove the proposal</b> – The EIA identifies actual or potential unlawful discrimination. It must be stopped.</p>	
<p><b>Explanation of why option has been chosen.</b> (Include any advice given by Legal Services.)</p> <p>Adverse impacts have been identified, however, steps will be taken to mitigate adverse impacts, and as provision is made for pupils on an individual needs basis this provides further steps to mitigate any identified adverse impact. Further individual consultation will be undertaken with those pupils and families in addition to their Annual Reviews where alternative education options will be explored if these are required.</p>	

**Section 10. If the proposal is to be implemented how will you find out how it is really affecting people? (How will you monitor and review the changes?)**

This EIA will be kept under review during the consultation and decision making process, and post implementation if decisions are made on these proposals.

Feedback will be sought from parents/carers of children and young people with SEND to determine lived experience impact. This is likely to be through EHCP annual reviews and ongoing engagement with North Yorkshire Parent Carer Voice.

## Appendix 4 - Equality Impact Assessment

**Section 11. Action plan.** List any actions you need to take which have been identified in this EIA, including post implementation review to find out how the outcomes have been achieved in practice and what impacts there have actually been on people with protected characteristics.

Action	Lead	By when	Progress	Monitoring arrangements

### Section 12. Summary

During the consultation process in January 2023 and subsequent decision making process, any identified adverse impact will be fully considered and identified how this can be mitigated.

This proposal is being brought forward directly as a result of the local authority technical assessments regarding the condition of the building and the necessary maintenance works identified, and it has been assessed that the local authority is unable to support residential provision at Welburn Hall through the academic years 2023-24 and 2024-25

However, the local authority considers that the proposals being brought forward at this point in time, and the timing of this consultation exercise offer the most constructive response to the challenges faced, and are compatible with supporting Welburn Hall to remain a highly effective Special school, and to enable the local authority to assess how residential provision at the school can potentially be maintained into the future.

### Section 13. Sign off section

This full EIA was completed by:

**Name: Martin Surtees**

**Job title: Senior Finance Projects Officer**

**Directorate: CYPS**

**Signature:**

**Completion date: 01/02/2023 authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature): Jane Le Sage**

**Date: 01/02/2023**

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**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Welburn Hall School**

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD, intends to make prescribed alterations to Welburn Hall (Community Special) School, Kirkbymoorside, York, North Yorkshire, YO62 7HQ.

These proposals are to remove residential (boarding) provision at Welburn Hall School from 1 September 2023 for a period of up to two years.

Copies of the complete proposals can be obtained from Strategic Planning - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD and are available on the County Council's website at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/current-consultations>

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending them to Strategic Planning - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD, or by emailing [schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk) by 5pm on 22 March 2023.

Signed: B. Khan  
Assistant Chief Executive  
(Legal and Democratic  
Services)  
Publication Date: 22 February 2023

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## **Appendix 6 - Draft Statutory Proposals**

### **School organisation proposals to remove residential (boarding) provision at Welburn Hall School from 1 September 2023 for a period of up to two years**

#### **School and Local Authority details**

Proposals published by North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD, to make significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to Welburn Hall (Community Special) School, Kirkbymoorside, York, North Yorkshire, YO62 7HQ.

#### **Description of alterations and evidence of demand**

Proposals by North Yorkshire County Council to remove residential (boarding) provision at Welburn Hall School from 1 September 2023 for a period of up to two years.

Recent technical assessments have identified significant structural challenges in the main House building, which provides the residential accommodation, catering facilities and some teaching and learning space. These challenges relate to the heating and drainage systems at the school. The local authority is planning on the basis that a programme of urgent works to address buildings failure will need to be put in place from Summer 2023, with the unfortunate consequence that the main house building will be out of operation for an expected period of two academic years. We would want to emphasise that our assessment is that the school buildings remain a safe environment for young people to both be educated and reside in the interim.

#### **Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)**

This proposal is being brought forward directly as a result of the local authority technical assessments regarding the condition of the building and the necessary maintenance works identified, and it has been assessed that the local authority is unable to support residential provision at Welburn Hall through the academic years 2023-24 and 2024-25.

However, the local authority considers that the proposals being brought forward at this point in time, and the timing of this consultation exercise offer the most constructive response to the challenges faced, and are compatible with supporting Welburn Hall to remain a highly effective Special school, and to enable the local authority to assess how residential provision at the school can potentially be maintained into the future.

#### **The effect on other educational institutions within the area**

There is not expected to be any effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions.

## **Appendix 6 - Draft Statutory Proposals**

### **Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long-term value for money will be achieved**

The capital implications of the temporary accommodation proposed would be £300k. This outlay would need to be resourced from the SEN Capital Programme.

It is acknowledged that the longer term options for securing the future of Welburn Hall could require much more significant capital investment (dependent on the option selected) - but those implications will be picked up in further reports, when there has been time to progress detailed evaluations.

Further details on the financial implications are set out in the report to Executive, 13 December 2022.

### **Implementation plan**

Whilst the vast majority of young people currently accessing residential provision at Welburn Hall will naturally leave in July 2023 due to their age, we recognise that a small number of pupils will have been expecting to access residential provision until July 2024. The council's SEN Case Work Team have made contact with those families affected and will be providing support to assess all available provision options to continue to meet their assessed needs. We will need to work closely with the very small number of families with young people whose placements would have continued into the 23/24 academic year, to identify appropriate high quality alternative placements.

### **Consultation**

The County Council consulted on the school organisation proposals from 3 January to 31 January 2023. A copy of the consultation paper is attached as Appendix 2. A list of the consultees is attached as Appendix 3. Two online public consultation meetings were held and notes of these meetings are attached as Appendix 4. The consultation responses received are attached as Appendix 5.

### **Related proposals**

This proposal is not related to any other proposals

### **Procedure for making responses (support, objections and comments)**

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director-Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, or emailing [schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk) by 5pm on 22 March 2023.



**Climate change impact assessment**

The purpose of this assessment is to help us understand the likely impacts of our decisions on the environment of North Yorkshire and on our aspiration to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030, or as close to that date as possible. The intention is to mitigate negative effects and identify projects which will have positive effects.

This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. The final document will be published as part of the decision making process and should be written in Plain English.

If you have any additional queries which are not covered by the guidance please email [climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk)

**Version 2: amended 11 August 2021**

**Please note: You may not need to undertake this assessment if your proposal will be subject to any of the following:**  
 Planning Permission  
 Environmental Impact Assessment  
 Strategic Environmental Assessment

However, you will still need to summarise your findings in the summary section of the form below.

Please contact [climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk) for advice.

<b>Title of proposal</b>	<b>Welburn Hall School – Replacement of Heating and Drainage Infrastructure</b>
<b>Brief description of proposal</b>	Significant programme of works to replace heating and drainage infrastructure following the identification of significant failures at the School
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>CYPS</b>
<b>Service area</b>	<b>Strategic Planning</b>
<b>Lead officer</b>	<b>Martin Surtees</b>
<b>Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment</b>	<b>Jon Holden, Head of Property Service</b>
<b>Date impact assessment started</b>	<b>24 November 2022</b>

## Appendix 7 – Climate Change Impact Assessment

### Options appraisal

Were any other options considered in trying to achieve the aim of this project? If so, please give brief details and explain why alternative options were not progressed.

The project proposed to be undertaken at Welburn Hall has been informed by detailed surveys and feasibility studies that have identified the extent of failure and the most effective solutions for addressing the failures within both the heating and drainage infrastructure at the School site. This work has identified significant failures associated with both, and a risk of catastrophic failure that is associated with either / both that would affect the continued educational provision at the School.

Options for the design of the work are limited by the Grade 2\* listed planning status of the School and, therefore, the project will include extensive work to remove, and dispose of, significant amounts of asbestos waste that is currently utilised to insulate the existing heating ducts and pipework.

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### What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?

Please explain briefly why this will be the result, detailing estimated savings or costs where this is possible.

The proposed works will not impact upon the Council's revenue budgets. It is likely that they will have a positive impact upon the School's revenue budget as a result of: -

1. A reduction in responsive maintenance activity arising from the periodic failure of both heating and drainage; and
2. Reduced expenditure in respect of heating arising from the installation of modern, more efficient oil heating boilers

Appendix 7 – Climate Change Impact Assessment

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p><b>Positive impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p><b>No impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p><b>Negative impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes over and above business as usual</li> <li>• Evidence or measurement of effect</li> <li>• Figures for CO<sub>2</sub>e</li> <li>• Links to relevant documents</li> </ul>	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Minimise <b>greenhouse gas emissions</b> e.g. reducing emissions from travel, increasing energy efficiencies etc.</p>	Emissions from travel	x				
	Emissions from construction			x	<p>The proposed construction project will result in additional emissions arising from construction traffic. The County Council will work with contractors to ensure that construction traffic is maintained at the minimum levels.</p>	
	Emissions from running of buildings	x			<p>The proposed works will include the replacement of the existing oil fired boilers with new, efficient oil boilers which will enable lower carbon emissions. Alternative low-carbon technologies could not be incorporated because of the age / type / condition of the of the building. <b>For example</b>, the installation of either Air Source or Ground Source Heat Pumps would require an associated programme of building fabric improvement and insulation works that would be beyond the scope of the current project and budget. Such a project would require an assessment of the current electrical supply to the School and, potentially, an upgrade of that supply.</p>	

Appendix 7 – Climate Change Impact Assessment

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p><b>Positive impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p><b>No impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p><b>Negative impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes over and above business as usual</li> <li>• Evidence or measurement of effect</li> <li>• Figures for CO<sub>2</sub>e</li> <li>• Links to relevant documents</li> </ul>	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>	
<p>Page 92</p>					<p>The replacement of the existing drainage infrastructure, which will separate foul and surface water, will also result in a reduction in emissions.</p>		
	<p>Emissions from data storage</p>		<p><b>x</b></p>				
	<p>Other</p>						
<p>Minimise <b>waste</b>: Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost e.g. reducing use of single use plastic</p>			<p><b>x</b></p>	<p>The proposed construction project will result in the production of waste, including asbestos waste. The County Council will work with its designers / contractors to ensure that waste is minimised</p>			
<p>Reduce <b>water</b> consumption</p>		<p><b>x</b></p>					
<p>Minimise <b>pollution</b> (including air, land, water, light and noise)</p>	<p><b>x</b></p>		<p><b>x</b></p>	<p>The proposed project will improve the drainage infrastructure at the School site and will significantly reduce the risk of pollution in the local environment.</p> <p>The construction project will, however, create some pollution. This will comprise air (traffic)</p>			



Appendix 7 – Climate Change Impact Assessment

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p><b>Positive impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p><b>No impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p><b>Negative impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes over and above business as usual</li> <li>Evidence or measurement of effect</li> <li>Figures for CO<sub>2</sub>e</li> <li>Links to relevant documents</li> </ul>	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Page 93</p>				<p>and noise pollution (arising from the works). The County Council will work closely with its contractors to ensure that this is minimised through the development of a traffic management plan and a restrictions on working hours</p>		
<p>Ensure <b>resilience</b> to the effects of climate change e.g. reducing flood risk, mitigating effects of drier, hotter summers</p>	<p>x</p>			<p>The proposed project will improve both the heating and drainage infrastructure at the School. It will, therefore, improve the resilience of the School to the effects of climate change</p>		
<p>Enhance <b>conservation</b> and wildlife</p>		<p>x</p>				

**Appendix 7 – Climate Change Impact Assessment**

<p><b>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</b></p> <p><b>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</b></p>	<p><b>Positive impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p><b>No impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p><b>Negative impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p><b>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</b></p> <p><b>Where possible/relevant please include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Changes over and above business as usual</b></li> <li>• <b>Evidence or measurement of effect</b></li> <li>• <b>Figures for CO<sub>2</sub>e</b></li> <li>• <b>Links to relevant documents</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</b></p>	<p><b>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</b></p>
<p>Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of <b>North Yorkshire's landscape</b></p>	x			<p>The proposed project will result in the improvement of a Grade II listed property and will, therefore, contribute to North Yorkshire's heritage</p>		
<p>Other (please state below)</p>						

**Are there any recognised good practice environmental standards in relation to this proposal?** If so, please detail how this proposal meets those standards.

The proposed works will be designed and undertaken in accordance with: -

- Building Regulations (Approved Document H) – drainage
- Building Regulations (Approved Document L) – heating
- Control of Asbestos Regulations, 2012 – asbestos removal

This will ensure that all aspects of the work are compliant with relevant environment regulations

## Appendix 7 – Climate Change Impact Assessment

**Summary** Summarise the findings of your impact assessment, including impacts, the recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker.

Detailed building surveys have identified that the educational provision at Welburn Hall School is at significant risk arising from the condition of both the heating (Main Hall) and drainage infrastructure serving the School's site. The condition of both is such that there is a risk of catastrophic failure that would result in the closure of either the Main Hall (heating) or the whole site (drainage) pending the completion of required repair. Arising from the Grade II listed status of the building and its construction significant projects would be required in order to address both the heating and drainage and it is, therefore, recommended that both are addressed via a planned programme of work that provides for continued educational provision at the School during the period of the construction works.

This climate change assessment has demonstrated that the proposed project would have a positive impact upon climate change impact through both the provision of a more effective drainage system (reduced risk of pollution to the local environment) and more efficient oil heating boilers (reduced CO2 emissions). The assessment has noted that the provision of Air Source or Ground Source Heat Pumps would result in a greater reduction in CO2 emissions but that such a proposal would not be suitable for the Main Hall, even in the event that additional fabric / building services improvements were to be implemented. It is noted, however, that the potential exists for such technology to be implemented in addition to the new oil boilers in a future scheme, subject to an assessment of the electricity supply to the School site.

The impact assessment has noted, however, that the proposed construction project will also have negative impacts arising from the waste that will be produced (including hazardous asbestos waste) and noise pollution that will arise. In both cases the County Council will work closely with its contractors to ensure that waste is minimised, and disposed of in accordance with the environmental regulations and that noise pollution is controlled.

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### Sign off section

This climate change impact assessment was completed by:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Martin Surtees</b>
<b>Job title</b>	<b>Senior Finance Projects</b>
<b>Service area</b>	<b>Inclusion</b>
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>CYPS</b>
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Completion date</b>	<b>27 November 2022</b>

**Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature):**

**Date:**

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## Appendix 8 - Public meetings notes

As part of the consultation process, two public meetings were organised for January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The former meeting was not attended by any members of the public. The notes below relate to the meeting held on January 18<sup>th</sup>, and include the presentation provided to the attendees at the meeting.

### **Note of Public Consultation Meeting on proposals to temporarily remove residential provision at Welburn Hall School**

Held online on 18 January 2023 at 6pm

Attending: 3 consultees and Martin Surtees, Finance Projects, Central Services, NYCC, John Lee, Strategic Planning Officer, CYPS, NYCC.

#### Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Presentation
3. Questions and Comments

Martin Surtees welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the following presentation.

#### Purpose of consultation meeting

- We are planning to provide a short overview presentation to
  - - clarify the proposal under consideration
  - - discuss the consultation process and decision-making route with the local authority
  - - explain the local authority's rationale for the proposal
  - - discuss some significant wider implications of proposals
- We will then open up the session for any questions – and will respond within the meeting, but may take details in case we need to follow up with a further response

A note of this meeting will form part of the report that the Executive consider when deciding whether to proceed with this proposal

#### Consultation process

- We are consulting as a local authority upon the proposal that we pause the offer of residential provision at Welburn Hall for two years from September 2023
- This will mean that no new placements will commence residential provision until September 2025.
- There are currently 12 young people in residential provision at Welburn Hall, but only 2 of those placements would have continued into the academic year 2023-24. We will work intensively and closely with the families involved to identify alternative placement opportunities that will support the desired outcomes in the EHCPs for these young people.

#### Consultation process

- This public consultation process runs to 31 January

## Appendix 8 - Public meetings notes

- Within that process, we are particularly keen to hear the views of young people and families directly impacted by the changes to residential provision, residential care staff and their staff side representatives, and any stakeholders interested in the ongoing development of Welburn Hall Special school
- Following the consultation process, the feedback will be evaluated and reported to the County Council Executive on 14 February
- If the outcome at that stage is that the County Council intends to continue with the implementation of the proposal (which is not known at this stage) then there will be a need for a period of statutory consultation in relation to the proposal

### Background / Rationale 1

- We have been working to evaluate the implications of some serious heating and drainage issues associated with the school – but which particularly impact upon the House which have been identified by our technical property experts.
- At the outset we want to emphasise that the school buildings are a safe working environment but we cannot disregard the increasing risk of chronic failure of the heating and drainage systems going forwards.
- They have been working to identify what are the best solutions that we can develop which balance wanting to ensure we have a reasonable degree of service continuity with providing high quality education and support to pupils and families

### Background / Rationale 2

- Unfortunately we have to share that our technical experts advise that the optimal response is to plan on the basis of an urgent maintenance programme being undertaken at the House – starting in September 2023 - and effectively taking the House out of operation for two academic years
- The local authority is mindful that whilst we are facing an emergency scenario, we need to plan well ahead to ensure that families have clarity on the support that we can offer, and that SEN Caseworkers, school management, and staff have a degree of planning certainty (even if the implications are not what we would have wanted)
- As a result we are planning on the basis that the House will need to be out of action for two years to provide a window to undertake the remedial works
- That decision is informed by the judgement that we can work effectively to secure appropriate alternative placements for the two young people who would have otherwise been in residential provision next year
- The implications of this are that we need to pause residential provision for a period of two years through 2023-24 and 2024-25

### Background / Rationale 3

- We need to share that the estimates of the cost of the heating and drainage programme are estimated as being between £4 million and £5 million, so that the

## Appendix 8 - Public meetings notes

local authority is having to consider the optimal plan for ensuring the long-term continuity of Welburn Hall

- All of our planning is in the context of Welburn Hall school being a highly valued part of our special school capacity across the County, delivering high quality outcomes – which we see as integral to our future capacity needs

### Background Context 4

- Therefore, the local authority agreed via a meeting of its executive on December 13<sup>th</sup> to :-
  - - consult on the principle of pausing residential provision from September 2023 for a period of two academic years
  - - secure permission to proceed with a planning application to install temporary accommodation at the school site to provide spaces to support the curricular delivery and dining activities that take place in the House The consultation process regarding the proposal to temporarily discontinue residential provision will begin at the start of the Spring term – and your views, alongside those of all Welburn staff and pupils and their families will be particularly welcomed within that process

### Wider Implications

- The proposal to pause residential provision will have very significant implications for the cohort of residential staff at the school – and the School Governing Body will commence shortly an HR Consultation process with the specific group of staff impacted by these changes
- We will work intensively to identify alternative placement arrangements for any young people impacted upon by the pausing of the residential offer
- We would want to emphasise that Welburn Hall school remains an integral part of our Special school provision in the County
- However, whilst our desire is to retain residential capacity – at this stage we cannot readily say the capital resources required to update the House are available – and further work is being undertaken to assess the optimal and deliverable future options for residential provision.

### Consultation responses

The closing date for responses is **31 January 2023**

Your views are important – please respond to the consultation

Consultees were then invited to ask questions.

A consultee asked what will be put in place for the two young people at the school who would still require residential care in September?

Martin replied that the SEN casework team are working with the families concerned and Health and Adult Services colleagues. The potential progression pathway for the young people would involve another placement after Welburn Hall and it is being investigated if these placements can be brought forward. Any interim transition would be avoided where possible.

## Appendix 8 - Public meetings notes

A consultee said that the council was planning originally for a larger 52 week provision. The school only had 11 students currently in residence. What would happen with the cohort that the school was going to supply the need for?

Martin replied that the plan for residential provision at Welburn Hall, following consultation, was for a cohort of 12 young people in a 52 week provision. Traditionally the school had had a cohort of around 25 young people, and they were managing the transition from 25 to 12 young people with higher and more complex needs than the school traditionally worked with, and who might otherwise have required provision in an independent residential special school. There will still be that need. In the interim it will be necessary to meet that need for places in the independent sector where the need emerges.

A consultee asked about applicants for residential provision at the school for September this year?

Martin replied that as eligibility for residential provision at the school had changed there was no longer a cohort of young people waiting for transition to residential provision. It was anticipated that there would usually be a maximum intake of two to three young people per year. At this stage there was no one identified for September. The old admission route into residential provision had been discontinued, and there was now a very high level of need assessment.

A consultee said that they were attending as a parent who was thinking of requesting a place for their son at the school for September 24. She wondered where the proposal would leave them. She asked if there was any option for day placements to transfer when work had been done? Could they still consider Welburn Hall or would they need to look elsewhere?

Martin replied that there would need to be further discussions, outside this meeting, to clarify what the child's specific needs were and what Welburn Hall could offer. It was being proposed that residential provision would not be available at Welburn Hall from September 2023. Day places would be open if the school could meet the needs of the child. If it was the view of the SEN casework team that the child needed residential provision, then options would be explored. He would provide the parent's contact details to a member of the SEN team who would be in touch with her.

**Note** :- the team have been in contact with the parent and will continue to explore options for future placements

A consultee asked if there would be some support for families that would potentially have been at Welburn Hall this coming year?

Martin replied that where the SEN casework team identifies that residential provision is required to meet the child's needs they will have to explore a more limited range of options. With these proposals, residential provision would not be available until September 2025 at the earliest at Welburn Hall.



## Appendix 8 - Public meetings notes

A consultee noted at Welburn Hall there was a very highly skilled staff providing brilliant care. Is there a risk that staff may be lost with the interim break in residential provision?

Martin replied that the County Council see the staff at Welburn Hall as an asset for the school and also for the care and support community across North Yorkshire. Briefing sessions took place with the residential care staff immediately prior to the proposals going public.. There is a risk that will have to be mitigated. The school will commence a consultation with staff will start immediately after February half term. If staff are at risk they will look at redeployment opportunities within CYPS.

A consultee asked if there was any consideration of increasing provision in alternative areas to bridge the gap for two years?

Martin replied that they had looked at alternative options but there was only one other residential special school in North Yorkshire at Brompton Hall. This served a different cohort of young people and the council had consulted and agreed to remove residential provision from September 2024 at that school. They will keep exploring alternative options but there is likely to be an increased use of independent provision over the next two years.

It was asked which independent provision would the Council look at increasing if necessary?

Martin replied that the County Council used a wide range of independent providers across the county which depended on the specific needs of individual children.

A consultee said that they felt that there was a lack of clarity and understanding about what the future may hold. This didn't bode well for confidence in where the school was going. How quickly can the relevant decisions be made on the future?

Martin replied that they were keeping everyone informed where they were in the decision-making process. They were moving as quickly as they could with a long-term strategic solution. He hoped that by May/June there would be proposals on what that might be. They were talking closely with the school governing body and colleagues. The Council had bid to the DfE school rebuilding programme for Welburn Hall but this had not been successful. They would keep lobbying.

The consultee replied that it was difficult to understand the future pathways which affected the school's ability to plan, did not help security and confidence and left people unsure on the decision-making process. More information would be helpful as and when they were able to share it. The head teacher had proposed a presentation in September for future pathways for residents without understanding the difficulties in the building. The credibility of information was doubted if people couldn't see a logical pathway.

Martin replied that they were working with the school and government body to try to provide as much clarity as possible and that there would be an ongoing dialogue.

A consultee said there they appreciated there was no certainty on funding of the work proposed - what if the funding was not agreed?

## **Appendix 8 - Public meetings notes**

Martin replied that that may mean residential provision may not be able to be offered from Welburn Hall.

It was asked if the council would have to find an alternative venue?

Martin replied that it would be necessary to find an alternative venue or rely more on the independent sector on an ongoing basis.

Consultees were thanked for attending and the meeting closed at 6:40 PM.

## North Yorkshire County Council

### Executive

14 February 2023

## York and North Yorkshire Devolution – Outcome of Consultation

### Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

#### 1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report sets out the outcome of the consultation carried out on a Scheme relating to the proposed governance arrangements required to implement the Devolution Deal for York and North Yorkshire announced on 1 August 2022. It seeks approval to amend the Scheme and delegation of authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to undertake any action necessary to submit the Consultation Summary Report and Scheme to Government and any action necessary to provide consent to any subsequent Order facilitating the creation of the Mayoral Combined Authority.

It also seeks approval to amendments to the Terms of Reference for the York and North Yorkshire Joint Devolution Committee outlined in **paragraphs 6.1 to 6.5** and attached at **Appendix 2**.

#### 2.0 Executive Summary

- 2.1 Following approval from Executive in September 2022, City of York Council and North Yorkshire County Council undertook statutory consultation on a Scheme related to the governance arrangements required to implement the proposed Devolution Deal, which was published on 1 August 2022.
- 2.2 The overall response to the consultation on the proposed areas of change was positive, with more people agreeing than disagreeing with each aspect consulted upon.
- 2.3 This report summarises the outcome of the consultation, the comments and suggestions received, identifying possible amendments to the Scheme based on those suggestions. It recommends the submission of the consultation summary to Government, which, if approved, would allow Government to undertake the next stages of the statutory process.
- 2.4 City of York Council is also considering the same issues. The approval of both Councils to submit the consultation summary and Scheme is required for the statutory process to progress.
- 2.5 Amendments to the York and North Yorkshire Joint Devolution Committee arrangements are also proposed and a recommendation for authority to be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to give consent to the draft Order resulting from the submission of the Scheme

#### 3.0 Background

- 3.1 On 1 August 2022 the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced that the Government was minded to enter into a Devolution Deal with York and North Yorkshire under which the region would benefit from £540 million of new Government

investment to spend on local priorities to produce growth, together with a range of devolved powers. This Devolution Deal is dependent upon the York and North Yorkshire Authorities establishing a Combined Authority for the area with an elected Mayor. The full detail of the Deal can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/york-and-north-yorkshire-devolution-deal/york-and-north-yorkshire-devolution-deal#summary-of-the-devolution-deal-between-the-government-and-the-local-authorities-of-york-and-north-yorkshire-comprising-city-of-york-council-and-north-yorkshire-council>

- 3.2 In September and October 2022, the two Councils agreed to publish a Scheme to describe the governance of a new Combined Authority and to consult upon the Scheme. The consultation was held for 8 weeks from October to December.
- 3.3 The next step is to consider the consultation responses and determine if there needs to be any amendment of the Scheme. Agreement is then needed on whether to submit the Scheme and a consultation summary to Government to allow the Secretary of State to consider putting in place the legislation to facilitate the creation of the Combined Authority

## 4.0 Issues

### Consultation Methodology

- 4.1 The consultation was launched at the LEP Annual Conference event (York & North Yorkshire Business Summit) on 21st October 2022, attended by 235 people representing businesses, residents and organisations across the region. The consultation ended on 16th December 2022.
- 4.2 The consultation process was designed to be as broad and accessible as possible, using multiple channels to gather information from different stakeholder groups. More information on the methodology is included in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.3. The views of all interested parties were welcomed, and in addition, specific stakeholder groups were identified to ensure communications and events were arranged to provide all groups the opportunity to contribute. Alongside residents' views, the process sought responses from organisations working in areas related to the functions of the combined authority, including some who would be directly affected by the proposed changes. 300 information and advocacy sessions were hosted across a range of public meetings, partner meetings, networking, business and public engagement events. A list of 430 stakeholders received letters to highlight the consultation and to request their views.
- 4.4. An online survey was identified as the most efficient way of collecting views across the area. However, it was recognised that this would not be appropriate for all potential respondents. A demographic breakdown of the population across York & North Yorkshire was developed as part of an analysis of digitally excluded residents in the region. This information informed the communications methods employed to reach all groups in the population. The commissioned work also includes a summary presentation of data related to age, ethnicity, and long-term health problems/disability. Work with partners was undertaken to reach residents with protected characteristics. This information was also used to inform a series of focus groups targeted at "seldom heard" populations including those with protected characteristics.
- 4.5. A devolution branded website ([www.ynydevolution.com](http://www.ynydevolution.com)) was launched as the proposed deal was announced in August 2022. The website invited visitors to take part in the consultation, providing an animation and an explainer video that detailed the contents of the consultation document. All FAQs and consultation events were also listed on the devolution website.

- 4.6. The primary route for feedback was via the Commonplace online platform, which provided a questionnaire and held background information including the Governance Review, Scheme and Frequently Asked Questions. For the questionnaire, each of the questions had a summary introduction and an opportunity for the participant to indicate the strength of their feeling from strongly support to strongly oppose. A comment box was available after each question to add the reasons for responses.
- 4.7. All of the consultation documents were hosted on the Commonplace platform with links from the devolution website. The documents were available to download. As well as the opportunity to complete the survey online, paper copies of the survey and documents were available in libraries and at public events. A prepaid envelope for consultees who wished to submit their responses by post was available. Respondents were able to hand in their response at local libraries, where it was scanned and forwarded to the consultation email address.
- 4.8. The consultation materials were produced in different accessible formats e.g., Braille to encourage participation. Available on request were translations in the following languages and a large print version:
- a. Arabic
  - b. Kurdish
  - c. Pashto
  - d. Romanian
  - e. Polish
  - f. Dari
  - g. Ukrainian
  - h. Bengali
  - i. Farsi
- 4.9. Both the website and Commonplace platform and sign-posting on social media encouraged people to ask questions regarding the consultation (in addition to the questionnaire responses.) Questions and comments were invited via an email address and through social media. All questions and comments received were logged, and where appropriate responses were provided. Additional FAQs were developed against recurring themes and hosted on both the devolution website and the Commonplace platform.
- 4.10. A series of 10 focus groups were held to reach stakeholders identified as “seldom heard” and those with protected characteristics. These focus groups were facilitated by Westco Communications.
- 4.11. Across York and North Yorkshire, a series of public events were held. In North Yorkshire, these public events and the wider devolution consultation were promoted to residents through the wider Let’s Talk consultation campaign. The events were shared on devolution channels and partners were also encouraged to promote them. Conversations in these meetings were noted to inform the consultation, along with insights recorded from targeted engagement events with partners and their audiences.
- 4.12. Considerations were made for how to engage the ‘silent majority’. A regionwide local media and radio broadcast campaign signposted towards the consultation. Devolution branded social media channels were launched to promote the consultation. These platforms shared content from the announcement of the proposed deal in August 2022. The consultation campaign prioritised Facebook, with additional content on Twitter and Linked In. The social media campaign that generated 1.6 million impressions and 10,000 link clicks throughout the consultation period, taking users directly to the survey and a devolution website. The campaign on the Devolution branded platforms was supported and supplemented by aligned campaigns on the CYC and NYCC social platforms

4.13. Information about the devolution consultation was shared via partner newsletters to a range of audiences reaching residents, businesses, and partner organisations. A devolution branded communications pack was developed and shared with partners to encourage their promotion of the consultation across their own social media platforms.

### Consultation Results and Analysis

4.14. The full analysis of the responses, carried out by the Consultation Institute, across the different consultation channels, is included at **Appendix 1**. The summary below of the responses is intended only to highlight some of the key themes, and full consideration should be given to the full analysis to provide the context of the comments received.

4.15. Across all questions asked and all key themes within the consultation, there is overall support for the proposals set out in the Scheme, with the positive responses outweighing the negative.

4.16. The consultation provided the following engagement:

- a. 564 people through offline activities, including engagement sessions.
- b. 20 emails via the dedicated enquiries mailbox
- c. 1971 online survey responses
- d. 83 residents and landowners across 10 Focus Groups
- e. 23 letters received.

4.17. This response rate appears high in comparison to devolution consultation held elsewhere in the country.

### Overall Governance

4.19. The question asked:

“Do you support or oppose our proposals for the governance arrangements in the scheme, including an elected Mayor and a Mayoral Combined Authority, to unlock the benefits of the devolution deal?”

4.20. The online survey produced the following results:

Response	Number	%
Oppose / Strongly Oppose	621	32%
Neither support nor oppose	238	12%
Support / Strongly Support	1,073	54%
Don't Know	39	2%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,971</b>	<b>100%</b>

4.21. For those who Supported or Strongly Supported (54%), reasons included:

- a. Increased democratic accountability
- b. The ability to magnify the voice of York and North Yorkshire
- c. The power of the Mayoral role, although some concerned by the role
- d. Increased accountability through local knowledge
- e. The additional funding available through the Deal
- f. Previous experience of the benefits of this model.

- 4.22. Some supporters had concerns about unintended additional bureaucracy.
- 4.23. For those who Opposed or Strongly Opposed (32%), reasons included:
- a. Concerns about increased bureaucracy
  - b. A lack of democratic accountability
  - c. Concern over the power concentrated in the Mayoral role.
  - d. Potential for decrease in local accountability.
  - e. That York and North Yorkshire is too large and diverse an area
  - f. That the proposals don't go far enough
  - g. Concern around additional private sector influence
  - h. Concern that political tensions or alignment will influence priorities.
- 4.24. For those unsure (Neither support nor oppose or Don't Know) (14%), reasons included:
- a. Lack of information provided or not well enough defined
  - b. Increased levels of bureaucracy
  - c. Concerns over the Mayoral role
  - d. Democratic accountability
  - e. Decrease in local accountability
  - f. Proposals don't go far enough.
- 4.25. From stakeholders, the comments largely mirrored those of the online response, with letters giving broad support for strong local leadership through this model. There was a desire to retain the strengths of the PFCC model in its reach into operational services. There was some concern as to the scale of the MCA and a desire for representation to be proportionate to population. However, others welcomed the equal representation and the need for consensus. The challenges of dealing with such diversity across the sub-region were also raised.
- 4.26. From offline engagement (which includes focus groups, stakeholder letters, events, comments and enquiries), there was a desire for an inclusive and equitable MCA, with economic development and investment opportunities spread evenly across the area. There was optimism that the role of the Mayor could speak up for the region, although concerns were expressed that there was too much power vested in one person.
- 4.27. In conclusion, there is overall support for the MCA model proposed within the scheme. Concerns about increased bureaucracy are mitigated by the LGR process in North Yorkshire, and the fact that the functions are already largely being delivered by other government agencies. The MCA therefore provides administrative functions at a more local level, rather than increasing the scope of those functions.
- 4.28. Whilst power is clearly concentrated in the Mayoral role, the Scheme sets parameters for the discharge of powers which, ultimately, requires a level of consensus for most decisions to be made.

### **Funding and Finance Functions**

- 4.29. The question asked:

“Do you support or oppose the proposal for a York and North Yorkshire Mayor and Mayoral Combined Authority to have these finance functions?”



4.30. The online survey produced the following results:

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Oppose / Strongly Oppose	576	36%
Neither support nor oppose	219	14%
Support / Strongly Support	770	49%
Don't Know	22	1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>100%</b>

4.31. For those who Supported or Strongly Supported (49%), reasons included:

- a. Enhanced local accountability
- b. Access to additional funding
- c. Reduced political tensions
- d. Potential for equitable distribution of funds
- e. Provide a local voice on the national stage
- f. Potential for more strategic investment
- g. Essential strategic enabler for the Mayor.

4.32. Some supporters had concerns over the lack of detail and potential for increased bureaucracy.

4.33. For those who Opposed or Strongly Opposed (36%), reasons included:

- a. Concern over value for money
- b. Concern over Mayoral role
- c. Potential for a decrease in local accountability
- d. Potential for increased bureaucracy
- e. Potential for inequitable distribution of funds
- f. Concern that the area is too diverse for consistent approaches to precepts/levies.
- g. Funding is not enough
- h. Not convinced devolution is needed.

4.44. For those unsure (Neither support nor oppose or Don't Know) (15%), reasons included:

- a. Concerned about tax increases
- b. Funding is not enough
- c. Lack of information to make a decision
- d. Potential for increased bureaucracy
- e. Concerns over democratic accountability
- f. Concerns over the Mayoral role

4.45. From stakeholders, there was a view that the organisations should be kept slim and overheads kept to minimum. The additional investment potential was welcomed, although some considered that it was not enough.

4.46. From offline engagement, there was support for increased investment, but concern about additional overheads and bureaucracy. The opportunity for longer term planning was noted, but with a desire that local issues are addressed and that the funding should be as flexible as possible.

4.47. In conclusion, there is a widespread desire for the MCA to keep overheads to a minimum and reduce any additional bureaucratic burden. In terms of the powers for additional precepts on Council tax, it is worth noting that most MCAs have this power but do not



currently do this. Only Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Mayor of London raised a precept in 2022/23, which Liverpool City Region Combined Authority froze the precept. Whilst the funding on offer may be considered to be too small, the Deal represented a negotiation within the latter stages of a Spending Review period, and other Mayoral areas have benefitted from additional Government funding in subsequent years. In this sense, the Deal is only the day one offer, with the Mayoral model appearing to be the most effective set of arrangements for maximising the potential for future investment.

## Net Zero, Climate Change and Natural Capital

4.48. The question asked:

“Do you support or oppose the proposal for a York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to work with Government on Net Zero, Climate Change and Natural Capital?”

4.49. The online survey produced the following results:

Response	Number	%
Oppose / Strongly Oppose	354	23%
Neither support nor oppose	205	13%
Support / Strongly Support	980	63%
Don't Know	14	1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,553</b>	<b>100%</b>

4.50. For those who Supported or Strongly Supported (63%), reasons included:

- a. Climate action is a high priority
- b. Mayor has crucial role
- c. Investment in renewable energy and green engineering in YNY
- d. Improved quality of life.

4.51. For those who Opposed or Strongly Opposed (23%), reasons included:

- a. Concerns over the Mayoral role
- b. Proposed funding being too small
- c. Proposals don't go far enough
- d. Social inequity of net zero actions
- e. Disagree with principles of net zero

4.52. For those unsure (Neither support nor oppose or Don't Know) (14%), reasons included:

- a. Lack of information to make a decision
- b. Lack of faith in national commitment to this agenda
- c. Should be a national, not regional issue
- d. Diversity of need across the area

4.53. From stakeholders, there was significant support for the proposals. The opportunity to work with government was welcomed, although some organisations felt the proposals didn't go far enough or the funding was too little.

4.54. From offline engagement, there was broad agreement to include this area, but concerns about whether it could be achieved with the resources on offer.

4.55. In conclusion, there was a very positive response to this proposal, with concerns around the scale, funding and potential for equitable distribution of activities. The Deal itself outlines a commitment for Government to work with the MCA on these areas, giving the potential for greater impact (through funding or policy) in the future. Conversely, without progressing the deal, there would be no new funding and no commitment for more collaborative working from Government.

## Transport

4.56. The question asked:  
 “Do you support or oppose the proposal that a York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and Mayor takes on these Transport functions?”

4.57. The online survey produced the following results:

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Oppose / Strongly Oppose	364	24%
Neither support nor oppose	219	14%
Support / Strongly Support	942	61%
Don't Know	13	1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,538</b>	<b>100%</b>

4.58. For those who Supported or Strongly Supported (61%), reasons included:

- a. Need for change in the current transport system
- b. Essential in achieving net zero goals
- c. A local focus is required
- d. Specific road improvements are required
- e. Potential for partnership working
- f. Potential for reorganisation of bus network
- g. Potential for bus and rail integration
- h. Experience from elsewhere
- i. Geography makes strategic planning essential
- j. Potential for active travel to be prioritised
- k. Support effective economic links.

4.59. For those who Opposed or Strongly Opposed (24%), reasons included:

- a. Bus franchising doesn't work
- b. Too big an area to reflect diversity
- c. Don't agree with Mayoral model
- d. Funding not enough to address challenges
- e. Potential decrease in local accountability

4.60. For those unsure (Neither support nor oppose or Don't Know) (15%), reasons included:

- a. Too big an area to reflect diversity
- b. Lack of information to inform decision
- c. Concerns over Mayoral role
- d. Insufficient funding to deliver the proposal

4.61. From stakeholders, the potential for strategic transport planning at a YNY level was broadly welcomed. The need to reflect climate action in planning was referenced, alongside the need to better connect rural communities. The introduction of a Key Route Network was

welcomed by one respondent, whilst also suggesting that Enhanced Bus Partnership working was preferable to the use of the bus franchising powers.

- 4.62. From offline engagement, there was a clear recognition that transport improvements are needed to advance education and employment opportunity. Public transport in rural areas was seen as key to this.
- 4.63. In conclusion, there was strong support for Transport being included as proposed. It is recognised that the MCA needs to operate in a way which balances local and strategic need. This needs to reflect the diversity of transport needs across the sub-region. Similar to previous questions, the perceived lack of funding is mitigated by the opportunity presented to make the case for additional funding in future spending rounds.

## Housing and Regeneration

4.64. The question asked:

“Do you support or oppose the proposal that a York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and Mayor takes on these housing and regeneration functions?”

4.65. The online survey produced the following results:

Response	Number	%
Oppose / Strongly Oppose	406	27%
Neither support nor oppose	248	16%
Support / Strongly Support	850	56%
Don't Know	20	1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,524</b>	<b>100%</b>

4.66. For those who Supported or Strongly Supported (56%), reasons included:

- a. Welcomed brownfield development as opposed to greenbelt sites
- b. Hoped for improved social housing conditions
- c. Need for energy efficient homes
- d. Need for affordable and adequate housing in rural areas
- e. Potential to regulate the second/holiday home market
- f. Ensure housing built with adequate local facilities
- g. Use local experience
- h. Refresh the approach to housing and regeneration

4.67. For those who Opposed or Strongly Opposed (27%), reasons included:

- a. Don't see need for Mayor in these functions
- b. Concern over democratic accountability
- c. Concerns over environmental and infrastructure damage
- d. Loss of greenbelt land
- e. Failure to prioritise climate change mitigation
- f. Need to increase local involvement in planning
- g. Concerns over Mayoral role
- h. Not enough funding
- i. Concerns over increased bureaucracy
- j. Decrease in local accountability
- k. Lack of information to inform decision

4.68. For those unsure (Neither support nor oppose or Don't Know) (17%), reasons included:

- a. Lack of information to enable decision making
- b. Potential for decrease in local accountability
- c. Doubts over ability to address second home ownership
- d. Concerns over ability to address affordable housing challenges
- e. Need to concentrate on environmentally friendly homes
- f. Need to increase local involvement in planning

- 4.69. From stakeholders, the priority of low carbon affordable homes was noted by all respondents. There was a strong desire to work in partnership to deliver affordable, efficient homes across all areas of York and North Yorkshire. North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority appreciated the requirement for their statutory planning and place making powers, in particular the need for consent to Mayoral Development Areas within their boundaries. They asked that the clear wording within one part of the Scheme be duplicated in another section for clarity on this point.
- 4.70. From offline engagement, affordable housing was highlighted as a priority, recognising that this enabled local people to stay in the area. There was consensus that development must be accompanied by additional infrastructure and facilities.
- 4.71. In conclusion, there is support for these powers to be transferred to the MCA and Mayor. Many of the concerns raised relate to the way in which the powers might be used or the impacts that might have. As Local Plans will be retained at a local authority level, land use concerns are largely not related to the specific powers discussed. Local consent would be required for Mayoral Development Areas within each council or National Park Authority area.
- 4.72. The suggestion of North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority to align wording in different parts of the Scheme to ensure clarity on the need for local consent is recommended.
- 4.73. Local authorities will retain existing planning functions, so it is expected that there will be the same approach to local input and accountability for most planning decisions.

### Skills and Employment

- 4.74. The question asked:

“Do you support or oppose the proposal to move these skills and employment functions to a York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority?”

- 4.75. The online survey produced the following results:

Response	Number	%
Oppose / Strongly Oppose	336	22%
Neither support nor oppose	253	17%
Support / Strongly Support	919	60%
Don't Know	23	2%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,531</b>	<b>100%</b>

- 4.76. For those who Supported or Strongly Supported (60%), reasons included:

- a. Education is viewed as central to the region's economic performance and individual employability
- b. A focus on the green economy

- c. Adult education tailored to local need
- d. Opportunity to foster skills of young people
- e. Potential for vocational route to employment
- f. Importance of local knowledge
- g. Benefit seen elsewhere
- h. Provides a structured and strategic response to skills and employment needs.
- i. Needs to be equitably applied across the area.

4.77. For those who Opposed or Strongly Opposed (22%), reasons included:

- a. Opposition to the Mayoral model
- b. Potential for increased bureaucracy
- c. The scale of the problem needs a national solution
- d. Lack of information to make a decision
- e. Best handled at a local authority level
- f. Too big to address the diversity of the area
- g. Concerns over the Mayoral role.

4.78. For those unsure (Neither support nor oppose or Don't Know) (19%), reasons included:

- a. Lack of information to make a decision
- b. Too big to address the diversity of the area
- c. Potential for increased bureaucracy
- d. Need for local input to planning.

4.79. From stakeholders, there was broad support for the proposals, highlighting the benefits of skills provision aligned to local need. There was a consistent view that green skills should be prioritised and that there should be opportunities spread evenly across the region.

4.80. From offline engagement, similar comments were made.

4.81. In conclusion, there was broad support for the proposals, particularly to support the alignment of the skills agenda within local need. Specific concerns related to the ability of the MCA to reflect and respond to the diverse needs across the large geography. However, in this case, the Adult Education Budget is currently administered by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, which is a national body. The MCA is, therefore, closer to whole of York and North Yorkshire. Consideration should be given to how the discharge of these functions can take into account more local variation in need.

### **Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Functions**

4.82. The question asked:

“Do you support or oppose the proposal to move Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner functions to a York and North Yorkshire Mayor?”

4.83. From the online survey produced the following results:

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Oppose / Strongly Oppose	447	29%
Neither support nor oppose	243	16%
Support / Strongly Support	826	54%
Don't Know	18	1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,534</b>	<b>100%</b>

4.84. For those who Supported or Strongly Supported (54%), reasons included:

- a. Provides a holistic overview of services
- b. Will ensure a broad alignment with other strategic action
- c. It improves on the existing model
- d. Allows rationalisation and reduced costs
- e. Enhances local accountability

4.85. For those who Opposed or Strongly Opposed (29%), reasons included:

- a. Opposition to the Mayoral Model
- b. Potential for increased bureaucracy
- c. Current arrangements are working
- d. Loss of democratic accountability
- e. Concern over Mayoral role
- f. Too big to address the diversity of the area
- g. Doesn't go far enough in delivering devolution
- h. Lack of information to make a decision
- i. Concerns over politicising the role.

4.86. For those unsure (Neither support nor oppose or Don't Know) (17%), reasons included:

- a. Concerns over funding
- b. Not seeing significant difference from existing model
- c. Lack of information to make a decision.

4.87. From stakeholders, there were relatively few responses to this question, but support from those that did. The North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner fully supported the proposals, on the basis of continuity of existing arrangements, retaining existing governance, structures and collaborations.

4.88. From offline engagement, there was a desire for greater visibility of the work on Police, Fire and Crime. Some comments questioned who the Mayor would be accountable to and how they would have the expertise in such a specialist area.

4.89. In conclusion, there was support for the proposals. The Mayor would replace another elected position in terms of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, and would be supported by an appointed Deputy Mayor. This appears to strike a balance between democratic accountability and specialisms. It is clear that there is a need for continuity of the governance and structural arrangements in place, which is allowed for in the scheme.

## **General Comments**

4.90. A wide range of views were expressed across all areas of the consultation. There were, however, some recurring concerns which were expressed in each section above. The most frequent were:

- a. Lack of information to make a decision – the consultation specifically related to the Scheme, as is required by the statutory process. Inevitably, it is not possible to provide all the detail of the workings of an MCA which requires nine further months of development to become operational. Similarly, it is not possible to predict the decisions taken by the future MCA to give an indication of distribution of resources. For that reason, the consultation asked about the governance principles rather than the specific future outcomes of the Deal.

- b. Loss of democratic accountability – There was a concern about concentrating power within the Mayoral role and whether this reduced democratic accountability. The functions of the MCA are currently administered across a range of accountable bodies, which are not necessarily locally democratically accountable. The Mayor will be locally elected, as will the other voting members of the MCA. For this reason, in relations to the functions to be transferred, there is no significant loss of local accountability.
- c. Too big to address the diversity of the area – there was some concern about the scale of the MCA and its ability to represent all areas. The emphasis of the scheme, including voting arrangements seeks to prioritise collaborative working for the whole of York and North Yorkshire, rather than focussing on separate areas. This means all members will work on behalf of the whole area. The principles of the levelling up agenda, under which the Deal was agreed, support the notion of equality of access and opportunity.
- d. Potential for increased/additional layer of bureaucracy – Whilst the MCA would constitute a new organisation, its functions are limited to very specific areas, which include a number of powers that are currently generally administered from Whitehall. The concern to ensure there is no additional financial burden on the area is understood and the structural design of the MCA will have to take into account the ongoing funding available. The Local Government Reorganisation process has already removed a tier of government in North Yorkshire. Whilst some decisions would be considered at the MCA level, a number of decisions that currently are made at Whitehall would be made more locally at a regional basis through the MCA. For this reason, it is considered that the risk of additional bureaucracy is minimal and is worth the reward of additional funding/powers.

## Overall Consultation Conclusions

- 4.91. The consultation represents a broad and thorough gathering of views in respect of the proposed governance arrangements. The quality assurance given to date by the Consultation Institute provides confidence that the results are reflective of public opinion.
- 4.92. Overall, in each aspect of the deal, the sentiment was more positive than negative. This suggests that, in broad terms, the proposed Scheme reflects a set of arrangements which are acceptable to the majority of interested residents and stakeholders.
- 4.93. However, to optimise the governance arrangements, proposals might be adjusted in some specific ways to take on board the comments received, and address concerns expressed. It is recommended that the following amendment is made to the scheme, as a result of the consideration of consultation responses:
  - a. That the Scheme be updated to harmonise the wording of the multiple references to the need for consent of the National Parks Authorities for a Mayoral Development Area within their boundaries.
- 4.94. Additionally, the following more general points were picked up which should be considered in the design of the Combined Authority, or recommended to the Combined Authority once established:
  - a. Ensuring that meetings are accessible, digitally and physically to allow engagement from across the whole sub-region.
  - b. Consideration of how local knowledge can be utilised by the MCA to ensure that proposals reflect and address local need in an equitable way.



- c. Similarly, consideration should be given to the ways in which the MCA can balance local and broader need, in areas such as transport and regeneration.
- d. Given the view that funding is not sufficient to address all challenges, the design of the MCA should seek to support the development of strong cases for additional investment in the sub-region.

## 5.0 Options

- 5.1. There are three options in terms of the response to the consultation, as follows:
  - a. Option 1 – Submit the consultation summary and Scheme to Government without amendment.
  - b. Option 2 – Decide not to submit the consultation summary and scheme to Government.
  - c. Option 3 - Amend the Scheme based on the information received and submit it to Government alongside the consultation summary.

### Analysis

- 5.2. Option 1 – This option would be appropriate if it is considered that the consultation has not shown any amendments to be necessary to the Scheme and there is confidence that the governance arrangements described by the Scheme are appropriate to support the effective discharge of public functions.
- 5.3. Whilst no issues raised by the consultation suggest that the process should not proceed, the suggestions raised in **paragraph 4.93** above are helpful in improving the model of Governance proposed. It is, therefore, not recommended that they be excluded from the Scheme to be submitted.
- 5.4. Option 2 – It would be appropriate to decide not to submit the Scheme and Consultation Summary if it was felt that the consultation process has not been robust or that issues raised cannot be addressed satisfactorily at this point. The implications of that would be that the process would halt. The Deal would not be completed, the Combined Authority could not be created, and no powers or funding would be conferred.
- 5.5. The quality assurance provided by the Consultation Institute to date suggests that the consultation process has been robust.
- 5.6. There are no issues raised which appear to be of a severity to suggest that they cannot be addressed or that the process should not proceed. The option not to submit is, therefore, not recommended.
- 5.7. Option 3 – It would be appropriate to amend the Scheme if information received has identified changes that are likely to improve the Governance arrangements. The Scheme could only be amended within parameters of the proposed Devolution Deal.
- 5.8. The possible amendment outlined in **paragraph 4.93** above is a simple change for clarity, within the existing scope of the Devolution Deal. It does not impact on the agreed parameters and ambition within the Deal so, whilst it must be acceptable to Government, it is unlikely to require renegotiation of any element previously agreed.
- 5.9. To capitalise on the information gained from the consultation, and the ambitions of both City of York Council and North Yorkshire County Council, this option is recommended.



## 6.0 Joint Committee

- 6.1. City of York Council and North Yorkshire County Council's Executive approved the creation of a Joint Devolution Committee in order to allow decisions to be taken jointly and transparently in respect of the creation of a new Combined Authority.
- 6.2. Membership of the committee includes two members from each council, with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and Chair of the LEP attending as non-voting members. Both City of York Council's and North Yorkshire County Council's Executives agreed their members as follows:
  - a. City of York Council – Cllr. Keith Aspden and Cllr. Paula Widdowson
  - b. North Yorkshire County Council – Cllr. Carl Les and Cllr. Gareth Dadd
- 6.3. This was notified to each Monitoring Officer and this information uploaded to the website for the meeting, hosted by North Yorkshire County Council.
- 6.4. The first meeting of the Joint Committee was held on 30 November 2022. At the meeting, it was agreed to amend the Terms of Reference in relation to two aspects as follows:
  - a. It was agreed that instead of electing a Chair and Vice Chair, Cllr Aspden and Cllr Les would be joint chairs, alternating between meetings.
  - b. It was agreed that the Committee's remit should be widened to include non-Executive members to act as substitutes and therefore to amend the Committee from being a purely joint executive committee to a committee that can exercise council and executive functions.
- 6.5. The Terms of Reference have been updated to reflect these changes, attached as **Appendix 2**. Executive and Council is recommended to approve the revised Terms of Reference.

## 7.0 Broader Devolution Workstreams

- 7.1. As part of the Devolution Deal, funding was identified across several areas which required proposals to be developed prior to the establishment of the proposed Mayoral Combined Authority.
- 7.2. £2.65m for Affordable Low Carbon Housing in 2022/23 was included in the Deal. Businesses cases from York, Scarborough and Craven were submitted before Christmas. York's business case has been approved with Scarborough's and Craven's expected shortly.
- 7.3. Funding programmes for Brownfield and Net Zero were open for expressions of interest between New Year and 6 February. These will be shortlisted for agreement at the Joint Committee on 13 March, after which Full Business Cases will be required. It is anticipated that successful projects will be identified in August 2023, with funding awarded at the point the MCA is established.
- 7.4. The business case for additional support for York Central was also submitted before Christmas. All information requests from Government have been satisfied and officers are awaiting confirmation of the approval timeline.
- 7.5. Within the devolution deal it stated York and North Yorkshire is seeking to become a trailblazer in natural capital investment, which will be core to delivering economically whilst also realising its ambition to become England's first carbon negative region. Government,

which is committed to increasing private investment in nature's recovery across England, will support York and North Yorkshire in the development of a Natural Capital Investment Plan. In late December 2022, York and North Yorkshire were invited to submit a proposal to DEFRA to progress this investment plan and explore investment models. This was submitted in early Feb 23.

## **8.0 Next Steps**

- 8.1. If Executive and Full Council of both North Yorkshire County Council and City of York Council approve the submission of the Scheme and Consultation Summary, the Chief Executive will oversee any necessary amendments to the documents requested. Both reports will then be submitted to Government as soon as is practicable. This will be communicated to residents and stakeholders, including a "You said, We did" summary to explain how the feedback has been used.
- 8.2. Following this, the Secretary of State will need to decide whether to make the Order and as part of this process must consider whether the Order is likely to improve the exercise of the statutory functions in York and North Yorkshire. The Secretary of State must also have regard to the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities, and secure effective and convenient local government. Subject to the Secretary of State being so satisfied, details of the Scheme will then be embodied in the draft statutory Order to establish a Mayoral Combined Authority.
- 8.3. At this point the formal consent to the making of the Order will be required from each of the Constituent Councils. It is likely that these consents will be sought in July 2023 to allow the Order to be laid prior to the summer recess. This is necessary to enable a mayoral election to take place in May 2024 and further to enable the first gainshare payment to be received during this financial year.
- 8.4. Given the required timescales, delegated authority is requested to allow the Chief Executive to take necessary actions to provide consent to the Order on the basis that it is in line with the agreed Scheme.
- 8.5. A part of the parliamentary process, and potentially in parallel with the request for consent set out in **paragraph 8.3** above, the draft Order will also be considered by Parliament's Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments (JCSI). Their role is to focus on the technical quality of the draft Order as opposed to the policy content and amendments at this point would be those required to ensure that the Order is well drafted.

## **9.0 Council Plan**

- 9.1. The proposals within this report relate to significant changes which would have major impacts on governance and levels of investment across York and North Yorkshire. There is significant potential for additional investment and more local decision making in areas which support all strands of the Council Plan.

## **10.0 Financial Implications**

- 10.1 Subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, the implications of the recommendations are that the funding agreed within the Devolution Deal would be received by the Combined Authority.
- 10.2. The previous Executive Report (linked in Background Papers) outlined the financial elements of the deal, in addition to the arrangements for the cash flow of transitional costs prior to Mayoral and the risk share if the Devolution Deal did not proceed.

## **11.0 Legal Implications**

- 11.1 Section 110 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act) provides that the Secretary of State may make an order establishing a combined authority only if: (a) He considers that to do so is likely to improve the exercise of statutory functions in the area or areas to which the order relates; (b) The constituent councils (which at the time of making the order will be North Yorkshire Council and the City of York Council) consent; and (c) Consultation has been carried out, either by the Secretary of State or the constituent councils.
- 11.2. Section 110 also provides that the Secretary of State, in making the order, must have regard to the need:
- (a) To reflect the identities and interests of local communities
  - (b) To secure effective and convenient local government.
- 11.3. This report seeks approval to submit a summary of the consultation responses to the Secretary of State, to demonstrate the consultation required by section 110 of the 2009 Act, has been undertaken. It will then be a matter for the Secretary of State to consider whether further consultation is necessary or whether to proceed with making of the order subject to the consent of the constituent Councils. In light of the timescales required to ensure that the creation of the Combined Authority proceeds in a timely manner to allow the region to obtain maximum benefit from the proposed Deal, it is intended that the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Leader of the Council) is provided with the requisite delegation to allow decision making in relation to the Order in line with the proposed Scheme.
- 11.4. Section 107A to 107K of the 2009 Act provides that the Secretary of State may make an order to provide that there will be a directly elected Mayor for the area of the combined authority where the constituent councils submit a request for the creation of a Mayor under the Scheme. Further it provides that the Mayor will be a member of, and chair, the combined authority.
- 11.5. Those provisions, together with Schedule 5C, also provide that the Secretary of State must, by order, make provision authorising any future Mayor to appoint a Deputy Mayor in respect of policing, fire and crime.
- 11.6. It is also worth noting that Government is currently considering the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which, if enacted, would make some changes to the creation of combined authorities. Those changes will be kept under review as the Bill passes through the House of Lords. The Bill looks at making it easier for areas to invoke the relevant governance arrangements necessary for devolution deals. At the time of drafting the report, the bill suggests a new statutory test to create a combined authority, which is that “the Secretary of State considers that to do so is likely to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of some or all of the people who live or work in the area”. At the time of writing, the Bill is at the Lords committee stage and has not passed into statute. For this reason, the current legislation sets the requirements for the submission of the consultation summary and scheme.

## **12.0 Risk Management Implications**

- 12.1 As a significant governance change, there are a range of risks associated with the proposal. In general, this relates to operational risks of setting up a new organisation and ensuring the detailed governance arrangements facilitate effective working. This risk is being mitigated by close joint working between NYCC, CYC, OPFCC and the LEP and the definition of the Scheme setting out the principles of strong governance.

12.2. There is a risk that if the Deal does not proceed, the funding and powers identified within it would not be received by the sub-region.

### **13.0 Human Resources Implications**

13.1 Subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, the implications of the recommendations are that a new organisation, the MCA, would be created. This would involve the transfer of staff from YNYLEP, OFPCC and potential both councils. The development of a possible staffing structure is currently being considered as part of the considerations of the potential to create a combined authority should the Councils agree to submit the consultation responses and the Scheme and government agree to create a MCA.

13.2. For roles which would not be filled through staff transfer, recruitment would be undertaken to provide the required skills and capacity within the MCA, including within the statutory roles.

13.3. It is intended that the transfer of staff would take place at the inception of the MCA, apart from OPFCC staff who would transfer after the election of a Mayor in May 2024, when the MCA would receive PFCC powers.

### **14.0 Equalities Implications**

14.1 As outlined above in **paragraphs 4.1 to 4.13** the consultation was designed to be as inclusive as possible, to capture the views of people representing all protected characteristics. The results of the consultation have been analysed and any possible impacts related to a particular group have been sought. It had been hoped that comments received from the online questionnaire could be filtered to allow the identification of feedback from people with specific Protected Characteristics. However, due to constraints of GDPR and concerns about the identifiability of individuals, it was not possible to isolate these responses. All responses received are therefore contained within the overall analysis. A full EIA is attached at **Appendix 3**. At this stage, no specific detrimental impacts have been identified. There is a strong possibility that greater local decision making, and investment could have positive impacts for people with protected characteristics, although this will be determined by the decisions taken by the Combined Authority in the future. It has been recognised that York and North Yorkshire is a large spatial area, and it will be important to ensure that meetings are accessible, both physically and digitally, to ensure people are able to participate. Whilst not reflecting a specific detrimental impact, this is seen as supporting best practice to ensure inclusion.

### **15.0 Reasons For Recommendations**

15.1 On the basis of the results of the consultation it is recommended that Executive approve the submission of the Consultation Summary Report to government and approve the amendments to the Scheme to inform the Secretary of State of the consultation outcome, allowing him to consider the next stages of the statutory process facilitating the creation of a York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority. It is also recommended that the delegations be given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to allow the timely progression of the devolution deal for York and North Yorkshire.

### **16.0 Recommendations**

16.1 The Executive is asked to:

- i. Approve the submission of a Consultation Summary Report to Government.

- ii. Approve amendments to the Scheme and proposals for the operating model of the Combined Authority outlined in **paragraphs 4.69 to 4.72**, for submission to Government.
- iii. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to undertake any action necessary to submit the Consultation Summary Report and Scheme to Government, in line with **recommendations (i) and (ii)**.
- iv. Approve amendments to the Terms of Reference for the York and North Yorkshire Joint Devolution Committee outlined in **paragraphs 6.1 to 6.5** and attached at **Appendix 2**
- v. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to undertake any action necessary to provide consent to the Order facilitating the creation of the Combined Authority in line with the scheme submitted to Government, as outlined in **paragraphs 8.1 to 8.5**
- vi. Refer the decisions made by Executive in the recommendations above to Full Council for endorsement to ensure the views of all Members of the Council are taken into account on this matter.

Barry Khan  
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall  
Northallerton

6 February 2023

Report Author – Barry Khan

**Background Documents:**

Executive Report – 6 September – Agree the Devolution Deal and commence consultation  
[Agenda for Executive on Tuesday, 6th September, 2022, 11.00 am | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

**Annexes:**

Appendix 1 – Consultation Summary Report  
Appendix 2 – York and North Yorkshire Joint Devolution Committee Terms of Reference  
Appendix 3 – Equalities Impact Assessment  
Appendix 4 – Climate Change Impact Assessment

**List of Abbreviations Used in this Report:**

CYC – City of York Council  
DEFRA – Department of the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs  
EIA – Equalities Impact Assessment  
FAQs – Frequently Asked Questions  
GDPR – General Data Protection Regulation  
MCA – Mayoral Combined Authority  
NYCC – North Yorkshire County Council  
OPFCC – Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner  
PFCC – Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

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# A proposed devolution deal for York and North Yorkshire

## Consultation Outputs Report

30 January 2023



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# 1 Introduction

This document sets out the outputs from a consultation on a proposed devolution deal for York and North Yorkshire.

## 1.1 Background

On 1 August 2022 the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced that the Government was “minded to” enter into a Devolution Deal with York and North Yorkshire. Under the proposed deal, the region will gain local control of at least £750M of funding to spend on the things that matter to the people of York and North Yorkshire. This will include £540 million of new Government investment to spend on local priorities to produce growth, together with a range of devolved powers.

The proposed deal means that people who know and understand our area will take decisions across key areas, such as, the economy, housing and regeneration, skills and transport in York and North Yorkshire. This will bring greater benefits for our city, rural and coastal communities, improvements to people’s quality of life and help to drive green economic growth for a carbon negative future.

This devolution deal is dependent upon the York and North Yorkshire Authorities (by which is meant City of York Council and the new council for North Yorkshire) establishing a Combined Authority for the area with an elected Mayor.

The proposed deal states that in order for devolution to occur several things must take place. Firstly, all of the Authorities must agree to the deal (in this case the Authorities are City of York and the new North Yorkshire Council). These councils must then carry out a public consultation which will inform their councils’ decision whether or not to submit a scheme for devolution and the consultation outcome to the Secretary of State. This in turn will inform a decision by the Secretary of State to progress devolution and set out a parliamentary order to approve the deal. When referring to the (devolution) deal, this refers to the formal process and statutory requirements, the wording in the deal document states this as

**“Subject to ratification of the deal by all partners and the statutory requirements including, public consultation, the consents of councils affected, and parliamentary approval of the secondary legislation implementing the provisions of this deal” .**

In summer 2022 York and North Yorkshire councils carefully considered the ‘minded to’ devolution deal. In addition, a governance review was undertaken to look at the options, which concluded that establishing a Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) model of governance for York and North Yorkshire would have a positive impact on the interests and identities of local communities.

The review also proposed that the Authorities publish a document that sets out proposed role and functions of a Combined Authority. This is called a scheme. The scheme forms the

basis for an order establishing the Combined Authority as an MCA and is a key part of the process required by law to make changes to current local governance arrangements.

The scheme forms the basis of this consultation which was the subject of an eight-week public consultation across York and North Yorkshire between 21st October and 16th December 2022.

## 1.2 Reporting Process (Collated Activity)

This report is presented as the collation of several separate strands of analysis activity related to consultee submissions to the consultation process. These were:

- The receipt, recording and reporting of written submissions by stakeholders by partners in York City Council and North Yorkshire Council.
- The receipt, analysis and summary reporting of feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries supported by a consultation and engagement specialist managed by the York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).
- Independent analysis of the online survey conducted by The Consultation Institute (tCI).
- Independent facilitation and reporting of a number of focus groups by Westco, which were broadly representative of the county structure.

Each of these analyses has been conducted independently and while care has been taken to integrate these into a single report, individual analysis, reporting and presentation is apparent throughout.

## 1.3 Report Structure

Following this brief introductory section the remainder of this report is set out as follows:

- **Section Two:** Provides a narrative description of the methodology employed in this consultation, the approach to analysis and the outline characteristics of respondents .
- **Section Three:** Sets out the responses received related to the proposals for new governance arrangements
- **Section Four:** Sets out the responses received related to the proposals for finance and finance functions
- **Section Five:** Sets out the responses received related to the proposals for net zero. Climate change and natural capital
- **Section Six:** Sets out the responses received related to the proposals new transport powers
- **Section Seven:** Sets out the responses received related to the proposals for housing and regeneration

- **Section Eight:** Sets out the responses received related to the proposals for skills and employment
- **Section Nine:** Sets out the responses received related to the proposals for new police, fire and crime commissioner arrangement
- **Section Ten:** Sets out the responses received related to other issues important to respondents
- **Section Eleven:** Provides a detailed report of the outcomes of the independently facilitated focus groups.
- **Appendix One:** Provides a detailed demographic and equalities breakdown
- **Appendix Two:** Contains the full report of the focus groups independently facilitated by Westco

## 2 Analysis Methodology and Response Sample

This brief section sets out the approach adopted to analysis for each method of responding to the consultation and some information about the respondents .

### 2.1 Analysis and Coding

#### 2.1.1 Online Survey

The online survey allowed respondents to provide closed question response to a range of questions against a rating scale Strongly Oppose to Strongly Support (including don't know) for each of the proposed elements of the devolution deal. They were also asked a follow up open question 'Why do you think this?' to allow a discussion of the reasons for providing that rating.

Closed questions were analysed using standard software and data tables produced, allowing us to provide tabular and graphical presentation of the result.

Open questions were thematically coded and are presented to represent the broad views of respondents. Where we report thematically we provide an indication of the number of people who contributed comments to the theme as numbers in brackets (n).

Our approach to coding identifies common areas of comment from respondents across statements supporting and opposing the proposals set out in the deal. For instance many see the Mayoral Role in both a positive and a negative light, therefore in the report it can be seen that there are incidences where this code appears in support, oppose and unsure. This applies to a number of the themes throughout.

#### 2.1.2 Stakeholder Submissions

Written submissions from organisations were received by partners in York City Council and North Yorkshire Council. These submissions have been summarised and attributed to specific respondents.

#### 2.1.3 Feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries

Feedback in this report was obtained through various methods including:

- Face-to-face and virtual consultation events, stalls at public events; and
- Engagement sessions with selected audiences e.g., secondary schools and youth fora and at local venues.
- Emails and additional comments regarding the consultation received via the dedicated consultation inbox, the Common Place platform and social media accounts.

The reporting of this method adopted a thematic approach to the analysis of the feedback for each question. Themes were mentioned more than twice within same group or same theme mentioned in feedback from two or more different engagement activities. .



## 2.1.4 Focus Groups

Focus group sessions were recorded and thematically analysed, summarising the key points representing the views of participants.

## 2.1.5 Attribution of Responses

The report does not attribute quotes to individuals, to avoid personal identification of respondents.

The exception to this is where stakeholders provide a written organisational response. Responses from organisations were received by letter and also through the online survey. Those received by letter have been analysed separately, whilst those received through the online survey have been included as part of the overall analysis.

## 2.1.6 'Out of Scope' Submissions

Some responses to the consultation relayed misunderstanding of specific elements of the scheme, such as bus franchising, and other responses pertained to the re-organisation of local government rather than the Devolution Consultation. The latter responses were not included in this analysis.

All these types of responses will be considered as part of a 'You said, we did' report that will follow the key decisions relating to the consultation. They will also be considered within associated communications plans to help improve public understanding of the devolution process.

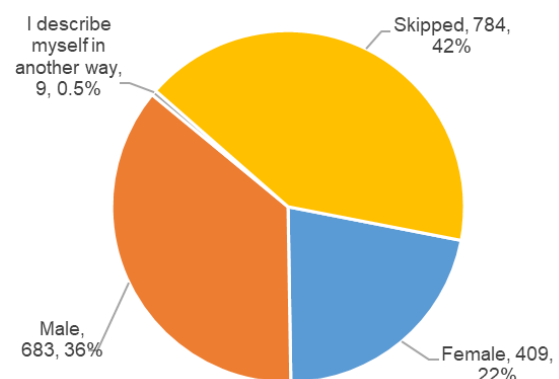
## 2.2 Response Rates

### 2.2.1 Online Survey Response

A total of 1,971 responses were downloaded from the Common Place consultation platform, these are the complete records available and is different to the summary figures reported from the platform which are not validated.

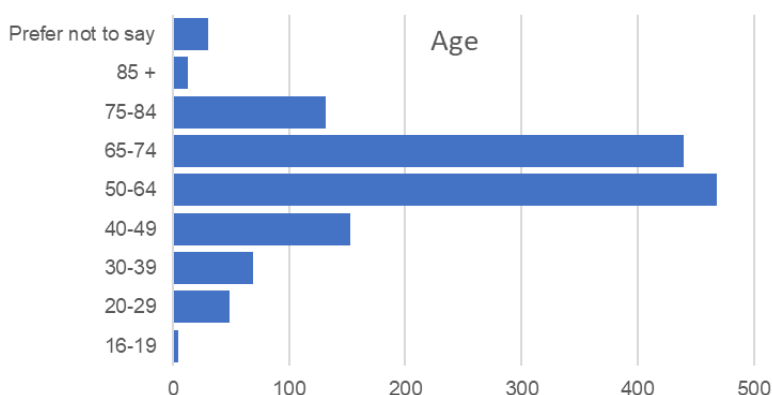
Of those who answered the question 36% were male, 22% female, 0.5% describing themselves in another way.

Sex	No	%
Female	409	21%
Male	683	35%
I describe myself in another way	9	0.5%
Skipped	784	40%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>100%</b>



The majority of respondents (47%) who provided information were aged between 50 and 74.

Age Group	No	%
16-19	5	0.3%
20-29	49	3%
30-39	69	4%
40-49	153	8%
50-64	468	24%
65-74	439	23%
75-84	132	7%
85 +	13	1%
Prefer not to say	31	2%
Skipped	584	30%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>100%</b>



The majority of respondents providing information (92%) responded as an individual or on behalf of an organisation, the remainder (8%) replied as a business.

A detailed breakdown of the declared demographics is included at Appendix One of this Survey.

## 2.2.2 Feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries

Partners engaged 564 people across the region through:

- Face-to-face and virtual consultation events, stalls at public events; and
- Engagement sessions with selected audiences e.g., secondary schools and youth fora and at local venues.
- Emails and additional comments regarding the consultation received via the dedicated consultation inbox, the Common Place platform and social media accounts.

### Comments and emails

All emails, comments and questions were logged, and responses (where appropriate) drawn up in coordination with local authority colleagues. FAQs were hosted on both the devolution website and the Common Place platform.

The team received 20 emails via the dedicated consultation email inbox and the Common Place platform plus 9 comments via social media/ Twitter which have been included in analysis in this report.

## 2.2.3 Focus Group Sample

York and North Yorkshire recruited an independent agency, Westco, to facilitate nine resident focus groups.

These groups were recruited to an agreed profile, which was broadly representative of the geography and population breakdown of York and North Yorkshire. The total number of participants taking part in these qualitative discussion groups was 70. Summary details for each group is below.

Group No.	Date and time	Location	Resident details	No. residents
1	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 6-7:30pm	Online via Zoom	York residents, aged 18-30	10
2	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 6-7:30pm	Broughton Hall, Skipton	Skipton and surrounding area – residents, aged 25-35	4
3	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 6-7:30pm	Ascot House Hotel, Harrogate	Harrogate and surrounding area - residents aged 65+	10
4	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 6-7:30pm	Online via Zoom	York and North Yorkshire residents, aged 18-30	9
5	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 6-7:30pm	Horse and Vale Hotel, Pickering	Pickering and surrounding, area - residents aged 50+	10
6	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 6:30-8pm	York, Tadcaster Holiday Inn	York residents, aged 18+	7
7	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 6-7:30pm	Online via Zoom	North Yorkshire residents, aged 18-30	8
8	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 6-7:30pm	Online via Zoom	North Yorkshire residents, aged 18+	4
9	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 6-7:30pm	Online via Zoom	North Yorkshire residents, aged 18+	8

Alongside the resident groups, one group was also conducted with landowners on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December from 12:30 to 2pm, with 13 participants. These participants were recruited via the Country Land and Business Association (CLA).

# 3 Governance

## 3.1 Background

The proposed Deal requires the York and North Yorkshire Authorities to establish a new Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) that would be led by an elected Mayor which in summary are:

- A Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) would be created, with the first Mayor for York and North Yorkshire elected in May 2024, by registered voters in the City of York and North Yorkshire Council areas.
- Each mayoral term will last for four years.
- The mayoral combined authority will have a total of 5 voting members, comprising:
  - The elected mayor (who must be in the majority for a decision to pass.)
  - Four elected members, consisting of a Lead Member for each constituent council and one further member appointed by each of the two constituent councils.
- In addition, there will be:
  - One member appointed by the York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The LEP Board will become the Business Committee of the combined authority. This member will be non-voting unless the combined authority resolves to give them a vote on any issues.
- Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner functions will be passed to the mayor who will be able to appoint a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and delegate some functions to that person.
- The Mayor will also have functions relating to transport, housing and regeneration, and finance.
- The Mayoral Combined Authority will have responsibility for transport-related functions, adult education and skills functions, housing and regeneration functions, economic development, and finance functions in addition to those exercised by the Mayor.
- The Mayoral Combined Authority will be required to make arrangements for the overview and scrutiny of mayoral and non- mayoral functions, as well as retaining statutory arrangements in relation to audit. The Mayor's Police and Crime Commissioner functions will be scrutinised by a Police and Crime Panel.

The existing role of Lord Mayor of York is completely different from a new elected Mayor and will continue as it does currently.

The vast majority of existing services delivered by the councils, including children’s and adults’ services, corporate services, communities, planning, highways and street-based services will continue to be delivered in the same way as currently.

Set out below are the responses related to the Governance proposals detailed in summary above received by:

- Submission to the online survey.
- Stakeholder submissions (by letter.)
- Feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries.

Please note that discussions of proposed Governance under the devolution deal that took place in the independently facilitated focus groups are detailed in Section 11 of this report.

## 3.2 Online Survey Responses

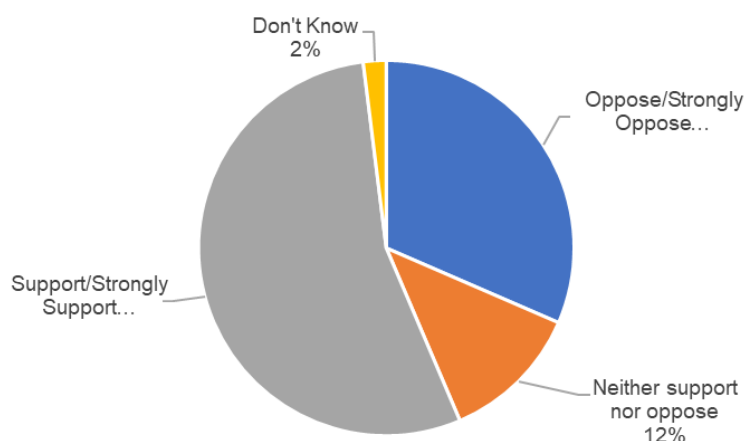
### 3.2.1 Support or Oppose

When asked:

*Do you support or oppose our proposals for the governance arrangements in the scheme, including an elected Mayor and a Mayoral Combined Authority, to unlock the benefits of the devolution deal?*

- The majority (54%) supported or strongly supported the proposal.
- Around one third (32%) opposed or strongly opposed the proposal.
- Just over a tenth (12%) were neither in support nor opposition.
- The remainder didn’t know.

Response	No.	%
Support/Strongly Support	1,073	54%
Oppose/Strongly Oppose	621	32%
Neither support nor oppose	238	12%
Don't Know	39	2%
<b>Grand Total*</b>	<b>1,971</b>	<b>100%</b>



\*Please note this total reflects the number of respondents providing a rating response, additional respondents provided comments without providing a rating.

Respondents were asked to provide a reason for their ranking, and when grouped thematically there can be seen to be commonality between the reasons for support, opposition or otherwise as shown below.

### 3.2.2 Reasons for support

Of the 583 people who provided comments that supported the proposed governance arrangements, which was approximately half of the total in this category, the reasons provided were as follows.

There was a strong expression of support, with respondents in favour but concerned over **increased bureaucracy (58)**.

- *I'm cautious because I fear an increase in unintended bureaucracy, but the general proposals appear to be sound.*

However, balanced against this was a view that the proposal would result in an increase in **democratic accountability (70)**, in terms of decentralising decision making in York and North Yorkshire

- *The UK is probably the most centralised in Europe, which I think this would improve accountability/democracy and mean that decisions reflect local needs.*

It was also felt that these proposals would bring the City and County councils closer together.

- *The local authorities will be working together as one instead of piecemeal.*

The Governance proposals were also felt to provide a strong opportunity to **magnify the voice of York and North Yorkshire on the national stage (77)**.

- *York and North Yorkshire cannot compete with the big cities in isolation and the MCA offers both a stronger voice and routes to new and enhanced funding.*

There is strong support expressed **for the Mayoral role (65)**.

- *I think the mayor can join up things and hopefully have executive power. Yes, there must be checks and balances but sounds more effective than everything being voted on by a full council.*

However, these were balanced against some pragmatic **concerns over the mayoral role (37)** offset by an overall assessment of the need to adopt the model to leverage funds into the area.

- *More finance from central government. Not keen on mayors at this level though.*
- *The government is forcing NY down this route; objecting would be pointless. The proposals seem reasonable, I assume they are based on successful CAs elsewhere.*

Aligned with this those expressing support for the mayoral role there was an identified potential for **increased local accountability through local knowledge (55)** through the proposed MCA.

- *Local Control, to improve representation of the people.*
- *Local governance, so long as it is held accountable, always has the potential to be of more benefit to regions for local issues compared to broad sweep central government policies.*

Respondents also expressed the view that the proposals could result in **political tensions** (40) between the political make up of York City and North Yorkshire councils, which resulted in a tempering of support.

- *'Support' rather than 'strongly' because of the political differences between York and North Yorkshire*

There was strong support for the proposals around **finance issues (62)**, essentially with the view that the creation of the MCA and the associated additional funding could only be viewed as positive for York and North Yorkshire.

- *The opportunity to gain significant funding to generate growth in York is too good an opportunity to pass up.*
- *It's about time we had an integrated transport system and planning for housing is in total chaos. £18Million per year won't go very far, but at least it's a start.*

There was a recognition that York and North Yorkshire may be **too big to address the diversity of North Yorkshire (32)**, however, there was optimism that the proposed MCA would be able to address this concern.

- *Our region is very diverse - geographically with urban, rural and coastal areas. 98% of our businesses are small or micro. Only with focused decision making by people who live and work in the region, will the opportunities for every person be realised.*

Other respondents expressed positive support based on their **previous experience (28)** or examples from elsewhere, reflecting on the benefits seen in other combined approaches to delivering public service.

- *You can see with the integrated care partnerships across social and healthcare that having autonomy for your local region in the hands of the people that know your region can be really beneficial.*

Examples of success from other combined authority areas was also cited as a reason for support.

- *Tees Valley elected mayor has made a big difference to the region, our elected mayor could do the same.*

There was also a recognition that the size and scale of the county was directly comparable with other devolution models.

- *Yorkshire has a greater population than Scotland and is greater in area than Wales. As both of these areas have been devolved for some considerable time, i think that it is time the Yorkshire should be in greater control of her own finances and how she is governed!*



### 3.2.3 Reasons for opposition

Of the 501 people who provided comments that they opposed the proposed governance arrangements the reasons provided were as follows.

Many respondents expressing an opinion in opposition to the proposals were concerned about **increased bureaucracy (110)** this concern appeared to have a decisive impact on their view of the proposed governance arrangements. This was expressed as concern over the introduction of additional politicians into York and North Yorkshire.

- *Too many politicians as it is without having the expense of a mayor and associated staff.*

It was also felt that these proposals for change were being discussed too soon after the local government reorganisation which saw the creation of North Yorkshire council.

- *This move introduces an additional layer of local government having just succeeded in reducing local governance complexity by combining district and borough councils into the singular North Yorkshire Council this move reverses that improvement.*

There were also concerns that this would introduce significant additional management and administrative overhead.

- *Yet another pointless layer of managers we don't need.*

There was felt to be a **lack of democratic accountability (80)**, due either to concerns over the existing election processes or an increase in perceived distance between residents and decision makers.

- *Largely because the current electoral system (FPTP) would skew the proposed arrangements; a form of AV would go some way to correcting this.*
- *It all takes power away into the large centres of population,*

There were also concerns over the proportionality of representation between York and North Yorkshire with many arguing that it would be fairer on the basis of population, which would see York with less representatives on the proposed MCA.

- *Under this proposal the City of York is being overrepresented.*

Respondents who did not support the proposals also expressed **concerns over the Mayoral Role(95)**, either on the grounds that it was seen as 'Americanisation' of the UK political system.

- *Too much power for one person/ office.*
- *It is getting very Americanised.*

There were also concerns that the proposals would result in a reduction in a **potential for a decrease in local accountability (78)** with the focus being on York and other large towns/urban areas at the expense of rural communities who it was felt were not represented effectively on the MCA.

- *Money always goes to large towns/ cities and rural communities get left out...these needs are very different and start from a low base in most areas.*



The proposals for an MCA were opposed on the grounds that they were **too big to address the diversity of North Yorkshire (93)**. Those expressing opposition were of the view that the proposals would further compound the lack of interest in rural communities.

- *It appears to be a dilution of democracy for small villages - how can a large governing body filter down to somewhere like Kirkby Malzeard.*

Respondents were also opposed to the proposals on the grounds that **they didn't go far enough (18)** in introducing devolution to York and North Yorkshire.

- *This proposal is not devolution' in any accepted sense of the term.*
- *Devolution is about dispersing power into communities. Centralising power into a Mayor is not devolution. Real devolution is what Wales and Scotland have got.*

Others felt there was too much focus on benefits with little corresponding discussion of the drawbacks which were felt to mitigate against support of the proposals.

- *Without a clear definition of the problems that exist with the current system or a reasoned argument for how these problems would be resolve through the devolution plan, I'm left to assume that this is just change for the sake of change and is therefore likely to be a waste of time and money. For that reason, I oppose the plan.*

There were also reservations over the extent to which the **finance issues(103)** explored in the proposals were reflective of the realism of the challenges in setting up an MCA.

- *I don't think this is anywhere near enough investment for the purposes stated for such a large area.*
- *I don't believe that the money we will be given will be enough to cope with the services that you need to look after each council. Whilst some cost saving could be made some sadly is at the detriment of services to the residents.*

When considering the extent to which the proposals were felt to be **looking for increased private sector influence (11)** respondents were concerned over the role of the York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The key concern centred on their role in the MCA as an unelected position.

- *I strongly oppose the LEP with an unelected board making serious decisions about spending money on local businesses.*

Some of the respondents opposing the proposal based this on their views of **political tensions** at both the local and national level.

- *As a Central York resident I will have a Conservative MP imposed on me as the mayor. The funding will mainly go to North Yorkshire as it is a larger area.*
- *As York is a labour area we will likely end up with a Labour Mayor imposing left wing policies and priorities over the whole of largely conservative North Yorkshire.*
- *I don't trust any proposal from the government.*
- *I fundamentally disagree with central governments requirements to have an elected Mayor.*

### 3.2.4 Reasons unsure

Of the 150 people who provided comments (out of the 238 who neither supported nor opposed and the 39 don't know) indicating that they were unsure about the Governance proposal the reasons provided were as follows.

Respondents indicated that they were unable to provide an opinion on the governance proposals due to a **lack of information to enable decision making (15)** stating concerns that there was insufficient information on the benefits of the Combined Authority:

- *Apart from the increased funding from government, it is unclear what the benefit will be beyond forming an existing partnership between CYC and NYCC.*

There were concerns that the savings identified in the proposals were not clearly enough explained:

- *at this moment in time you cannot see where the supposed savings are coming from*

Many felt they did not understand the current situation well enough to make an assessment of the benefits of the proposal.

- *I do not yet understand what these roles will do. I need more education.*
- *I don't feel I know enough about the existing arrangements to be able to form a strong view about how they compare with the new Unitary Authority which seems to have been imposed on us. Unlocking more money sounds good but what is the downside?*

The presentation of the proposals was also of concern to some respondents.

- *Your documents are too confusing. Ok if you are used to reading this type of work. You need to provide an easy to read and understand breakdown.*

Within this concern over the lack of information a sub-group identified that **structures were not sufficiently well defined to make a decision (12)**, with particular concern over the mechanisms in place to resolve issues between city and county interests.

- *"I have not seen a clear description of the split of responsibilities between such a mayor and the North Yorkshire Council & York Councils. In the event of a dispute who would have greater authority. Who would arbitrate?"*

A number of respondents expressed concerns over the **increased levels of bureaucracy (10)**, citing views that the proposals would add to the cost and administrative burden in York and North Yorkshire, and therefore were unable to make their mind up.

- *Another layer of bureaucracy not necessary in North Yorkshire!*
- *Another quango*

There were concerns that this would divert funds to support the perceived additional layer of administration in the MCA.

- *How much money is diverted to the team instead of front line services.*
- *I worry that it's just another, expensive layer of bureaucracy.*

- *Worried by too many layers of bureaucracy, inefficiency, cost of headcount and pace of decision making. Open to being persuaded of merit.*

A number of respondents expressed **concerns over the Mayoral role (11)** itself. Much of this concern centred on the extent to which local power was concentrated in the role.

- *Too much power invested in one mayor, who it appears will be connected to the government of the day. An impossible range of responsibilities for one person as mayor*

Others were concerned that they did not like the concept of a mayor.

- *I don't like the Mayoral set up but if it is the only way to get the funding do it.*

While others were concerned that it would be difficult to find someone to undertake the role.

- *don't feel I know enough related to exactly what Mayoral roles are. For North Yorkshire I cannot think of anyone who has the skills*

Others felt they could not make their minds up due to issue related to the **democratic accountability of the proposed MCA (11)**. The main concerns lay around the representativeness of the arrangements.

- *The principle sounds fine but having only 5 individuals with a vote doesn't sound particularly democratic. How are these elected? Might they all represent one political party?*

Linked to this were issues associated with the potential for a **decrease in local accountability (13)**, with concerns that the balance of representation on the MCA favoured York City which may see a decline in services in North Yorkshire.

- *I am concerned the focus will stay on York and possibly Scarborough, with market towns and villages being forgotten about.*

Respondents felt that the proposal for an MCA was **too big to address the diversity of North Yorkshire(15)**.

- *We are rural, we are forgotten. This will be too big! & again rural will be forgotten after all there are more voters in urban*
- *It's a large fairly diverse area and I hope a mayor + 5 are enough to provide suitable governance.*

Many respondents expressed a view that they **agreed in principle but were waiting to see what actions are delivered (13)**.

- *I would like to see how things develop before I make up my mind.*

Others were unsure because of the introduction of what they saw as **personality politics (5)** and the perceived need for a strong individual to drive the proposals.

- *It all sounds a good idea, but we don't seem to have the right people to move this forward.*

Respondents were unsure on the details associated with the **finance issues (11)** in the proposal which prevented them making a firm decision.

- *In principle it sounds a good idea, I would want to know more about what can go wrong with the financial responsibility aspect,*

The main issue preventing a decision either way expressed in relation to **environmental issues (5)** was the potential for the MCA to become diverted from addressing the climate crisis.

- *The whole of the UK needs to transition to Net Zero, so we are concerned that the Mayoral authority is creating another division which could delay our transition to Net Zero.*

Respondents indicated they were reserving judgement until the MCA and Mayor provided clear evidence that they were effectively **measuring success (5)**.

- *How will the success or failure of a Mayor and Mayoral Combined Authority as opposed to the current set up be measured and over what timeframe?*

Others indicated difficulty associated with expressing opinion due to a **focus on benefits only(4)** in the presentation of the proposals.

- *You have listed the potential benefits of the devolution deal. What are the potential detrimental effects?*

Others felt the proposals **don't go far enough (4)** in the discussions of devolution.

- *Because I think that the of Yorkshire should be more devolved from Westminster. But this is better than nothing.*

Some respondents were unsure on their opinion due to **concerns over council tax (3)** and the potential implications at a local level.

- *I'm worried the costs for Council Tax etc. will increase.*

There was a strand of opinion which was **looking for increased private sector influence (3)** to enable them to make a decision on their support for the proposals.

- *Prefer a governance system which is not bureaucratic and is led by people working in SMEs, rather than public servants.*
- *Need greater clarity about the selection of people and views of the LEP if they are to be a core element of the decision making process.*

There was an expressed issue associated with **planning Issues (4)** that the MCA would focus on brownfield development. Linked to this issue; related to housing was a desire to see a focus on affordable housing.

### 3.2.5 Unassigned opinion

A number of comments were made on the governance proposals by respondents who did not provide an indication of whether they supported, opposed, were neutral or did not know. We have classified these unassigned opinion and have grouped them around loose themes below.

### **Decision making at a local level is positive.**

- *Power at local level is a good thing as people know what the priorities are but I am concerned that in such a huge area as North Yorkshire, it will be hard to ensure the big towns and cities don't swallow all the funding.*
- *North Yorkshire as a combined authority will benefit from greater collaboration across the new authority and be a stronger more strategic body in the region.*
- *It will give a profile to the area and attract investment.*
- *Otherwise there will be no devolution, which I strongly support - the more decisions taken at local level the better*

### **Not good value**

- *waste of our money totally unnecessary*
- *A waste of money. £18m a year is a fiction.*
- *This adds another layer of government which is not required.*
- *because it's clear that any savings will not be passed back to the council tax payer but instead contribute to the addiction of the public services to spend, spend, spend, in c\*\*p like eco this and bio that - all meaningless*
- *It's not easily obvious what the benefits are. Haven't got the time or inclination to read about it.*

### **Proposals don't seem representative.**

- *Structure as proposed does not ensure enough representation of different viewpoints.*
- *Imbalance in representation. Only 2 from NY and 2 from York City. As NY covers 600,000 people and York covers 200,000 the NY representation should be increased in proportion.*
- *It's all about the mayor.*
- *Some mayors are proving more effective than others, so progress much depends on the person, teams involved and level of commitment.*
- *good idea to have a figure head/leader for the combined authority to provide vision and leadership - and create unity.*

## **3.3 Stakeholder Responses**

Most respondents were generally in favour of the proposed governance. Organisations including Tees Valley Combined Authority, BioYorkshire, York and Scarborough Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, York and North Yorkshire LEP, and Yorkshire Food, Farming and Rural Network recognised that it was a tried and tested model of enabling strong local leadership with new powers.

Community First Yorkshire supported the structure to enable effective working across the region but recognised there would be some concern within the Voluntary, Community and

Social Enterprise sector about the transition to the new arrangements. York and North Yorkshire LEP highlighted the need for strong private sector representation in the model.

The Police and Crime Commissioner recognised that current governance structures provide extensive assurance 'reach' into the operational services on behalf of the public, whilst respecting the operational primacy of those services. They wished to see that the new model preserves and enhances that capacity.

York Conservation Trust considered that it was of paramount importance the new arrangements are structured as efficiently as possible. North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority wanted to see the work in close partnership with National Park Authorities and special purpose local authorities.

York Museums Trust welcomed the collaboration at a broader regional level with the potential to make best use of limited resources. However, York and District Trades Union Council had a view that the sub-region is too large and sparse, and the interests of York were unlikely to be served by a mayor representing the majority of their interests and political views. Whitby Community Network raised concerns as to whether the large rural area would be able to attract funding in the same way as city regions. They wished to see membership of the MCA based on population proportionality, with National Parks included.

York Environment Forum voiced concerns that power would be vested in a few individuals, with challenges in representing diversity and the ability to represent the needs of distinctly differing place characteristics across York and North Yorkshire. Yorkshire Food, Farming and Rural Network considered it vital that the rural nature of the North Yorkshire economy, the livelihoods and provision of services for many people across the entire geography are a key focus and support for the new combined authority and mayor.

York Bus Forum expressed support for the equal representation of York and North Yorkshire on the MCA and the intention for consensus decisions as far as possible. However, they had concerns about the potential for differences of opinion and the inability of a minority to influence changes to the Local Transport Plan. They suggested having representation of opposition members on the MCA.

### **3.4 Feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries**

Participants giving their views of the proposed governance arrangements for a Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) for York and North Yorkshire raised the following issues:

#### **3.4.1 An inclusive and equitable MCA**

The need for an Inclusive and equitable MCA to ensure all voices are heard:

- *How would all local areas and different sectors (within the region) e.g., education and social care make their "voices heard"?*
- *Membership of MCA (must) be representative of and connected to the community they serve.*



- Governance arrangements (should) ensure communities outside large areas benefit from investment.
- How will MCA ensure that communities outside large areas “stay empowered” and benefit from investment? Rural areas very different from urban areas.
- How will MCA respond to areas of specific community interest e.g., community housing?

### **3.4.2 Economic development / Investment**

- Needs more clarity around responsibility for economic investments; Will there be a business representative in the MCA?
- Under MCA model, decisions should be made by consensus.
- MCA could create “forums for collaboration” (to promote / deliver economic investment)
- North Yorkshire could be “underrepresented” (in the allocation of investment)
- Health provision: how will MCA impact on the development of sites for “multi service” NHS provision?
- Resources should be evenly spread “rather than everything go to York “Yorkshire should be considered one unit with Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford and York the focal points. There should be an agricultural policy for the whole County. Do not split Yorkshire! We need strength to stand up to London centric government”.
- “As a region that has benefited from our own Devolution Deal, we recognise the benefits that this can bring. As you know Leeds has close historic, cultural and economic ties with North Yorkshire and the City of York and we’re strongly committed to continuing to work together with yourselves”.
- Region too large and diverse: “what does Scarborough have in in common with Hawes, Leyburn or Pickering? Very little This strikes me as trying to squeeze a problem into a solution, not trying to find solutions to problems”.

### **3.4.3 Mayor could be a Regional Champion -**

- Someone to “speak up for region like other areas of England (i.e., West Yorkshire and Manchester Mayors)”
- Mayor could “connect urban and rural” areas – would be the bridge between these parts of the region.
- “I’m also keen to ensure that down the line the Mayor & MCA have visibility of the role that National Parks can play in meeting the Region’s ambitions and reciprocally what the MCA can do in delivering the National Park Management Plan where its responsibilities align”.

### **3.4.4 “MCA may have a democratic deficit”**

- There was concern around the idea of having a mayor with responsibility for significant funds “vested in one person” - “It sounds like a lot of power for one person.”
- How does MCA make sure that the Mayor (is) held accountable?
- “Voting not necessarily democratic” - Only a percentage of the population usually votes.

- *MCA could become “an extra layer of bureaucracy so it needs to be made to work efficiently with the councils.”*
- *“Will the MCA staff structure create duplicate positions?”*



# 4 Funding and Finance Functions

## 4.1 Background

The proposed deal includes £18m per year for 30 years from central Government to spend on local priorities. The Mayor would be required to prepare a draft annual budget for their areas of responsibility based on the powers devolved to them as part of this deal. The Mayor's budget is subject to the approval of the Combined Authority.

in summary this also includes:

- The government will provide £500,000 Mayoral Capacity Funding in 2023/24 and £1 million in 2024/25.
- The mayor will have the power to issue a precept on local council tax bills to help pay for the mayor's work. This precept can only be raised for mayoral functions.
- The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority will be the lead local authority for the planning and delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) from 2025/26.
- The Combined Authority will be given powers to borrow for its new functions, which will allow it to invest in economically productive infrastructure, subject to an agreed cap with HM Treasury
- The mayor will have the power to introduce a supplement on business rates for expenditure on a project or projects that will promote economic development in the area, subject to a ballot of affected businesses.

Set out below are the responses related to the new funding and finance proposals - detailed in summary above - received by :

- Submission to the online survey.
- Stakeholder submissions (by letter.)
- Feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries.

Please note that discussions of proposed Governance under the devolution deal that took place in the independently facilitated focus groups are detailed in Section 11 of this report.

## 4.2 Online Survey Responses

### 4.2.1 Support or Oppose

When asked:

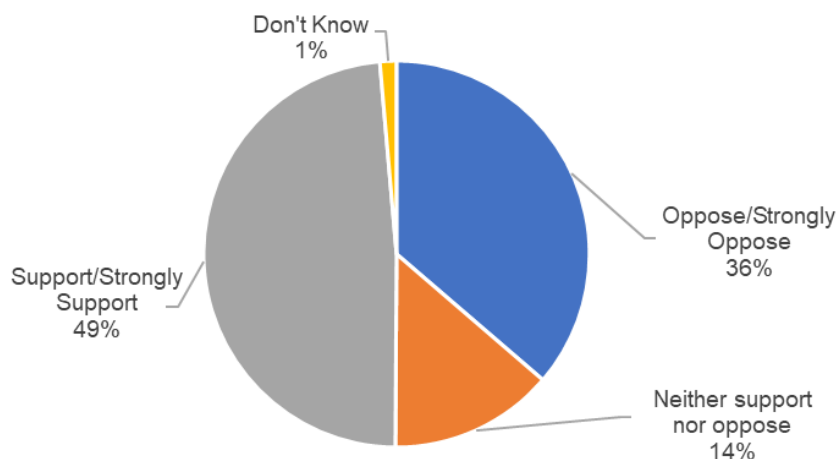
*Do you support or oppose the proposal for a York and North Yorkshire Mayor and Mayoral Combined Authority to have these finance functions?*

Of the 1,587 people who provided a response:

- Just under half (49%) supported or strongly supported the proposal.
- Just over one third (36%) opposed or strongly opposed the proposal.
- 14% of respondents were neither in support nor opposition.

- The remainder (1%) didn't know.

Response	No.	%
Support/Strongly Support	770	49%
Oppose/Strongly Oppose	576	36%
Neither support nor oppose	219	14%
Don't Know	22	1%
<b>Grand Total*</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>100%</b>



\*Please note this total reflects the number of respondents providing a rating response, additional respondents provided comments without providing a rating.

#### 4.2.2 Reasons for support

Of the 353 of 770 people who provided comments indicating why they supported the finance and funding proposals the reasons provided were as follows.

Respondents felt that the proposed funding and finance functions enhanced **local accountability (60)**.

- *Precept set locally should be better than from London.*
- *more locally accountable financial powers will be more effective at driving local priorities.*
- *It gives local government more control over the things they know best.*
- *There would need to be a means to verify that the elected mayoral administration does not squander public monies.*

A key positive factor was felt to be the proposals offered **access to additional funding (30)**.

- *It unlocks access to more central government funding.*
- *Need to have financial power to effect change.*
- *It is essential that the Mayoral system works. This means it must have the powers to raise money. Otherwise it will be little more than a PR exercise.*

However, some supporters had questions or concerns due the view that **not enough detailed information was available to enable decision making (52)**.

- *I don't feel I can click strongly support without some knowledge of what the proposed likely precept on council tax for mayoral functions would be and how that would be decided.*

There was a hopeful view that the funding and finance proposals would reduce **political tensions (25)**.

- *Hopefully will get rid of some of current trivial party politics.*

Many respondents were of the view that the proposal offered the potential for an **equitable distribution of funds (30)**.

- *Economically deprived areas of N Yorks should benefit.*
- *I will back this 100% if every district is treated equally, however with a major emphasis on those areas that need the help the most are prioritised over the richer area like York, Harrogate and such like.*

The funding and finance proposals were felt to provide a **local voice that can be magnified on the national stage(44)**.

- *Fair enough, the money provided by Central Government is not over huge but having Local Representation and Ideas to talk about is very important.*

Supportive responses also highlighted the **potential for more strategic investment (32)**.

- *Combining such services as long as they remain flexible to the different needs of individual diverse communities and the services provided to them and neither council is preferred over another in service provision underpinned by strong service level agreements.*
- *The Fire Service in North Yorks is severely underfunded for a large sparsely populated area. The precept needs raising.*

Respondents in many cases provided a support which included questions and concerns on the basis of the need to avoid **increased bureaucracy (25)**.

- *The supporting office for the new Y&NY Mayor must not be bloated however equally it must be sufficiently resourced to accommodate the strategic functions it will lead on.*

Support was also provided based on respondent **experience from elsewhere (17)**.

- *These powers are in line with other MCAs and are necessary to enable them to follow through on decisions been made about developing the region.*

The funding and finance proposal were seen as an **essential strategic enabler for the role of Mayor (11)**.

- *without a budget of time and or £s it is merely wishful thinking*
- *Yes, it's an additional levy, but we need to get things done and stop stagnating.*

#### **4.2.3 Reasons for opposition**

Of the 429 of 576 people who provided comments indicating they opposed the finance and funding proposals the reasons provided were as follows.

Many respondents were unconvinced that the proposed finance and funding proposals provide **value for money (137)**.

- *Waste of taxpayers' money!*
- *We already pay too much for very little.*

This was compounded by **concerns over the Mayoral role (115)**.

- *Too much power in one person's hands. The financial sweetener is peanuts.*

Which in turn led to concerns over the **potential for a decrease in local accountability (85)**.

- *This is undemocratic.... The public should have a say in how its rates are spent. I strongly disagree that public money should be spent supporting private companies. The companies should raise the funds they need themselves.*
- *This allows an unelected body to create debts that will have to be financed by council tax payers.*

Many felt the proposed precept along with the **power to raise council tax and set a business tax (45)** was a significant factor in their opposition.

- *This is further tax on the residents, when the new North Yorkshire Council is trying to push non-parished localities into establishing Town Councils which will levy a tax on its residents.*
- *The Mayoral precept diverts money away from local communities and increases Council Tax.*
- *Precept on Council Tax is not acceptable to the council taxpayers. This can be 100% funded from the Govt's Mayoral Capacity Fund.*

Respondents felt the proposal was negative due an **increased bureaucracy (30)** and administrative overhead.

- *This is additional expense for an unnecessary additional function.*
- *Not required, more staff more salaries*

There were also concerns over the potential of the proposals to embed **inequality of distribution of funds (38)** across York and North Yorkshire.

- *this is an extremely worrying suggestion for those of us living in a rural area in Richmondshire. How are we going to be represented and supported not by a Mayor in York.*

The concern that the proposed MCA financial proposals were **too big to address the diversity of North Yorkshire (57)** was also a cause for opposition to the proposal.

- *Our county area/boundary is too large for a one size fits all...a 3% increase in one area, maybe completely inappropriate in another part of the county with more deprivation.*
- *There is no certainty that the funding would be equally spread across the County.*

Many felt the **funding on offer is not enough (35)** to enable anything but opposition to the proposals.

- *It's peanuts, fix the trains, proper public transport. Billions not £18 million a year.*

There were also concerns that the proposed finance and funding arrangements presented a lack of **democratic accountability (40)**.

- *It should be a decision for a more democratically accountable and representative body.*

Others opposed the proposal on the grounds of a **failure to convince on the need for devolution (27)**.

- *I don't want devolution.*
- *I have researched independent evidence that confirms no benefit from council unification.*

#### **4.2.4 Reasons unsure**

Of the 125 of 247 people who provided comments indicating that they were unsure about the finance and funding proposals the reasons provided were as follows.

Power to **raise council tax and set a business tax (29)**.

- *I am concerned about adding to Council tax generally.*
- *Power to introduce a supplement on business rates for expenditure on projects? is this a supplement from the local authority or additional from businesses?*
- *setting of some business rates may support some business types disproportionately.*

**Sums aren't large enough (21)**.

- *Is £500,000 enough to make an impact?*
- *Given the size of the area and the many problems, the amounts of money are pretty small. I am not sure how much difference the authority will be able to make.*
- *Insufficient allowance to address climate emergency.*

Not enough detail in the proposal resulting in a **lack of information to enable decision making (24)**.

- *It's not possible to provide a view on this as it is not made explicit what a matrix precept would be used for. If further information can be supplied that would inform my decision making.*
- *Mayoral functions? What does this mean?*
- *Power to set a precept on council tax to fund mayoral functions is a vague statement.*

Concerns over **increased bureaucracy (21)**.

- *Most will go in wages & benefits for the lucky ones.*
- *Is it efficient and effective to have a layer of government in addition to the county council and York city council?*

**Concerns over democratic accountability (12)**.

- *I am concerned that the proposed accountability structures for Mayoral budgeting are too weak.*
- *Would be happy for the proposed authority to have those finance functions IF it was properly democratically representative of the people.*

## Concerns over the mayoral role (10).

- *York needs the Lord Mayor role to continue, due to its status as a CITY!*

### 4.2.5 Unassigned opinion

A number of comments were made on the governance proposals by respondents who did not provide an indication of whether they supported, opposed, were neutral or did not know. We have classified these unassigned opinions and present them below (the volume prevents any meaningful theming of these responses.)

- *...plus layers of government waste money*
- *Because I cannot see any evidence that the council will be run any more efficiently and from what I see where I live the services provided by the District Council are better than the current County Council, in particular the Highways Dept is not fit for purpose and needs drastic overall.*
- *Council tax is high enough.*
- *If more funding available that is a good thing but fair representation is needed. Support any additional funding but is that enough and comparable with funding in the south.*
- *Slightly cynical that all the money will be spent in York, while rural areas are once more forgotten (particularly hospital & emergency medical provision*
- *Waste of money*
- *"York & North Yorkshire!*
- *Why not ""North Yorkshire"" as a whole entity?*
- *This will stop any scrapping about 'them n us!!'*

### 4.3 Stakeholder Responses

The question posed in respect of the financial powers included in the deal was not addressed by most respondents. York and North Yorkshire LEP supported the flexibilities and borrowing powers to deliver the ambitions of the region.

Other, more general points were made, however. There was a view from York Conservation Trust that overheads for the new arrangements should be kept to a minimum.

Whitby Community Network was concerned about the prospect of potential council tax rises but supported other tourism taxes.

Network Rail welcomed the potential for further support, financial and otherwise, that the devolution deal should offer to facilitate the delivery of York Central.

Several respondents, including York Bus Forum, York & District Trades Union Council and York Environment Forum gave the view that the £540m Mayoral Investment Fund was not enough.



## **4.4 Feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries**

### **4.4.1 Positive comments**

- *Additional funding welcome*
- *“Good to know region is getting significant amounts of funding”.*
- *“Good to know MCA will have greater local control over how funding is spent”.*
- *“Good to have such levels of funding for our region”.*

### **4.4.2 Negative comments**

- *MCA will be an “extra layer of bureaucracy and expense although the region needs extra funds”.*
- *Local control over finances is “a good thing” but “do not agree Mayor should set Council Tax amounts”.*
- *Inflation: MCA needs assurance from government regarding the impact of inflation: Will devolved funding keep up with rise/s in inflation?*
- *Need more clarity around the process of Gainshare: whether money not spent by the MCA in year would be “rolled over” to subsequent year/s*
- *“Could region have funding without devolution”?*

### **4.4.3 Opportunities for long term planning?**

- *The 30-year fund gives more certainty and should enable MCA to undertake long term planning.*
- *“Significant funds spread over 30 years - not sure of the impact it will make”.*

### **4.4.4 Issues and benefits to the local population for the MCA to consider**

- *MCA should also fund short term projects to address local needs “not just general economic development.*
- *How will devolution impact funding for businesses? “hope (MCA) funding would be easier to access”.*
- *More clarity required about “how (businesses can) access the funding and how to register to deliver programmes of support.”*
- *Will funding be available to help local businesses in hospitality expand?*
- *MCA should have a “flexible pot of funding to respond to needs”.*
- *New investment is needed to attract farm diversification.*
- *Sector plan for farming: Investigate and support new opportunities for farmers.*

# 5 Net Zero, Climate Change and Natural Capital

## 5.1 Background

The proposed deal contains Government commitment to support York and North Yorkshire's ambition to be Carbon negative.

This includes:

- Direct engagement with Government and potential funding to enable York and North Yorkshire's ambition to be carbon negative,
- £7 million investment that will enable the area of York and North Yorkshire to drive green economic growth towards their ambitions to be a carbon negative region.
- Development of a York and North Yorkshire Natural Capital Investment Plan.

Set out below are the responses related to the Net Zero, Climate Change and Natural Capital proposals - detailed in summary above - received by :

- Submission to the online survey.
- Stakeholder submissions (by letter.)
- Feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries.

Please note that discussions of proposed Governance under the devolution deal that took place in the independently facilitated focus groups are detailed in Section 11 of this report.

## 5.2 Online Survey Responses

When asked:

*Do you support or oppose the proposal for a York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to work with Government on Net Zero, Climate Change and Natural Capital?*

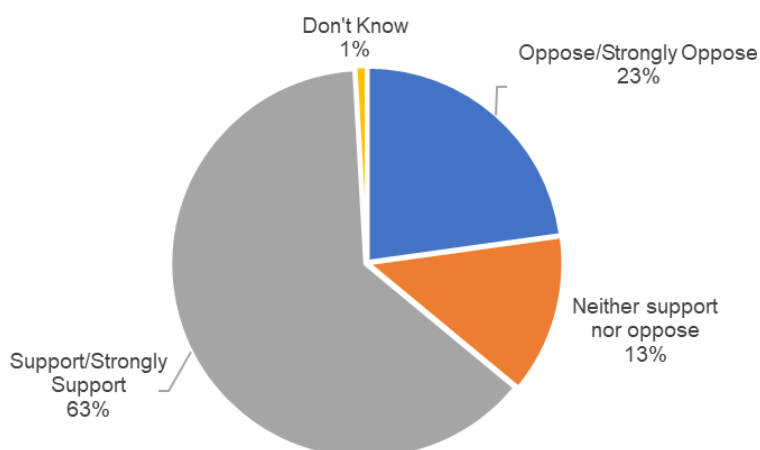
Of the 1,553 people who provided a response:

- The majority (63%) supported or strongly supported the proposal.
- Just under a quarter (23%) opposed or strongly opposed the proposal.
- 12% of respondents were neither in support nor opposition.



- The remainder (1%) didn't know.

Response	No.	%
Support/Strongly Support	980	63%
Oppose/Strongly Oppose	354	23%
Neither support nor oppose	205	13%
Don't Know	14	1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,553</b>	<b>100%</b>



\*Please note this total reflects the number of respondents providing a rating response, additional respondents provided comments without providing a rating.

### 5.2.1 Reasons for support

Of the 549 people who provided comments indicating that they supported the net zero proposals the reasons provided were as follows.

**Action to mitigate climate change was seen as an essential priority (193)** for the proposed MCA:

- *Carbon negative is absolutely crucial.*
- *Absolutely this is the most important issue we face and something that nation government have been far too slow to respond to we need to have local plans to address this the most pressing of issues.*
- *it's really, really, important and impacts every decision at every level.*
- *Climate change is the single most important problem we face, so any increased focus on this area is welcome.*

The **Mayor and MCA have a crucial part to play (110)** in delivering this essential priority through the finance available and coordinating a regional and national approach.

- *Climate Crisis & Ecological collapse can be reduced and mitigated by the powers and investment a Mayor and Combined Authority can leverage locally.*
- *A collaborative approach, as a combined authority, regionally and nationally will have greatest impact. Many areas in the authority have assessed an impact and declared climate emergency and this should therefore be a priority.*
- *Any financial support to work towards becoming net zero has to be welcomed.*

A call for the MCA to **invest in renewable energy and develop York and North Yorkshire as a centre of excellence for green engineering (125).**

- *...massive investment in renewable energy from the new devolved administration for the North of Yorkshire, to make sure we can generate free energy in our beautiful dales and land, while securing energy independence from Russia.*

- *I support much greater investment in renewable energy industries and skilled green technical engineering colleges to train up the next generation to make Yorkshire become a Green Engineering powerhouse.*

Addressing the climate crisis will lead to **improved quality of life for residents (53)**.

- *Air quality is important to peoples heath and reducing use of fossil fuel will ultimately help everyone.*
- *...greener environment will be better providing living standards are maintained or improved.*
- *...green is the future for jobs and health.*

However, this support was qualified by a desire for **more information to support decision making (29)**.

- *While funding for net zero is laudable, it is not clear if this is in addition to the £18 million, a one off payment or over 30 years, nor is it sufficient in itself for such a huge and diverse area.*

The **linkage between net zero and transport powers and priorities (11)** was also highlighted.

- *we need to be greener in our approach to transport.*
- *Nett Zero on public transport should be progressed but only viable in such as York, Scarborough etc. but such as electric busses. Within rural areas then investment in charging points to encourage EVs.*

## 5.2.2 Reasons for opposition

Of the 260 people who provided comments indicating they opposed the net zero proposals the reasons provided were as follows.

**Concerns over the Mayoral role (62)**, specifically the requirement for expert knowledge in developing net zero and other climate crisis mitigation.

- *...job for the informed and experts. Not for a well-meaning amateur.*

Respondents also presented negative opinion based on the **proposed funding being too small (47)** to effectively deliver net zero actions.

- *...the proposed level of funding of £7m that will not be sufficient funding to make a difference.*
- *At this level of funding the mayoral body could lobby central government but little more than that.*

Concerns with **social inequity in the impact of net zero actions (36)**

- *Current net zero targets if achieved will be an economic and social disaster disproportionately affecting poorer members of the population.*
- *The challenges of living in a rural community without good links and access support make this challenge disproportionately unfair for our local community.*

Respondents also reported a concern that the proposals as presented **did not go far enough (11)** and shouldn't be linked to the devolution discussion.

- *It's nothing more than window dressing to attract people interested in environmental issues whilst obscuring the feebleness of what is proposed.*
- *... misguided and un-informed approach pandering to an ignorant, Woke agenda. It ignores the wider geo-political aspects of significant carbon producers such as Saudi, China, India and the consequential economic and national security issues that it would leave the UK open to.*
- *The net zero target is admirable; however it shouldn't be linked to devolution. Climate change is a global issue and should not be trivialised by localism.*

Many respondents opposed the proposals for net zero on the basis of concern **over the Mayoral role (25)** and a blanket rejection of all elements.

- *I don't support the proposals for a Mayoral combined authority and so I can't support this proposal.*

Others fundamentally **disagreed with the principles of net zero (15)**.

- *It is a waste of money and amounts to a means to restrict individual freedoms to move around. There are counter arguments to so called climate change that have been dismissed out hand.*
- *Net zero is false, not achievable unless you go back to the dark ages.*
- *Climate change is debatable, there is no hard evidence to back it, meanwhile people will go either cold or hungry this winter because of something that need not be happening.*

### **5.2.3 Reasons unsure**

Of the 122 people who provided comments indicating that they were unsure over the net zero proposals the reasons provided were as follows.

People were unable to provide a response to either support or oppose the proposal due to **a lack of information to inform their decision making (35)**.

- *Not enough clear information on what is involved.*
- *you haven't explained what this means in simple terms and few people might understand enough to make a comment.*

**A lack of faith that the commitment in York and North Yorkshire is matched by national action (27)**.

- *Yet according to this Government Fracking is back on the table and until that is removed these objectives cannot be realised.*
- *The government has given the go ahead for a coal mine!*

The perceived **failure to make an argument in favour of devolution to achieve net zero (25)**.

- *Why do we have to have a mayoral authority to access this money?? the whole country is supposed to be going carbon neutral and the government should oversee the best ways to do this nationwide and allocate funding accordingly.*
- *This should not be part of the mayoral responsibility; it needs to be a national and governmental responsibility.*
- *This is not a new subject and all work should have been done by now, so what new will a Mayor add?*

The proposals are **too big to address the diversity of North Yorkshire (33)** and do not recognise rural issues.

- *Our village properties all require oil/electricity (for heating etc) and carbon net zero funding is difficult to ascertain helping us.*

### 5.2.4 Unassigned opinion

A number of comments were made on the net zero proposals by respondents who did not provide an indication of whether they supported, opposed, were neutral or did not know. We have classified these unassigned opinions and have grouped them around loose themes below.

Scepticism that net zero is the correct approach to address climate change.

- *Net zero is spurious science.*
- *it is only paying lip-service.*
- *Too many attributed initiatives are not environmentally friendly or carbon neutral as they have a relatively short life span or parts, etc are imported from all over the world, usually from volatile/unstable regimes. Focus on making ourselves more self-sufficient and secure.*

A desire to get on with addressing the challenges.

- *Don't talk for majority. Do what they want.*

The only way to address climate change is through national and international action.

- *Probably follow government to initiatives anyway*
- *This needs to be coordinated in a national context.*
- *On past evidence in this sphere it is probable that money spent on these aspirations would be ineffective and overtaken by global events.*
- *What the point until you stop China, Russia and India pumping out all the crap*

A tendency to deny climate change as an issue.

- *Climate change is nonsense and just another way of taxing the working man.*
- *Waste of money*

Concerns that action to address climate change is neither timely nor in line with democratic accountability.

- *The country us experiencing multiple crisis: this is not the time to be prioritising Net Zero.*

the decision was not democratically taken. The votes counted were not available to the constituency.

### **5.3 Stakeholder Responses**

Almost all responses agreed that this was an important area for the deal and that the Combined Authority should work closely with Government on this agenda.

Zero Carbon Harrogate suggested that a strategic coordinated regional approach to decarbonisation is essential, and that the Combined Authority has an important role in encouraging inward investment and acting as a brokerage in finding solutions. East Riding of Yorkshire Council similarly hoped the proposals would support cross-boundary working on Net Zero. North York Moors National Park Authority supported working with Defra on the Natural Capital Investment Plan.

Community First Yorkshire felt that the potential of improved transport links would have a beneficial impact on reducing the local carbon footprint. York Bus Forum welcomed the principles of working with the Government, whilst York and North Yorkshire LEP considered a regional approach to the most appropriate strategic level. First York was supportive of further investment in this area.

Northern Power Grid welcomed the approach and suggested it was important that the joint working with Government identified the funding to implement the decarbonization activities identified within the Local Area Energy Plans.

Both the University of York and BioYorkshire saw themselves as a useful allies and drivers for the MCA, for both economic growth and achieving Net Zero Targets and strongly supported the net zero, climate change and natural capital delivery commitments set out in the devolution agreement.

Yorkshire Food, Farming and Rural Network supported the aspiration and recognised that the agricultural and food and farming sectors have a major contribution to make towards this ambition.

Some respondents felt the climate change ambitions and arrangements didn't go far enough. York & District Trades Union Council considered the proposals inadequate and unacceptable but stated that if the MCA is to come into being, Climate Change should be its central focus. York Environment Forum felt that there was insufficient attention paid to the climate emergency within the proposals, but the devolution deal could be a great opportunity to make a coordinated and concerted effort to have ambitious policies and speedy reductions in carbon emissions. Whitby Community Network strongly supported the work but considered the investment within the deal to be too little.

## 5.4 Feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries

### 5.4.1 Positive comments

- *“Additional funding to support investment in energy reduction and renewable energy solutions very welcome”.*
- *“Excited to see there is work going on around net zero”.*
- *“Delighted about green areas, biggest assets we have in York and North Yorkshire”.*
- *“This should support many activities gain momentum”.*
- *“This is high priority for young people. BioYorkshire”*
- *Would be good to see jointed up action on this.*

### 5.4.2 Negative comments

- *Agree with the drive for carbon negative but If we are trying to reach net zero, we need to educate population about where we are now, so people can see where we're aiming for*
- *“There isn't enough money to do all things net zero, the initial focus should be on decarbonising housing, so it also supports the affordability agenda”.*
- *Carbon negative may be a bit unrealistic and do not like carbon capture as much as reducing emissions in the first place... there needs to be a workable alternative first.*
- *“We have problems in this area in food production. We have huge food production in our farming. It has been proposed to cover acres with solar panelling to the loss of food crops. Why can't solar panelling go on brown belt. We need all the food that we can get produced in our own area”.*

### 5.4.3 Funding for net zero / oversight of environmental agenda

- *Where does money for net zero come from?*
- *Who will look after general environment e.g., littering?*
- *What does the time period the allocated Over how many years is the £7m allocated?*



# 6 Transport

## 6.1 Background

The proposed devolution deal will give the Mayor and mayoral combined authority responsibilities for investment in transport infrastructure and services, including public transport. This will help York and North Yorkshire develop an effective and efficient transport system for the long term and provide greater certainty over future funding for transport improvements. The proposals are summarised as follows:

- Development and production of a York and North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan and related transport strategies
- Set up and co-ordinate a Key Route Network (KRN) on behalf of the Mayor, enabling a consistent approach to the management of that network.
- Receive transport funding in a single consolidated budget set for a number of years to give greater certainty for the development of future projects.
- Approve a 5 year Strategic Transport Investment Programme for York and North Yorkshire
- Powers to introduce bus franchising. This is where the authority specifies the bus services to be provided, determines the routes, timetables and fares.
- Enter into partnership agreements with Great British Rail, make agreements with Government, other local authorities and National Highways and work with Active Travel England.

Set out below are the responses related to the proposals for new transport powers - detailed in summary above - received by :

- Submission to the online survey.
- Stakeholder submissions (by letter.)
- Feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries.

Please note that discussions of proposed Governance under the devolution deal that took place in the independently facilitated focus groups are detailed in Section 11 of this report.

## 6.2 Online Survey Responses

When asked:

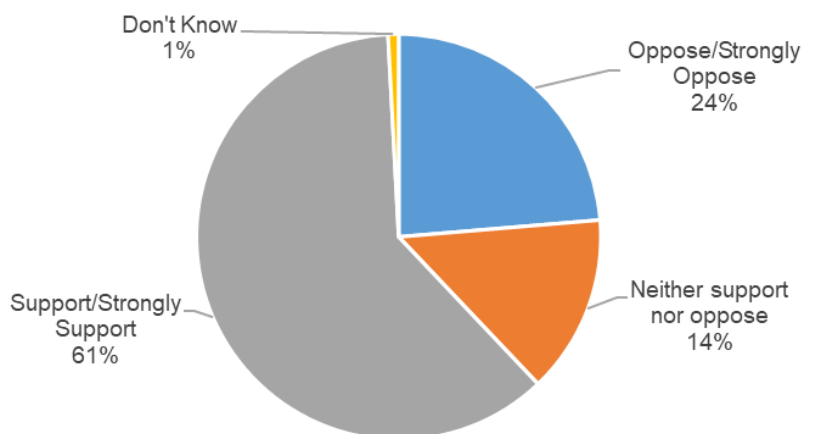
*Do you support or oppose the proposal that a York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and Mayor takes on these Transport functions?*

Of the 1,538 people who provided a response:

- The majority (61%) supported or strongly supported the proposal.
- Just under a quarter (24%) opposed or strongly opposed the proposal.
- 14% of respondents were neither in support nor opposition.

- The remainder (1%) didn't know.

Response	No.	%
Support/Strongly Support	942	61%
Oppose/Strongly Oppose	364	24%
Neither support nor oppose	219	14%
Don't Know	13	1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,538</b>	<b>100%</b>



\*Please note this total reflects the number of respondents providing a rating response, additional respondents provided comments without providing a rating.

### 6.2.1 Reasons for support

Of the 513 people who provided comments indicating that they supported the new transport powers proposals the reasons provided were as follows.

Respondents held the view that **the current transport system is not working (105)** and the proposals will provide an opportunity to rethink and refresh the approach for York and North Yorkshire.

- *Our current transport is a shambles and needs careful planning to ensure that it suits everyone- and not just towns/ city, rural areas are difficult but not impossible to manage sensibly.*
- *A full area plan is better than local deals.*
- *We must get away from outdated 'predict and provide' models around road building and we need a central overall focus which a mayor can provide.*

The proposed new powers were also seen as **essential in achieving net zero goals (80)**.

- *A complete refresh is needed on transport thinking especially in the context of net zero.*
- *The pace of carbon reduction from the transport sector is pretty small now so this must be a key priority working alongside neighbouring combined authorities and Transport for the North.*
- *Public transport is key to a future, sustainable form of transport, carbon reduction will only happen with fewer cars on the road (including EVs).*

A **local focus on transport solutions (97)** is seen as being more effective at meeting local need.

- *A Westminster based transport strategy has proven time and time again to fail local communities and businesses. What's the point of a high speed rail link from the capital when people are then unable to move around efficiently in the regions.*



- *...local people who understand the issues making decisions on the local transport infrastructure.*

There are **specific road improvements required (30)** the mayoral powers are hoped will support.

- *A64 and A19 north of York need dualling desperately.*
- *East-West routes north of York a) are mostly back road (i.e. slow, costly on fuel/not green) and b) have NO public services. Harrogate/Ripon - Easingwold - Malton is only passable in private vehicles.*
- *Perhaps we will finally get the A1237 made into a dual carriageway and same for the A64 all the way to Scarborough.*

The ability to **work in partnership with regional organisations to represent the needs of the area (20)**.

- *...an independent less biased view - this office then works with the Northern Powerhouse to implement investment in the right way and ensure the transport providers work in partnership with the office.*
- *...having a stronger voice via Transport for the North would help prevent central government building only southern railways like HS2 (which will in practical terms never reach the north, only Birmingham).*

The **potential for reorganisation in the bus network (52)**.

- *The bus system needs reform and franchising may be a good experiment.*
- *It is essential that the Combined Authority uses its powers to franchise our buses, like they are in London!*

Has the potential to **address** the need for **integrated bus and train services (45)**.

- *...I suffer every few weeks the problems of un-coordinated bus and train timetables...this impacts on economic efficiency, the appeal of the area to residents and tourists, and social well-being.*
- *We are desperately in need of integrated transport solutions... A more joined up approach will hopefully bring fares down too. Currently I pay over £4 for a journey of 3 miles.*

Examples of **experience from elsewhere show these powers can work (11)** and have impact on local transport networks.

- *Devolution works in similar regions.*
- *The West Yorkshire Mayor is doing a good job with the problems with Transport within West Yorkshire and a similar set up within North Yorkshire is essential.*

Can provide the opportunity to **address public transport issues in rural locations (45)**.

- *Our village is very short of transport. To reach nearby towns it is often necessary to travel on more than one bus.*

- *Outlying villages with people who either don't drive or have health issues need a local bus service.*
- *It has to be affordable and available - the Mayor and Combined Authority must be able to ensure ticket prices can be afforded and the rural areas in North Yorkshire have reliable, regular services.*

The **geography and size of North Yorkshire make effective and strategic transport planning essential (30)**.

- *Transport is such a strategic issue and so we need the functions at this level to address these.*
- *Transport is more important in YNY than any other area because of size and rurality.*
- *A strategic view is vital for sustainable public transport provision.*
- *Long term planning and consistent regional policy would provide a better environment to attract inward investment for rail, bus, car club, cycle and other transport low carbon travel operators.*

This proposal provides the potential to **make active travel a priority (10)**:

- *Priority could assertively be given to active travel, shared transport and public transport as set out in the Local Enterprise Partnership Routemap to net zero.*

**Effective transport links are a key economic enabler (32)** for York and North Yorkshire

- *Transport links are fundamental to the viability of many sectors and also in attracting new business therefore a responsibility and powers to influence in this area are crucial.*
- *Sherburn Enterprise Park estate is one of the largest Manufacturing and Services & transport hubs in North Yorkshire but the Transport Links, Public Transport... are stopping nearly a1,000 jobs being filled in the area as people cannot get there unless they have their own transport.*

## 6.2.2 Reasons for opposition

Of the 269 people who provided comments indicating they opposed the new transport powers proposals the reasons provided were as follows.

Respondents were of the opinion that **bus franchising doesn't work (12)** and should be applied in York and North Yorkshire.

- *I don't support the franchising of bus services. They should be brought under the full control of the local authority.*
- *A franchised public transport system has been proven to not work - supplying only in places where there is revenue and consequently leaving those in remote areas deprived of public transport, forcing reliance on the motor car.*

The view that the MCA is an organisation **too big to reflect the diversity of North Yorkshire (45)** in delivering new transport powers.

- *... in a larger Local authority there is more likelihood of "one size fits all approach" and I cannot see how local communities will see direct benefits. What might apply for somewhere like York will not apply for Thirsk or Northallerton.*
- *...this sounds city centric. N Yorks has always had a problem with ensuring good bus services to the remote areas - concerned that these less lucrative routes would be withdrawn*
- *As a resident of Craven I can see that investment in the Key Route Network is likely to completely ignore all the minor roads in our area which are deteriorating. We need local people to decide on the priorities for local transport.*
- *Most of this money will inevitably be spent in urban areas. Much of North Yorkshire is B roads where providing buses etc would likely be unviable.*

A number of respondents objected to the proposals on the principles that they **do not believe in devolution, (26)** the establishment of a mayoral role and combined authority.

- *the transport proposals are valid but not the proposed devolution deal is not the best way to achieve them.*
- *Don't agree with Mayors.*
- *Does the mayor know anything about transport?*
- *I don't support a combined authority.*
- *I don't support an elected Mayor.*

There was a feeling the **available funding in the proposals was not enough to address the required changes (94)** to make the new transport powers effective.

- *As no funding is indicated, this will be an unfulfillable plan.*
- *I cannot see anywhere in the MCA proposal that there is sufficient funding to improve the transport function over and above the performance of the two existing councils.*

There was also a feeling of concern over the potential for **decrease in local accountability(53)**.

- *I can see no need for an MCA to undertake these functions. They can be performed by NYC and York.*
- *All the mechanisms to enable this to happen already exist.*

### 6.2.3 Reasons unsure

Of the 130 people who provided comments indicating that they were unsure about the new transport powers proposals the reasons provided were as follows.

The proposals were felt to be on a scale that was **too big to address the diversity of North Yorkshire (27)**, essentially viewed as a 'one size fits all' approach.

- *North Yorkshire is a very Rural county (as a whole), how do we guarantee that the Mayoral system won't prioritise one part of the county over another?*
- *Essential that this does not become a further "anti-car" policy as the private car will always have a place and is often essential in the deeply rural parts of the county where it is doubtful that public transport will ever be able to fulfil the local needs.*
- *Care needs to be taken not to pull funding from key city/town services to maintain inadequately funded rural services.*

Many felt there was a **lack of information to enable decision making (32)**.

- *it's unclear who does this now, and what the changes ACTUALLY mean... these all seem like good things to have 'power' over, but how is that different to what happens now?*
- *Can't really understand the proposals.*
- *Don't have enough information on what this means for current long term planned schemes, for which Government financial help and planning would be required.*
- *I cannot make a judgement on this without knowing what the budget from central government will be.*

**Concerns over the Mayoral role (25)**.

- *I am worried that the mayor is going to have too much power.*
- *I don't support the absolute power of the...Mayor deciding to build roads everywhere and controlling York's policies.*
- *Support the proposals but not with a Mayor.*

There appears to be **insufficient funding available to deliver the proposal (35)**.

- *the funding that will be available to the new authority will never create public transport facilities in a county by its nature and geography must be vehicle dependent.*
- *The Mayor has no money to make significant improvements to the transport infrastructure.*

## 6.2.4 Unassigned opinion

A number of comments were made on the new transport powers proposals by respondents who did not provide an indication of whether they supported, opposed, were neutral or did not know. We present these comments without thematic analysis as their volume is so low. They are also presented as verbatim quotes for the same reason.

- *Better if the county was joined up to fully implement a Yorkshire integrated transport policy.*
- *Desperate lack of good public transport in North Yorkshire. Mayor of London over the years has improved public transport immeasurably.*
- *I've done all this once.*
- *Local knowledge is better placed to make important decisions vis-a-vis local transport needs.*
- *Put the mayor's salary towards repairing the roads.*
- *Roads in NYCC are appalling, how can a mayor change it unless stops all the ridiculous salaries and pensions for management.*
- *"The transport role needs to be handled at a broader level than just North Yorkshire.*
- *Traffic flows, services and routes in North Yorkshire often need to be integrated with the more populated regions surrounding it."*
- *Too big to properly control.*
- *Transport decisions are best taken locally. The size of the region will make this difficult though.*
- *"We are already involved with West Yorkshire in parts.*
- *More overheads and little chance of any improvements.*

## 6.3 Stakeholder Responses

Most responses were positive about the transfer of powers and potential to look at transport in a broader strategic way. Organisations including Community First Yorkshire, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and York and North Yorkshire LEP highlighted how taking a strategic approach reflecting both the relationship between York and North Yorkshire but also how the region connects to its neighbouring geographies could benefit growth opportunities across the region.

For respondents with a direct organisational transport focus, York Bus Forum was supportive of the role of the Mayor in developing a Local Transport Plan for York and North Yorkshire. They also welcomed the commitment to establishing a devolved and consolidated local transport budget but were concerned about the lack of detail of this budget. The bus powers were welcomed, but highlighted that the nature of bus service needs, operation and financial viability is very different in urban York from that in much of rural North Yorkshire. They were not clear on the implications of the Transport and Highways Authority powers being split across the MCA and the local authorities.

Action for Yorkshire Transport was concerned that the road expansion schemes, namely the A64 East of York, Kex Gill and the A1237 York Outer Ring Road, will provide additional road capacity which in turn will generate more traffic and increase emissions during their construction. They welcomed the mention of a modal shift away from cars.

First York welcomed the opportunity to access new investment streams and further improve public transport in the region. They voiced support for a Key Route Network (KRN) to enable a consistent approach to the management of that network. They understood the inclusion of bus franchising but were firmly of the opinion that the Enhanced Partnership working is the best way to deliver transport objectives.

Several organisations reflected that the transport focus needed to support the climate change agenda. North York Moors National Park Authority considered it vital that the Mayor and MCA seek to reflect a key premise of the devolution deal to make the region carbon negative. Zero Carbon Harrogate identified for the need for more use of shared transport solutions alongside conventional public transport.

Both Whitby Community Network and Yorkshire Food, Farming and Rural Network similarly supported the use of transport powers to improve public transport connectivity, and highlighted that funding was needed to support public transport for rural communities.

York & District Trades Union Council were directly opposed to the proposals. They considered that the splitting of transport and planning functions would be a backward step and would lead to poorer decision making and local delivery. However, if an MCA is introduced, they would support the commitment to establishing a devolved transport budget and accepted that a Mayor could play a strong role in strategic level co-ordination and representation to Government.

## **6.4 Feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries**

### **6.4.1 General**

- *Good to have a Mayor responsible for transport and able to take a strategic view across the patch.*
- *(Strategic approach) needed because York's transport system is undermined by poor planning decisions.*
- *MCA could lead to an integrated transport strategy.*
- *How will devolution impact transport connections? Will there be better connections from small villages?*
- *Any money towards improving regions transport is good: It could force bus companies to run more rural services seven days a week; give priority to "dual A64 and improve A170".*
- *"Transport is key to connecting people to jobs and education."*
- *Doncaster Airport with its exceptional runway should have electric rail/rapid transport connections from the focal points.*



- *“York’s buses need sorting out. This should be a priority as people need to get out of cars. The powers should be used to make sure people can make the change.”*

#### **6.4.2 Transport important to advance education and employment opportunity**

- *“Positive to hear about the potential for more public transport across rural areas.” This will enable access to higher paid jobs elsewhere.*
- *Recruitment difficulties linked to transport issues.*
- *Due to lack of public transport and the cost, “there are problems with accessing apprenticeships, graduate placements, and other work placements especially in Richmondshire.”*
- *Poor public transport, connections and cost in rural areas pushing people towards cars, which is often unaffordable for young people. Restricts access to apprenticeships, graduate placements and general employment opportunities in these areas.*
- *Greater frequency of trains and buses to Leeds, York and Hull will enable people to work in higher paid jobs.*
- *Buses a concern – students rely on them to get around, especially those not in the immediate area. How will an MCA help with this?*
- *Buses are critical to allow young people to get to schools and colleges.*

#### **6.4.3 Public transport in rural areas**

- *Several comments referred to the urgent need to improve public transport in rural areas.*
- *“There is not enough infrastructure – buses are few and far between and trains are always unreliable. Public transport is expensive and not a good service.”*
- *“There are fewer village schools and parents can’t afford school transport in many cases.”*

#### **6.4.4 Issues and benefits to the local population for the MCA to consider**

- *Free travel passes for 16–19-year-olds?*
- *Make Dual A64 is a priority.*
- *MCA has opportunity to listen to local people, particularly in rural areas, requirements and deliver local transport infrastructure to allow more use of public transport.*
- *MCA Should use opportunity to link up trains and buses across district.*
- *Increase number of buses out to villages*
- *Use power to force train companies to deliver a service. Improve congestion around York, especially outer ring road and A64.*
- *“I would like to see dual carriageway developed between Scarborough and York”.*

# 7 Housing and Regeneration

## 7.1 Background

The proposed devolution deal will give the Mayor and MCA responsibilities for housing and regeneration. This will include:

- Land assembly and compulsory purchase powers
- The power to designate a Mayoral Development Area and to create Mayoral development Corporations, which support delivery on strategic sites in York and North Yorkshire
- Invest £12.7m of devolved capital funding across 2023/24 and 2024/25 to support the building of new homes on brown field land.
- Identify and bring forward a pipeline of strategic housing projects.
- To support investment in affordable, low carbon and quality homes across the area

Set out below are the responses related to the new housing and regeneration proposals - detailed in summary above - received by :

- Submission to the online survey.
- Stakeholder submissions (by letter.)
- Feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries.

Please note that discussions of proposed Governance under the devolution deal that took place in the independently facilitated focus groups are detailed in Section 11 of this report.



## 7.2 Online Survey Responses

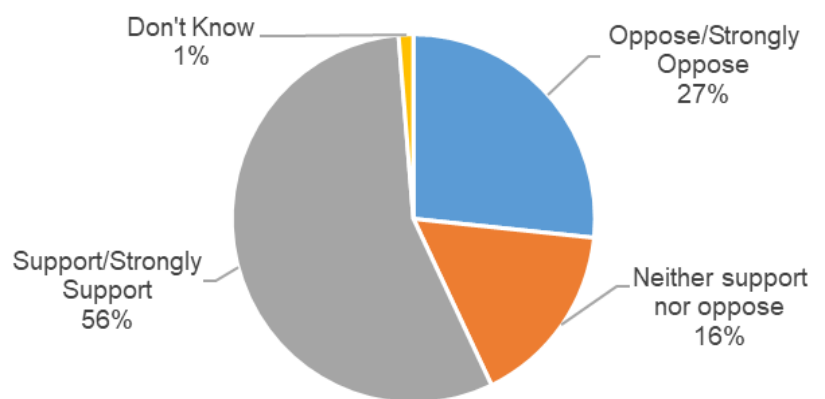
When asked:

*Do you support or oppose the proposal that a York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and Mayor takes on these housing and regeneration functions?*

Of the 1,524 people who provided a response:

- The majority (56%) supported or strongly supported the proposal.
- Just over a quarter (27%) opposed or strongly opposed the proposal.
- 16% of respondents were neither in support nor opposition.
- The remainder (1%) didn't know.

Response	No.	%
Support/Strongly Support	850	56%
Oppose/Strongly Oppose	406	27%
Neither support nor oppose	248	16%
Don't Know	20	1%
<b>Grand Total*</b>	<b>1,524</b>	<b>100%</b>



\*Please note this total reflects the number of respondents providing a rating response, additional respondents provided comments without providing a rating.

### 7.2.1 Reasons for support

Of the 411 people who provided comments indicating that they supported the housing and regeneration proposals the reasons provided were as follows.

Support for the **proposals for brownfield development (60.)**

- *I approve the plan to develop brown field land. I DO NOT APPROVE of mass development on green field sites around small villages where there is no adequate infrastructure in place.*
- *I support this ONLY if there is no building on greenfield sites and why not regenerate areas with many houses left empty because they need updating and repairing.*

A hope that the new mayoral powers will result in **improved social housing conditions (35).**

- *I am a ... Council Housing tenant and hope money will still be available for repairs and upgrades of council properties.*

Support based on the need for **energy efficient homes (64).**

- *we need to be building housing that is already net zero (for embedded as well as operational carbon), so need to progress much faster than national standards.*

- *ALL new houses must be Zero Carbon BREEAM style.*
- *Housing is in short supply and as a major contributor to carbon emissions, the Mayor and Combined Authority must have powers to address this problem and drive forward projects properly financed to address it.*

Support based on the need for **affordable housing and adequate housing in rural areas (51)**

- *Affordable housing for locals is paramount.*
- *we need more affordable housing, especially difficult in rural areas.*

Linked to the issue of affordable homes support based on an expectation of Mayoral powers being used to **regulate the second/holiday home market (30)**.

- *Far too many are bought as holiday lets.*

An assurance that new housing will only be built with **adequate local facilities (53)**.

- *It's no good building houses if there is no development in facilities: Roads; Public transport; Schools; Health services; Shops; Job opportunities.*

**Maximise local experience (35).**

- *...local knowledge is best. Looking at empty units in Town Centres to turn into flats which will in turn bring needed revenue into town centres.*
- *We need to include communities in the decision making around future housing.*

The new Mayoral powers provide an opportunity to **refresh the approach to housing and regeneration (64)**.

- *...the focus on building sustainable and affordable housing is a priority, any additional freedoms to rethink the challenges and refresh our approaches gives more hope.*
- *As with Transport it is critical Y&NY take a more strategic approach to land use planning and economic development. And the reality of the two LA's is that their local economies are very closely intertwined anyway.*
- *A strategic approach to housing across the region makes more sense than piecemeal development and would help prevent local authorities depositing new housing estates at their boundaries, which passes responsibility for infrastructure services onto the neighbouring authority.*

## 7.2.2 Reasons for opposition

Of the 295 people who provided comments indicating they opposed the housing and regeneration proposals the reasons provided were as follows.

Respondents who opposed the proposal include those who **remain unconvinced of the need for a Mayor or MCA (18.)**

- *...these functions are handled perfectly well by the Council. Please direct the funding to them, rather than create this extra layer of bureaucracy just to get the funds.*
- *Again, why do we need a Mayor?*

Concerns over the potential erosion of **democratic accountability (16)**.

- *Where would be the democratic scrutiny of the mayor's property deals?*

Concerns over the potential for **further environmental and infrastructure damage (47.)**

- *...too many new homes being built without adequate drainage and infrastructure needs careful thinking and planning.*

Concerns over the potential for **loss of green belt (73)**.

- *Because they will just build on green belt land instead of brownfield sites.*

Concerns over failure to **prioritise climate change mitigation (36)**.

- *...climate and ecological emergencies are not prioritised. New housing must be to the highest environmental standards, and this includes building in better public transport so that people do not use cars. I cannot support proposals where this is clearly not understood.*

Increasing **local involvement in the planning approval process (13)**.

- *Developments such... only occur when they have been approved by the majority of persons living in that area...developments are fully and only focused on local needs and requirements...*
- *I don't think a Mayor will have any knowledge of local areas like a councillor would. This could lead to bad decisions being made, both for the community and for the environment*

A blanket **rejection of the principles of an elected mayor (25.)**

- *I don't support the proposals for a Mayoral combined authority and so I can't support this proposal.*

**Concerns over the Mayoral role (10)**

- *Should not be left to one person.*
- *Undemocratic for one person to hold all the power.*

**Concerns over the appropriateness of funding allocation (13)**

- *Seems a weird thing to spend money on. You're not actually going to build houses, that's what housebuilders do.*
- *It's not enough money, we need 1000s of affordable homes built.*

Concerns over **increased bureaucracy (12)**

- *Just another bureaucracy tier*
- *Local authorities control this and another layer of bureaucracy won't help.*

Concerns over the potential **decrease in local accountability (15)**

- *prefer councils to make decisions on planning and housing.*

Concerns over a **lack of information to enable decision making (12)**.

- *The proposals are weak and lack substance. For example what does "support in other ways" mean?*

### 7.2.3 Reasons unsure

Of the 149 people who provided comments indicating that they were unsure about the housing and regeneration proposals the reasons provided were as follows.

#### **Lack of information to enable decision making (23).**

- *Unclear whether housing means affordable or social housing not just houses to buy. I assume it does, but can't support until its clearer*
- *Doubtful what the respective roles of the councils and MCA would be.*

#### **Housing is best placed at the local authority level. Concerns over the potential for a decrease in local accountability (19).**

- *This may be something better done at a more local level.*
- *Here I am more hesitant. Housing should remain as local a function as possible. Moving any housing powers away from York or North Yorkshire... is probably not a good idea...once housing is considered across such a large area there will be more of an incentive to find housing solutions that require...car use and longer commuting journeys.*
- *How do these powers interact with local authority-led spatial planning obligations e.g. local plans, air quality plans etc? Does this empower the CA to impose (or block) development within a local area against the will of the LA?*

#### **Doubts over the ability of the MCA to address issues of second home ownership (20).**

- *housing in general is overpriced if you can get rid of second homes in the area the youth just may be able to get on the housing ladder.*

#### **Concerns over the ability of the MCA to address the challenge of providing affordable housing (27).**

- *York needs more affordable housing for the people that live here and less student and shared housing used to generate massive rent profits from greedy landlords.*
- *This could be a massive opportunity if local people are fully consulted and housing to meet local peoples need is addressed in the first instance - primary homes, for local people/key workers, accessible, climate friendly and affordable.*

#### **A requirement for further assurance that the MCA will concentrate on environmentally friendly homes (31).**

- *All new housing and commercial developments and extensions should be being built to net zero standards with good design to ensure minimal ongoing energy use and using carbon negative materials e.g. wood.*

#### **Confused over the budget allocation and purpose of the new Mayoral powers related to housing and regeneration (12).**

- *Confused by roles here. Thats not a lot of money, so probably expected to see focus on help for existing homes on energy reduction or new energy small scale schemes.*

Looking for more detail of **local involvement in housing (10)** and planning issues.

- *Development should be considered by each local area and in the best interests of that.*

### **7.3 Unassigned opinion**

A number of comments were made on the housing and regeneration proposals by respondents who did not provide an indication of whether they supported, opposed, were neutral or did not know.

- *Cooperation across boundaries including West Yorkshire authorities in addressing location and service needs of housing is poor at the moment and needs early action.*
- *Direct controls are important.*
- *Far too much power over the future of Yorkshire vested in a minority.*
- *Hopeful of limits on sprawling new developments and an END to homes in rural areas being sold off as holiday homes which then remain empty for most of the year.*
- *Housing is a local issue.*
- *How will this impact on the surrounding area? The Mayor will not be that interested in towns and villages outside of York. Every town needs its own governance.*
- *It's no good just building houses everywhere! What an out making it compulsory for builders to invest in community infrastructure schools, GP surgeries,, hospitals all if which are desperately struggle. This impacts everyone in communities. Not just about housing*
- *Local knowledge may be valuable here, but the contributions offered by central government aren't enough to make much difference.*
- *Need to ensure provision of more social and affordable housing. Not everyone can afford to buy.*
- *North Yorkshire is not a coherent mayoral area ...*
- *Overrides local opinion.*
- *so long as there is challenge so that it is clear that what is proposed is correct.*
- *The abolition of the district of RYEDALE was not allowed to be voted upon by public demand. Much better close management can be achieved by councillors representing various parished.*
- *Think infrastructure and do not build any more houses without financing the increased infrastructure requirements! It's a travesty that currently there are so many new housing developments in Harrogate without any consideration or financing of the additional infrastructure requirements!!!!!!*
- *This mayor's going to be busy looking after all these things, NYCC has not be able to do it with all the staff it's got, so how will they???*
- *Will Planning still carry the same weight.*

## 7.4 Stakeholder Responses

All responses to this section highlighted the priority of affordable, low carbon housing for the sub-region.

Several organisations, including Zero Carbon Harrogate and Northern Power Grid, suggested that zero carbon or low energy housing should be mandated as part of plans.

Homes England were keen to work with the MCA to increase local housing supply. York and North Yorkshire LEP identified the opportunity for York and North Yorkshire to work in a more integrated way with Homes England, taking a collaborative, place-based approach to delivering homes across the region. Network Rail described the importance of the MCA in supporting the York Central programme, which is important for housing in York.

North York Moors National Park Authority supported the powers on the basis that their statutory planning and place making powers were protected. In particular the requirement for National Park Authorities to give consent to Mayoral Development Areas within their boundaries was seen as important.

Whitby Community Network suggested that there was a huge opportunity to focus on the needs of local communities and address the affordability issues of housing markets skewed by holiday home ownership. They also suggested that redevelopment must be considered equally across towns and rural areas, where primary homes are not being built. Yorkshire Food, Farming and Rural Network similarly supported increased provision of rural affordable housing, essential to the future of a vibrant rural economy.

Yorkshire Museums Trust wished to see developers investing in infrastructure for stronger communities, particular in terms of culture.

## 7.5 Feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries

### 7.5.1 General comments

- *Several comments noted the urgent need for more affordable housing, especially in the rural areas to prevent younger people from moving out of the region.*
- *“At what point does it become strategic? Will Mayor will take responsibility for the housing plan and external funding”.*
- *Will be good to see more housing and development of employment land happening to stop movement of young people and jobs out of the region.*
- *“If we don’t find a way of making housing and jobs available for our local young people and discourage the present trend of manic house buying (at ridiculous prices) by people from outside the area – there will not be a Yorkshire left to govern”.*



## **7.5.2 Issues and benefits to the local population for the MCA to consider**

- *Requirement for added facilities to complement large housing developments - Lots of housing but no extra facilities such as GP's sporting facilities etc.*
- *Challenges for Mayor's housing portfolio – "The cost of housing, second homes and lack of affordable housing"*
- *When building new estates, "enforce (inclusion of) more affordable houses"?*
- *Affordable housing to enable more local people to stay in the area.*

# 8 Skills and Employment

## 8.1 Background

The proposed devolution deal will give the mayoral combined authority (MCA) powers to help people and businesses in York and North Yorkshire get the skills and support necessary to reach their ambitions, as well as support the region's economy. This will be achieved through control of the government's Adult Education Budget and powers which are outlined in section 3.4 of the scheme. It is proposed that this will work by conferring functions on the mayoral combined authority. This will include:

- Locally provide adult education and training and control the Adult Education Budget (AEB) from the academic year 2025/26, subject to meeting readiness conditions.
- promote the effective participation in education and training of young people aged 16 and 17.
- make available to young people and relevant young adults appropriate support services to encourage, enable and help them participate in education and training.
- ensure that adult education and training in York and North Yorkshire promotes high standards, fair access to opportunity for education and training, and fulfils individuals' learning potential.
- require relevant institutions in the further education sector to provide appropriate education to specified individuals aged between 16 and 18 years.

Set out below are the responses related to the new funding and finance proposals - detailed in summary above - received by :

- Submission to the online survey.
- Stakeholder submissions (by letter.)
- Feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries.

Please note that discussions of proposed Governance under the devolution deal that took place in the independently facilitated focus groups are detailed in Section 11 of this report.



## 8.2 Online Survey Responses

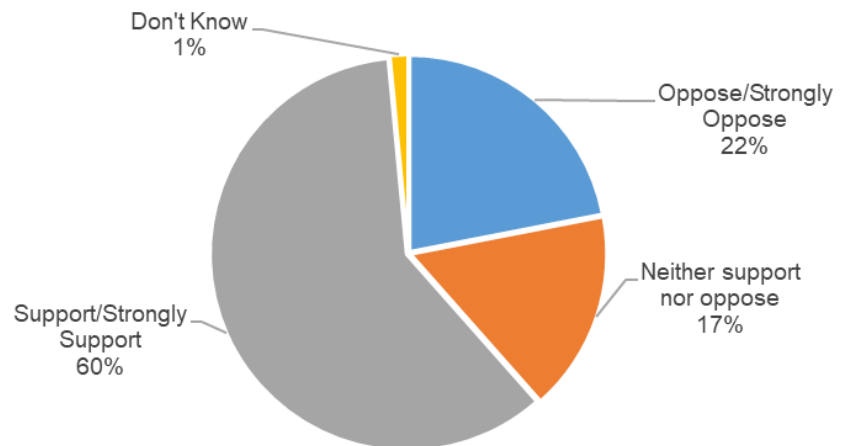
When asked:

*Do you support or oppose the proposal to move these skills and employment functions to a York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority?*

Of the 1,531 people who provided a response:

- The majority (60%) supported or strongly supported the proposal.
- Just under a quarter (22%) opposed or strongly opposed the proposal.
- 17% of respondents were neither in support nor opposition.
- The remainder (2%) didn't know.

Response	No.	%
Support/Strongly Support	919	60%
Oppose/Strongly Oppose	336	22%
Neither support nor oppose	253	17%
Don't Know	23	2%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,531</b>	<b>100%</b>



\*Please note this total reflects the number of respondents providing a rating response, additional respondents provided comments without providing a rating.

### 8.2.1 Reasons for support

Of the 451 people who provided comments indicating that they supported the skills and employment functions proposals the reasons provided were as follows.

**Education is viewed as central to any region's economic performance and individual employability (68).** Respondents support the proposal in recognition of the importance of interventions in this area for York and North Yorkshire.

- *Education both technical and academic are precursors to the future development of the region.*
- *Education is vital is a vital ingredient in a successful modern economy. Local provision must meet local needs.*

Skills development **focussed on the green economy (45)** supporting future sustainability and a zero carbon economy.

- *A strategic economic plan centred on renewables, carbon capture and net zero and even circular will mean a whole new skill set and lifelong learning to unskilled and refill.*
- *The proposed approach enables a greater focus on generating green jobs which will assist in house building but also the ambitions expressed for a York and North Yorkshire*

*Mayoral Combined Authority to work with Government on Net Zero, Climate Change and Natural Capital.*

**Adult education (39)** and retraining are a key motivator to support the proposals.

- *Adult education can be tailored to suit the demands of the locality.*

The proposals provide **an opportunity to foster the skills of young people (67)** to ensure they and the region are competitive.

- *The skills gap in this area is massive. We must restore the aspirations of young people.*
- *The training of young people is crucial to the survival of York and North Yorkshire. Too many leave the area because they cannot find suitable work or housing.*
- *More needs to be done for young people in NEETs (not in education, employment or employment), and alternative education.*

Develop **vocational routes to skills and employment (63)**.

- *Education is a good thing. Training and apprenticeships for the age groups in question is a far better thing. We waste far too much money on young people going to university - we need far more training for employment.*
- *Young people need access to education and skills, not just academic but life skills and vocational.*
- *As a primarily rural county I would like to see skill apprenticeships and vocational training especially in rural skills such as woodwork, stone carving (dry stone walling). For youth not academic there should be better local apprenticeships.*
- *As presently organised education is obsessively academic - much more emphasis needs to be placed on technical education.*

Recognises the **importance of local knowledge (17)** in skills provision planning.

- *As with housing the local context is crucial.*
- *Control on a local level can be more specific and better decisions made.*
- *Local control of education, particularly adult education nature and funding is crucial.*

Recognises the **benefit of experience from elsewhere (12)** to the benefit of York and North Yorkshire.

- *Other Mayoral authorities can do this successfully so why not here?*

Provides **a structured and strategic response** from the combined authority to York and North Yorkshire's immediate and long-term **skills needs (41)**.

- *Provides leadership & co-ordinated approach.*
- *Allows a Combined Authority to tailor local people's skills to the needs of local business and industry, ensuring young people can access local employment opportunities.*

Provides **a structured and strategic response** from the combined authority to York and North Yorkshire's immediate and long-term **employment needs (53)**.

- *We need a strong mayoral area to work on bring the right employers to the area. This would mean quality and skilled employment with well paid jobs.*
- *We need this to achieve our goals and ambitions and support our economy.*
- *We need to ensure the training and skills provided are for actual jobs and employers in the region. We need to get a better fit between what the needs and shortages are, with a supply of skills and people locally. Everyone must talk to each other to ensure it's all relevant.*

Support was offered on the clear proviso that the offer was **equitably applied (15)** across the whole of North Yorkshire.

- *As long as the opportunities are available in all areas of North Yorkshire.*

## 8.2.2 Reasons for opposition

Of the 213 people who provided comments indicating they opposed the skills and employment functions proposals the reasons provided were as follows.

A blanket **rejection of the principles of an elected mayor and MCA (26.)**

- *I don't think a York and North Yorkshire mayoral authority is a good idea...*
- *I don't want a mayor.*
- *I don't want and we don't need an expensive mayor trying to tackle problems beyond their ability.*
- *I oppose the whole principle of a mayor.*

Concerns over **increased bureaucracy (35).**

- *I do not believe there is any benefit in having an additional layer of political opinion. Councillors are elected by local residents to govern local service delivery. An elected mayor, by definition, will be an obstacle to this.*

The **scale of the problem** requires a national solution **(17).**

- *This is a national problem of huge proportions and as such needs a national solution with associated funding. Any attempt to address the problem on a local level will, at very best, do no more than scratch the surface and will result in a patchwork of provision across the country.*

Concerns over the **lack of information to enable decision making (36).**

- *The statement in support of this question is wholly politically loaded in favour of the positive answer but no where can I find evidence to support this.*

This is an issue **best handled at local authority level (25)** and the Mayoral function will interfere.

- *the Unitary Authority should be doing these things.*

The scale of operation of the proposal is **too big to address the diversity of North Yorkshire (31).**

- *As before, outlying areas will lose out.*

- *I believe local providers know the areas and challenges best North Yorks and York are very different providers with different client groups how could a combined authority possibly understand those diverse needs properly. I feel this will be a detriment to York and that York will lose out.*
- *I believe the area is to large and diverse to be singularly controlled.*

**Concerns over the Mayoral role (11).**

- *This can be achieved without the role of Mayor.*
- *Do not think a mayor is needed to promote skills.*
- *The North Yorkshire Council already undertake these responsibilities and there is no evidence that a Mayor will carry out the duties any better than the Council.*

**Concerns over increased bureaucracy (12).**

- *We really do not need another level of bureaucracy and administration. This reduces the amount actually reaching those who need it.*
- *Don't we already have support systems like this in place?*

The **funding to support the proposals is not explained (13)** giving rise to concern.

- *No mention of specific funding for these devolved responsibilities*
- *There is no case given for why the change will be beneficial over current arrangements.*
- *Insufficient funding provided: apprenticeships and traineeships are excluded.*

### **8.2.3 Reasons unsure**

Of the 133 people who provided comments indicating that they were unsure about the skills and employment functions proposals the reasons provided were as follows.

Unsure how to respond as a result of a **lack of information to enable decision making (14).**

- *Sounds woolly.*
- *Not clear how this will work in practice. Again, decisions made remotely will potentially have a big impact on local skills and employment.*
- *This is a fifty/fifty, it could go horrible wrong. I could understand the case if the seven districts were separate to the old county council.*
- *What exactly will they be trained for? Not everyone is an academic high flyer and even if they are, what are the employment prospects?*

The proposals lack detail on the extent to which it will address criticism related to it being **too big to address the diversity of North Yorkshire (23).**

- *...proposals are fine if the Mayor actually looks at how to help the entire region and not just focus on the cities.*

- *Too large and diverse area to be able to pull this together again it is about local people dealing with this.*
- *May be loading too much on the combined authority. The County and City Councils still need a role.*

The **cost/benefit** of the proposal **needs to be more clearly defined (19)**.

- *The benefit situation needs to be addressed first, as I do not like paying taxes for a lot of the people who cannot be bothered to work and are just happy to 'milk' the system.*

Concerns over **increased bureaucracy** and **lack of clarity on funding /resources (35)**

- *This just sounds like an indictment of the current provision/management and I'm not clear how more bureaucracy will improve that without more funding which does not appear to be part of the deal.*
- *Yet more 'sweeteners! Again, all of these new functions could/should have been introduced under existing local government structures. It is neither necessary, desirable or democratically justifiable to impose an unwanted MCA.*

The way in which **those in most need of support** are to be **attracted to the system (33)** needs further definition/clarification.

- *This is really important; the Council need to find ways to attract and entice those most in need of this support. Finding ways to communicate with communities to understand what they really need, rather than what the professional think they need, is vital.*

## 8.2.4 Unassigned opinion

A number of comments were made on the skills and employment functions proposals by respondents who did not provide an indication of whether they supported, opposed, were neutral or did not know.

- *I think this will benefit the urban areas over the rural*
- *All important issues but North Yorkshire does not lend itself to a mayoral approach ... what do Skipton and Scarborough have in common...*
- *Already done this.*
- *Central government would retain power over any budget, so could cripple or negate any initiatives locally favoured with which it disagreed. So it's an illusory benefit.*
- *It would be the height of hypocrisy to let any Authority anywhere near Skills or employment as they lack an understanding of both, however "consultants" and ex. Council Officers now in Skills training would be overjoyed.*
- *"The Mayoral Authority must ensure that the whole of North Yorkshire has a greened skilled workforce:*
  - *1/. Training for new green skills such as retrofitting may require to be tailored to specialist rural needs.*
  - *2/. Such a structure would be able to target both the numerous urban settlements and large rural areas over the geographical region.*

- *3/. Needs to act to ensure coordination with national policies."*

- *This area has been neglected for years.*

### **8.3 Stakeholder Responses**

There was broad support across responses for the proposed powers. The Tees Valley Mayor, Ben Houchen, highlighted successes in Teesside using devolved Adult Education Budget to support residents with skills that businesses need and creating employment opportunities.

Noting that the region has the potential to build an economy based on knowledge, innovation and skills, University of York and BioYorkshire wanted to be part of creating the green skills future required, building on their previous work on the regional skills strategy.

York and North Yorkshire LEP supported the devolution of the Adult Education Budget, but also felt there is an opportunity to go further linking Local Skills Improvement Plans, with Adult Education, Bootcamps and National Skill Funding to deliver skills provision focused on economic opportunities.

North York Moors National Park Authority also supported the proposals, with a desire to ensure that training provision within the region equips the workforce to make the most of the opportunities in the green and landscape economy. Yorkshire Food, Farming and Rural Network supported the provision of a wider range of educational choices, particularly those which will improve job opportunities and higher paid jobs within the rural economy.

Whitby Community Network supported the proposals and wished to see training available in all market towns, or sufficient transport available to access other facilities, to support Net Zero targets.

### **8.4 Feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries**

#### **8.4.1 General comment**

- *Positive support for the MCA to invest in the delivery of skills training and employment opportunity across the region.*
- *"The devolution of powers for adult education and skills to the region... allows us to tailor this provision to our needs".*

#### **8.4.2 Issues and benefits to the local population for the MCA to consider**

- *"One door for business support"*
- *Address Issues with recruitment in remote locations*
- *Help for businesses interested in registering to access funding for delivery of skills/ employment training.*
- *Priority should be given to support sustainability of rural businesses and help them recruit and retain staff.*
- *Support young people into employment: Get them involved in community projects.*



- *Get educational institutions to teach what is needed locally: Opportunity to deliver what is really needed especially in retail and hospitality.*
- *Ensure education and training is more flexible to allow on job and off job training.*
- *Address the shortage of skills in abattoirs and green skills, and general labour.*
- *MCA should allocate funding to resource towards schools and education, particularly primary school.*

# 9 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Functions

## 9.1 Background

The proposed deal includes the transfer of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner functions and powers to the Mayor. This will deliver better outcomes for the public by improving working across public services, for example between social inclusion and community safety and cohesion. Joining police and crime functions with oversight of other public services in the mayoral combined authority would also promote further collaboration within the region.

A mayor exercising police and crime functions will continue to provide a single, directly accountable individual who is responsible for securing an efficient and effective police, fire and rescue services in North Yorkshire, in the same way the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner does currently. A summary of the functions to transfer is shown below:

The Mayor's Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner functions would include:

- issuing a police and crime plan and Fire and Rescue Plan
- setting the police budget including council tax requirements
- undertaking Chief Constable, Chief Fire Officer and Deputy Chief Fire Officer dismissals, suspensions, and appointments
- being the employer of all Fire and Rescue staff

The Mayor will appoint a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (who is not directly elected), to whom they may delegate functions like:

- determining police and crime objectives
- attending meetings of a Police and Crime Panel
- preparing an annual report

These functions will be transferred from the existing North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to the Mayor. A Police, Fire and Crime Panel will scrutinise the actions and decisions of the Mayor / Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and enable the public to hold them to account.

Set out below are the responses related to the new funding and finance proposals - detailed in summary above - received by :

- Submission to the online survey.
- Stakeholder submissions (by letter.)
- Feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries.

Please note that discussions of proposed Governance under the devolution deal that took place in the independently facilitated focus groups are detailed in Section 11 of this report.



## 9.2 Online Survey Responses

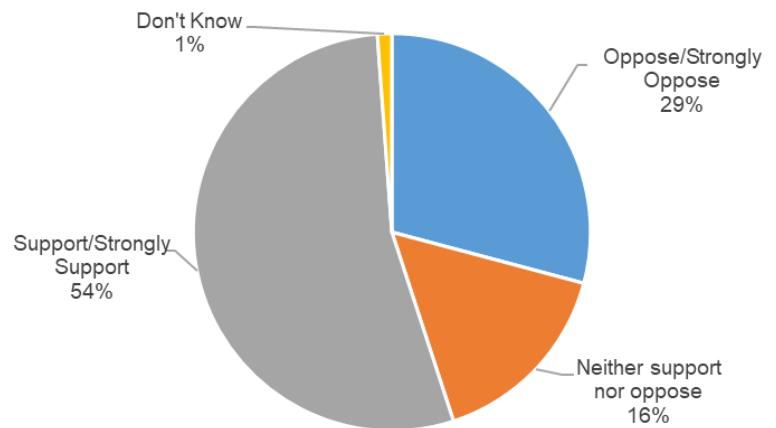
When asked:

*Do you support or oppose the proposal to move Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner functions to a York and North Yorkshire Mayor?*

Of the 1,534 people who provided a response:

- The majority (54%) supported or strongly supported the proposal.
- Nearly a third (29%) opposed or strongly opposed the proposal.
- 16% of respondents were neither in support nor opposition.
- The remainder (1%) didn't know.

Response	No.	%
Support/Strongly Support	826	54%
Oppose/Strongly Oppose	447	29%
Neither support nor oppose	243	16%
Don't Know	18	1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,534</b>	<b>100%</b>



\*Please note this total reflects the number of respondents providing a rating response, additional respondents provided comments without providing a rating.

### 9.2.1 Reasons for support

Of the 354 people who provided comments indicating that they supported the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner proposals the reasons provided were as follows.

The proposal is viewed as positive in that it would bring Fire and Rescue and Police services under the remit of one individual, **providing a holistic overview (67)**.

- *Keeping all services joined up.*
- *Makes sense to be coterminous.*
- *Makes sense to have this function under the elected mayorship to ensure consistency and accountability.*
- *No point doubling up on these particular jobs.*

The overall remit of the MCA and the Mayor's role will **ensure a broad alignment with other strategic action** in the County **(73)**.

- *The alignment of police, fire and crime priorities with housing priorities is a big opportunity to improve outcomes and experiences of customers and communities.*
- *A joined-up approach across all previous council areas will always be a positive, ensuring value for money and a consistent approach across the area.*

- *More cohesive working between these services and council services can only benefit the wider population.*

The feeling that the **current arrangements** are not working and **would benefit from refresh (80)**.

- *The current commissioner has let the roads & pavement deteriorate to a dangerous level with no attempt to enforce road traffic law beyond a few arbitrary speed cameras.*
- *Police commissioners have not been that effective. If this works like Manchester then it would be an improvement*
- *More direct control and information. Things need shaking up. Desperate need of more staff and people to handle complaints, help and support.*

The proposal will allow for **rationalisation of roles and reduced costs (93)**.

- *Having to pay for the election of a commissioner is a waste of money so the mayor taking up this role will save this money and allow it to be spent where needed.*
- *...never saw why this appointment is a standalone position.*
- *Will do away with extra costs for the current post in addition to the new Mayor.*

The proposal will **enhance local accountability (35)** of the role.

- *It must be better to have local accountability.*
- *North Yorkshire Police are wholly non-responsive. It takes an MP letter to get any traction. It is a ridiculous situation. The MCA should improve this situation and introduce more accountability.*
- *Democratic accountability to community safety and combining in the mayoral role ensures efficiency of resources.*
- *Crime is an integrated society problem and needs tackling in an efficient manner with public accountability.*

## 9.2.2 Reasons for opposition

Of the 307 people who provided comments indicating they opposed the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner proposals the reasons provided were as follows.

A blanket **rejection of the principles of a Mayor and an MCA (25)**.

- *I don't support a combined authority.*
- *I support the principle not this undemocratic structure. The proposed composition of the combined authority is profoundly undemocratic.*
- *I don't want a mayor.*

**Increased Bureaucracy (35)**.

- *This will build an additional layer of bureaucracy which we do not support in the current economic climate.*
- *This really does sound like you're creating even more paid positions of power to do a job that is already being done badly.*

- *The staff needed to run the proposed Mayors office will run into millions leaving very little funding for the rural areas.*

**The current arrangements are working (44).**

- *The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner already has adequate oversight. I fail to see how aligning police, fire, and crime priorities with transport, housing and skills employment will improve outcomes for anyone.*

The proposals will result in a **loss of democratic accountability (13).**

- *The PFCC is a democratically elected position, under this proposal it will be appointed. that's taking away democracy and I oppose it.*
- *The PCC won't be elected directly after the new Mayor is in place and that is a negative.*
- *A large amount of money and time has been spent on elected someone to this role, it is inappropriate to change now particularly to some unelected person. This role must be directly responsible to the electorate.*

**Concerns over the Mayoral role (25).**

- *Too much for one person.*
- *One person vested with so much power it is a retrograde step.*
- *too much on plate and political appointment*

**Too big to address the diversity of North Yorkshire (32).**

- *This will lead to resources being diverted away from rural communities.*

**Doesn't go far enough in delivering devolution (14) .**

- *Devolution is about dispersing power into communities. Centralising power into a Mayor is not devolution. Real devolution is what Wales and Scotland have got. Abolish the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and give the money back to Local Governments and fund them properly.*

**Lack of information to enable decision making (35).**

- *I've seen nothing yet suggesting that the proposed method of management would be more efficient, effective and lower cost than the current system.*

**Concerns over politicising the role (53).**

- *The delivery or emergency services should be kept as non-political as is possible. Combining this function with the Mayoral structure is in principle wrong.*

### 9.2.3 Reasons unsure

Of the 134 people who provided comments indicating that they were unsure about the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner proposals the reasons provided were as follows.

#### Concerns over the proposal's funding (53).

- (I'd support) *Only if funded properly.*

A need to be convinced that the **role could be managed by one person (37)**.

- *Not sure about the combination of two such large roles being performed by one person.*

**Unconvinced by the arguments (17)** put forward for the role.

- *No great benefit over existing arrangements*
- *I'm not at all clear whether this is materially different to the current position.*
- *I don't see this changing anything other than the person who is in charge.*

#### Lack of information to enable decision making (13).

- *Not clear how the members of the Police Fire and Crime Panel will be chosen. How will democratic oversight be exercised?*
- *Not enough information as to what this means on the ground, for the day to day running of the local services.*
- *Insufficient information for a decision*

The **potential increase in regional reach**

- *A bigger regional reach for a single Police Authority might be of benefit - depends upon its organisation.*

### 9.2.4 Unassigned opinion

A number of comments were made on the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner proposals by respondents who did not provide an indication of whether they supported, opposed, were neutral or did not know.

- *...broadly support this unless it translates into the amalgamation of services resulting in a 'cost saving' which ends up leaving all but urban areas underserved.*
- *Already done.*
- *Better to have centralised structure*
- *National services are required.*
- *Police and crime commissioners if felt important should be separate.*
- *The job is already a created position that has little value so you are just expanding its worthlessness.*
- *What do we even need a crime commissioner for?? More money being spent on wasted job creations.*

## 9.3 Stakeholder Responses

Relative few responses directly referenced police, fire and crime powers, but there was support for the proposals within all those that did. York and North Yorkshire LEP and North York Moors National Park Authority both supported the transfer of powers.

North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner fully supported the proposals set out in the Scheme for a transfer of all components of the existing governance landscape on an 'as is' basis. This is on the basis that the Office of the Commissioner would "remain a ringfenced entity sitting within the MCA, retaining its existing governance, structures and collaborations."

Whitby Community Network supported the powers and wanted to see further consolidation of all emergency services under one umbrella to support efficiency in remote areas.

## 9.4 Feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries

### 9.4.1 Accountability and limited specialist knowledge

- *While some comments supported the proposal for the Mayor to take on police, fire and crime functions, there were comments about the governance implications of this – (in the exercise of these powers), some asked "To whom would the mayor be accountable"?*
- *North Yorkshire Police need a massive input to regain people's trust and faith. How can a mayor have experience in Fire + police also ambulance stations should all be together with Fire stations etc. You should have local people involved who have experience in person.*

### 9.4.2 Issues for the MCA to consider

- *"The office (must be) more visible in what they are doing and delivering" regarding Police, Fire and Crime*
- *"The roles of Mayor and Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (should be) aligned".*

# 10 Other Responses

## 10.1 Background

As well as the structured responses prompted by the discussions around:

- Governance;
- Finance and funding;
- Net zero carbon;
- Transport;
- Housing and regeneration;
- Skills and employment; and
- the transfer of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner functions

the consultation was geared to encourage and enable consultees to provide their views on issues outside these topics. Set out below are the responses related to these 'other' responses received by:

- Submission to the online survey.
- Stakeholder submissions (by letter.)
- Feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries.

Please note that discussions of proposed Governance under the devolution deal that took place in the independently facilitated focus groups are detailed in Section 11 of this report.

## 10.2 Online Survey Responses

The responses (650) received to the online survey to the question.

*Are there any other comments you would like to make that you do not feel you have addressed in your response?*

have been grouped thematically and are explored below.

### 10.2.1 Accessibility and equality (65)

- *To think about people with all disabilities when making decisions that affect them. Also making sure things are all accessible to all disabilities is important.*
- *To make all information accessible to all people with all disabilities, and also to understand people with a disability needs more support with things.*
- *Also to produce all correspondence, inaccessible formats, i.e. electronically, or Braille*

### 10.2.2 Lack of information to support decision making (67)

- *A complete lack of transparency and putting the information in simple to understand layman's terms. I always feel as though people don't want me to know the truth when that happens. Not real engagement of consultation of your intended audience. A shame a lot of the links on commonplace aren't working.*
- *Difficult to respond when the underlying structures are so misconceived. So much so that it is hard to support any proposals. However, I have tried to be constructive.*



### **10.2.3 North Yorkshire's different (53)**

- *A directly elected mayor seems to work well in a metropolitan area like Greater Manchester or West Yorkshire, but North Yorkshire is very different. It is difficult to see how a mayor for a largely rural and geographically diverse area like North Yorkshire would have a similar profile. In most parts of the county, he or she is likely to be seen as an outsider, or even as a representative of central government which would fund him or her.*
- *A large area made up of a few urban centres and a spread out rural population, with many differing and local issues is fundamentally unsuited to being 'run' by one person, with concentrated central power.*

### **10.2.4 Concerns over the Mayoral role (45)**

- *A mayor would be a total waste of money, too much responsibility over too much of the county.*
- *A mayoral role is totally unnecessary.*
- *This is just a boundary of convenience, not of common sense, and if these finances were offered to the region without this dodgy mayorship aspect attached then it would be overwhelmingly taken without the mayor.*
- *I have objections to the Mayor/MCA being an additional cost borne by local residents and businesses.*
- *...do not think that York needs a Mayor. We do not need to copy America - in fact that would be a very retrograde step!*

### **10.2.5 Concerns over the consultation process (52)**

- *From figures I have seen 4 days before this consultation is due to close there has been less than 0.25% of residents responding. This extremely low response rate raises questions about the validity of any findings from the consultation. If the proposals are to be implemented on the basis of the results of the consultation this is not democratic. Surely for this change to be democratic there should be a referendum with more than 50% of those voting being in favour.*
- *From start to finish this questionnaire was loaded in favour of positive answers. Was it ever approved by any independent assessment such as the Electoral Commission?*
- *Absolute waste of taxpayers' money, but the civil service and government NEVER listen to joe public, who don't want it ever.*
- *Never confuse consultation with involvement so although I feel consulted I am not involved because you and your ilk already know the answers and that is what will happen unless the Treasury decides otherwise.*
- *As an individual resident I have taken the time to reply even though I feel cynical about the value of the consultation and that there is a political imperative driving this that has little to do with benefit for local residents.*

- *This consultation is biased and unreasonable. Some of these issues should be tackled at York vs North Yorkshire level, or lower than that, and some should be at the Yorkshire level.*

### **10.2.6 Enhanced focus on environmental issues (47)**

- *"A scaling up of renewable electricity and heat is essential to rapidly reach net zero. There are currently significant barriers from Northern Power Grid that are preventing investment in clean power. Lack of regional oversight and planning could be addressed by an MCA".*
- *Increased insulation/efficiency of homes to save energy is very important, to reduce carbon emission and save money.*
- *"Given that the region has a strong agricultural base, a regionally coordinated land use policy that enables the region to meet its carbon negative ambition is essential e.g. through peat restoration, woodland creation, marine forests and regenerative agriculture."*
- *"All policies proposed by the mayor should be climate change and net zero tested with close adherence to the advice offered by the LEP and the Yorkshire and Humberside Climate Commission".*
- *"What is really needed is the creation and coordination of a regional net zero delivery programme for sustained change over many years, e.g. retrofit. We can't go on relying on handouts from central government to local councils on their own to meet net zero so the new powers will help to ensure the devo settlement is used to best progress an ambitious programme of change."*
- *"Affordability should not be the primary driving force of our transition to Net Zero but needs to be considered".*
- *The Mayoral must ensure interconnectivity with other areas and nationally, which is key.*
- *"Sharing of best practise both nationally and internationally should be accelerated and not be hindered by any new structures."*

### **10.2.7 Challenges of reduced funding in public service (61)**

- *A change of funding and management of the funding does not address the issue of cut backs that have been in place for over a decade.*
- *Need to have income generating powers or else it is one endless round of doing what the Treasury says.*

### **10.2.8 Too big to reflect the diversity of North Yorkshire with too small a budget (15)**

- *Although on the whole I have supported the York and North Yorkshire conglomerate, I feel nervous that this is too big and minority needs will slip through the net.*
- *A Mayor and Combined Authority for York and North Yorkshire should recognise how diverse the region is and that there is a risk the interests of the wider county, which is largely rural, is prioritised and the central, much smaller, and in some ways quite different, city of York is overlooked.*



- *Although the financial figures quoted sound enticing, I fear that is insufficient in a large geographical area.*

### **10.2.9 Focus on communications infrastructure for all (15)**

- *we have intermittent broadband, large area with NO mobile phone, I will be very surprised if a mayor will sort out these village problems.*
- *Get the fibre to the home broadband sorted in every town, not just the villages.*

### **10.2.10 High hopes for the police and crime elements of the proposal (55)**

- *...someone who would be accountable for policing criminal services I hope they understand that the largest % of victims fall into the vulnerable / special needs category - they then would be accountable for any mis failings in future cases.*

### **10.2.11 Working in partnership with other public services (43)**

- *... collaboration and building between existing resources and organisations including the business groups, the LEP, third sector and private sector being well facilitated by combined authorities and the mayor (and not lots of new structures/ restarts).*
- *Areas of urban deprivation must be prioritised for NHS and Social Services.*
- *"Basic life issues"*
- *Friarage hospital staff. apart from the doctors and senior managers, the majority of staff in the hospital don't earn a great deal of money. so why do they have to pay for parking.*
- *I notice nothing about environmental health in these proposals. Public Health budgets are far too small to respond effectively. NHS budgets do not provide for these services. As a tourist area, environmental health services should be excellent - and they are under resourced +++*
- *Council Housing repairs - how long would it take for these to be sorted...*

### **10.2.12 Opposed in principle to the Mayoral model (18)**

- *Basically I 'm opposed to the Mayoral role. It has achieved little in places where it has been set up .*
- *...a political post entirely arranged to paste over the poor decision to exclude York from the new unitary power which could have exercised these same powers .*

### **10.2.13 Devolution doesn't work (23)**

- *Devolution being proposed takes power and decision making from local Residents, it would be far better to have Yorkshire Assembly, where the people elected have a voice and bring local knowledge to the table and have a vote. None of the proposed is Democratic it is taking away local Democracy and it should be halted. The Power in one person's hands can never be right and I will never support it.*
- *Devolution does not work; it just leads to disagreement. Next we will be asking for a Yorkshire independence!!!!*

- *Devolution has not been a massive success in Wales, although the First Minister would think it has, and has proved to be a 'jobs for the boys' exercise. The Police Commissioners are scorned, and the public have not noticed any benefits since they were all appointed on enviable salaries.*
- *Devolution is a con. The monies offered by the Government are far too low. This proposal is not needed.*
- *Devolution is not on the best interests of North Yorkshire residents neither is a Unitary Authority but that seems unimportant.*
- *Devolution in other areas has generated conflict with central government based on the persuasion of the mayor. An unnecessary cost which will undoubtedly be borne by the council tax payer. We get little support now so to remove contact another step is saying to communities that we don't matter and you do not care.*

#### **10.2.14 Devolution will work (46)**

- *Devolution of powers is generally a good idea for local matters. We should also look at broader co-operation across the North East region as part of regaining control over regional development (which goes beyond York/North Yorkshire), rather than relying on a corrupt government in Westminster to do anything about it.*
- *"We also need to take a close look at the electoral process for mayor (and other roles), to avoid binary party political elections along with the corruption and divisiveness associated with that."*
- *"Devolution should embrace and enhance democracy; N Yorkshire".*
- *"Devolution should embrace and enhance local democracy but all decisions need to fit in with wider, national and global priorities. N Yorkshire is already too parochial and smug."*
- *Devolved powers will bring understanding of our region's unique and specific needs, combining this with relevant decisions.*
- *The knowledge to make this region a great place to work and live FOR ALL, exists. With the funds and devolved powers, this should be realised - economically, socially and environmentally. This should be the goal by which devolution is measured.*

#### **10.2.15 Reorganisation on top of reorganisation (15)**

- *Getting rid of a layer of costly government to then replace it with another seems folly to me. Why? Why can the unitary council not do these jobs just as well?*
- *Get Unitary working first.*

#### **10.2.16 Good luck and best wishes (11)**

- *Good luck! We need a strong and supported North Yorkshire that we can be proud of.*
- *Good luck let's make NY the best county to live and work. Continue to promote the area to visitors.*
- *Thank you for being given chance to speak + be listened to!"*

### **10.3 Stakeholder Responses**

There were a broad range of other comments received. Several respondents, including the National Railway Museum, Tees Valley Combined Authority, Homes England, BioYorkshire, University of York, North Yorkshire Moors National Park were keen to work with the MCA in the future to deliver the ambitions of devolution.

Zero Carbon Harrogate wanted to see a strong and resilient energy generation and distribution system throughout the Combined Authority area, whilst York Museums Trust thought the arrangements could create better conditions to work more collaboratively and reach more people.

Community First Yorkshire expressed support for the proposals with the potential to enhance a focus on rural issues. York Conservation Trust supported the evolving powers, capacity and creating new structures away from Whitehall, closer to the region. York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust welcomed new investment in unlocking growth and tackling local challenges.

York and North Yorkshire LEP supported the opportunity to strengthen public private partnership working to deliver better outcomes.

The North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner highlighted the extent of the work required to make a successful transition of all of the powers, duties, people, assets, services and partnerships of the Elected Local Policing Body and Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority (PFCCFRA), to the Mayor or the MCA. Effective communication with the public and with those who work within Fire, Police, Enable and OPFCC will be key throughout.

However, York & District Trades Union Council felt that the proposed geography does not make economic sense. They suggested it would make more sense for the southern and northern parts of the area to join the existing combined authorities neighbouring the area.

### **10.4 Feedback from offline activities, comments, and enquiries**

No general or 'other' comments were reported from these activities.

# 11 Focus Group Responses

## 11.1 Introduction

Focus group discussions were independently facilitated by Westco, against a discussion guide agreed with YNY LEP and partners.

The groups were made up of respondents from the following groups, the relevant group number is referenced in brackets against any quote used.

Group No.	Resident details
1	York residents, aged 18-30
2	Skipton and surrounding area – residents, aged 25-35
3	Harrogate and surrounding area - residents aged 65+
4	York and North Yorkshire residents, aged 18-30
5	Pickering and surrounding, area - residents aged 50+
6	York residents, aged 18+
7	North Yorkshire residents, aged 18-30
8	North Yorkshire residents, aged 18+
9	North Yorkshire residents, aged 18+

The objectives of the events were to engage and consult with the public on their views of the following;

- To explore what influences quality of life in the local area – York and North Yorkshire
- Explore understanding and views towards devolution as a concept – in favour/opposed/concerns and why.
- To explore understanding of governance and Mayoralty - in favour/opposed/concerns and why.
- To explore residents' relative priorities in devolution delivery in York and North Yorkshire, and perception and expectations of what devolution can/should deliver.

During each session, a slide deck was handed out to participants to allow them all to have the same level of knowledge about devolution and the proposals for this.

Due to this variation in format of questioning the results of these discussions are presented as a standalone chapter in this feedback report.

This section presents an extract of the report produced by Westco against their agreed brief, and where reference is made to 'we' this reflects the actions of the agency. The full report produced by Westco is included as an embedded file in Appendix Two of this report.

## 11.2 Quality of life

As part of the focus group discussions, residents were asked to define what quality of life means to them and what factors or issues they felt had the biggest impact on it. By doing this, we sought to understand what was important to residents in public service delivery and how this interacts with their quality of life in York and North Yorkshire.

Participants were asked what was important to their quality of life as a York & North Yorkshire resident. This line of questioning served two purposes:

1. To act as a warm up exercise, building participation and confidence to engage in the discussion.
2. To explore residents' relative priorities and provide context from which they could consider their responses to the specifics of the consultation.

This section of the report details findings across the nine resident focus groups on how residents defined quality of life, and their relative priorities in terms of what was most important to their quality of life.

### 11.2.1 Factors that impact quality of life

Some of the key factors mentioned by residents were: proximity to family and friends, access to scenic countryside, access to culture, ease of travel across the region and accessibility of public services, with services that fall under the jurisdiction of other public services operating in the area – such as the NHS and Police often mentioned.

Often the key factors related to much wider and more complex overarching themes, which were often interlinked. This section of the report provides commentary on the following themes and the factors within them:



#### Accessibility

The theme of accessibility was discussed by many residents across all of the groups and tended to focus on lack of accessibility to services or negative aspects of factors such as:

- **Highways/roads**

The quality and accessibility of highways and roads were discussed by many and linked to other themes such as growth and opportunities.

Many residents discussed their experiences of using the roads with factors such as the poor quality of the roads and the high volumes of traffic and congestion in local areas affecting quality of life.

Speaking of development at Castle Howard:

- *The roads are not highways, they are simply byways. Already congested, the A64, is frequently blocked which sends all the traffic through the village, it is of great concern.*

Group 5

- *Volume of traffic can't plan to go anywhere in the summer. It's gridlock pretty much every day. It's pretty much all year round now.*

Group 5

- *Where I live in York there are a lot of HMOs<sup>1</sup> and they bring a lot of traffic to the streets*

Group 6

For residents in or around York, discussions around congestion focused particularly on the City's ring roads. In more rural and suburban communities residents argued that there is a need to develop the road networks to support new housing developments and estates that have emerged in these areas. (discussed further in development and growth section.)

Many residents perceived that the volume of traffic and congestion was caused by a lack of planning of the road infrastructure.

- *They made promises about creating a A64 dual carriageway all the way through, but that never seems to finish so it would be interesting to know if that's going to happen as part of this devolution.*

Group 5

- *I'm hoping the transport can be sorted out, it's pretty much one lane all round and there's a lot on levelling up especially around the north and it takes a lot of time to get to certain places.*

Group 1

- *For people who have to commute to work by car, York is a horrendous place to negotiate, you just need York races to be on and the whole city is at a standstill.*

Group 9

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<sup>1</sup> Houses in Multiple Occupation



- *I know from when I lived in an estate when they build new houses everything else just becomes busier and touches upon everything else, traffic, they don't facilitate.*

Group 7

A related issue was the perceived high cost of car parking in York. Some residents acknowledged that parking costs had risen probably because the council was trying to cut congestion in the city, but these residents felt that the cost of travelling to the city by public transport was not cost effective either.

- **Public Transport**

Discussions about highways and roads were usually accompanied by discussions about public transport in the region. Generally, residents across the region felt that public transport is lacking and that it is difficult to travel around the region and also out of the region to other major destinations via public transport. Residents also noted the cost and infrequency of different forms of public transport, particularly important for people who cannot drive and who rely on public transport. In more rural and suburban communities difficulties accessing public transport compounded the accessibility of public services such as GP surgeries and dentists.

- *Because I don't drive, [I need] good transport routes that run on time.*

Group 1

- *The trains up north are so much worse than those down in south, and trying to get to places for instance, York, Manchester takes a lot longer than driving.*

Group 4

**Buses:** Some felt that bus services are not frequent enough in more rural areas, and some mentioned issues of reliability, impacting accessibility, particularly when a route only runs once an hour. Other residents also mentioned the bus fares, particularly that the cost of fares could discourage people from using the service and that this was hindering residents' ability to reach jobs or use towns and high streets.

- *I am lucky I can walk into York but it's £20 for 4 people just to go into town on a bus, that's an expensive trip so that's why the high street is dying and if you haven't got a car some of the shopping centres are out of your reach as well.*

Group 7

- *My granddaughter is doing an apprenticeship and she gets nothing, I pay her bus fare, £90 a month, she can't afford that.*

Group 5

- *A bus drove right past my 13 year old son because there wasn't enough room on the bus and that caused me some distress, he now has to get two buses, and get up an hour earlier to get a local bus into town and then one from town to his school.*

Group 8

**Rail:** Issues with buses were perceived to be compounded by poor rail infrastructure, particularly for residents in Pickering and Skipton where residents discussed how they often cannot take a more direct route to their desired destinations and need to travel to nearby cities and take a connecting train, making trains more expensive and a more time-consuming method of transport.

- *I drive but If I managed to get the train, I feel like you always have to go to Leeds to get to anywhere.*

Group 2

- *I went down to London a couple of weeks ago and it's just great what the underground like there is and train services here are very poor, they take 20-30mins or they don't even come, whereas in London they come every 2mins.*

Group 4

**Health Services:** The majority of residents discussed the accessibility of health services in the region, noting a lack of NHS places at local dentists, difficulties getting GP appointments and long waiting times for ambulances and at A&Es across the region.

Some attributed this to a lack of funding for local health services. Outside of York, residents also argued that population growth from new housing developments had put a lot of pressure on the existing health care infrastructure such that it currently cannot meet the needs of the local population.

- *No point building all these new houses, but what about the dentist? I know we have a hospital in Whitby which is brilliant, but there's not any dentists and there's other things you need to prioritise over houses.*

Group 7

- *There are so many new homes being built around Harrogate and they're not really affordable for the average person who works ... it's affecting the doctors; they are over-subscribed.*

Group 9

- *We keep talking about housing, but do we have the infrastructure like doctors for instance and dentists, I know that's generally a UK issue, but it won't help at all.*

Group 4

- *You could have multiple deaths between trying to reach Scarborough hospital, so it's important to have a regional hospital for those who work in manual jobs.*

Group 5

- *There's a complete lack of ambulance services...they said I won't get any ambulance for a while, so when you need an ambulance to come to Whitby you are going to have to wait because it has to come from Scarborough and in a medical emergency that's appalling.*



Group 8

**Local amenities:** Residents discussed the importance of local amenities as contributors to a good quality of life and physical and mental wellbeing. Here, there were differences by life stage, with families and older residents feeling more positive about the availability of local amenities. Those living in York appreciated the city's history and relaxed atmosphere and felt that living in and around the city provided many things for families to do and that other attractions such as the coast were not far away. Pickering residents were proud that they have everything they needed nearby. However, some younger residents felt their needs were not as well met, especially local cultural amenities.

- *York's got a great city centre, that certainly helps, weekends out, walking round, got history too.*

Group 6

- *Pickering has everything you want in a local area, everything is nearby.*

Group 5

- *For me it's access to good quality amenities locally and culture, so for me I'm a big live music fan and one of the things that is frustrating is having to travel further afield to see good quality acts and not having local culture on your doorstep.*

Group 1

## 11.2.2 Opportunities

The theme of opportunities was discussed by many residents, with some factors affecting quality of life because of a lack of opportunities. Factors impacting opportunities included:

**Housing:** Many cited housing as a key factor impacting their quality of life and differences in views by life stage and location emerged. Those living in or around York were concerned about the cost of housing, either being able to purchase a property or the cost of rent. They felt that the cost of housing has increased and is too high and that they are likely to get less value for money than elsewhere in the county. Generally older residents in Harrogate had moved there to take advantage of the perceived better quality of life the town afforded them and recognised it was more expensive than other towns in the region but some younger residents who had moved there for work had found it difficult to find affordable housing.

Linked to this, residents in other areas lacked confidence that promised affordable housing would actually be affordable for them.

- *Regarding the housing, it's very much needed in York, particularly the affordable housing... if it's not actually affordable for York prices, who would then be buying them up, is it then just for people to create more Airbnb's, will it actually be for people to live in?*

Group 1

- *We came from Leeds, and we found it was cheaper here [in York]... personally for me if someone's going to come in and enforce all this affordable housing, is that going to devalue my house?*

Group 1

- *I'm a primary schoolteacher and I'm only able to afford to live in Harrogate because we have taken over my Grandad's house, and one of my colleagues is renting here and it's just taking out so much of her salary every month.*

Group 9

- *We live in a bubble in Harrogate don't we.*

Group 3

Residents also discussed the need for new housing in terms of population growth and the impact on local infrastructure. As discussed in the accessibility theme, those outside of York often expressed concerns that further new developments would lead to more population growth in their local areas and add further pressure on local services.

- *Building houses in small areas, whilst we need them because the population is growing at the same time the more you do that there is more pressure on these services and people and it's not always feasible for them to meet them.*

Group 7

- *I don't see the point of giving permission for lots of houses when there's no jobs. There's no incentive for the council to say no, as they get £2000 council tax a year for taking the bins.*

Group 5

- *I know that there are 4000 new homes that have been built in Harrogate but nothing done about new GPs or new schools.*

Group 3

**Young people:** Some discussed the need for opportunities and amenities for children and young people. Several residents, often parents, noted that their children's mental health had declined during the pandemic and that there needs to be more amenities aimed at young people to facilitate improvements. There was also discussion about the need to support younger adults with post-16 education – some noting that there are few opportunities for young people in local areas.

- *I don't think the Hydro in Harrogate is scheduled to open until mid-next year and it's been closed for over 18 months, they are renovating it to make it safer but it has an impact on my kids leisure and social lives*

Group 8

- *I feel as a York resident that we don't get anything, if we were in Leeds or Harrogate we would get discounts, like at the ice skating, there's nothing particularly for young families in York, we don't have any ice skating, the leisure pool went.*

Group 9

- *More activities for kids, even with mental health. There used to be a lot of children/parent groups but due to Covid and the lack of funding there isn't a lot out there anymore.*

Group 7

- *Children who go onto further education get something, those who go into apprenticeships get nothing. My daughter I pay for her bus fares she can't afford it, where's the services these young families need?*

Group 5

- *My son couldn't get a job here and he's moved to Manchester now.*

Group 6

**Employment:** Some discussed the importance of job opportunities in York and North Yorkshire as a key component of quality of life. Discussions around jobs often focused on young people and the need to provide good jobs in local areas to ensure that those leaving school/college could stay in the local area. Residents also highlighted how jobs need to be accessible as well.

- *Half of the independent shops in York have closed because the rents are too high.*

Group 1

- *I am concerned about those in really rural areas, no access to transport and broadband and they can't get it, school transport costs, transporting, jobs for young people, jobs being retained by young people, hospital- need to try and keep it open.*

Group 5

- *Education for 16+ and making it fairer, and access courses that essentially lead to good paying jobs.*

Group 4

### 11.2.3 Wellbeing

Factors related to wellbeing often came up first in discussions about quality of life, covering themes such as the importance of having good health, both physical and mental, having a good work/life balance and having good relationships with friends and family. The region was often described as having natural beauty with scenic countryside close by, and this was also a contributor to wellbeing, and a key reason why residents liked living in the region.

**Mental and physical health:** Many residents discussed a general decline in their own mental health or of their friends and family. Much of this was attributed to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the isolation during lockdown. However, other factors were currently felt to be impacting the mental health of residents, such as the cost of living and pressures from work.

Physical health was also discussed as an important factor impacting quality of life, often exacerbated by difficulty accessing health services, as covered earlier in this section of the report.

- *'Mental and physical and balance of work and home life and happiness'*

Group 2

- *'It's not just financial, but wellbeing too, emotions and how you feel. If you don't think properly, you're not going to work properly. Combination of financial and mental wellbeing'*

Group 2

**Work/life balance & family/friends:** Some discussed the need for a good work life balance. Those who felt that this was important described wanting to have enough time to socialise with friends or family outside of work hours and having the freedom to choose how to prioritise work and family life. This topic also links with access to amenities in terms of having time to participate in culture such as music concerts, theatre performances etc.

- *'Good work life balance, making sure you have time for friends and family, working enough to sustain a household'.*

Group 2

- *'A good work life balance... well since having kids, I had been a teacher, but I decided to quit teaching so I could stay at home and look after the kids... I just like looking after the kids'.*

Group 1

- *"For me it's about being able to spend lots of time with my friends and make memories, so having things around locally that I can do and not do the same thing again and again is quite nice.'*

Group 1

- *It also relates to relationships, friends are important to your life,*

Group 3

**Countryside:** Residents emphasised the beauty of the York and North Yorks region as a positive impact on wellbeing. Those who had lived in other parts of the country appreciated the fresh air and relaxed feel of living in the region, and that it was easy to travel to the countryside or the coast. Some residents who had lived outside the region had decided to return when they retired, especially those living in Harrogate.

- *Returned to Yorkshire as it's better to live in the countryside than the city.*

Group 5

- *Loved everything about it [Yorkshire Countryside]*

Group 5

- *My brother was visiting from Glasgow and he remarked how nice it was here. I feel safe here, and I like the access to the countryside, and I couldn't think of another place where I'd rather be.*

Group 3

**Cost of living:** Many residents discussed the impact of the cost of living on heating and food having a negative impact on people's lives.

- *It's what you can afford, can you afford to pay bills and put food on the table, and that influences your health.*

Group 3

**Culture:** Linked with work life balance, several residents and especially those aged 18-35 discussed the need to have access to culture/entertainment in their local area and that this was lacking in the region. They discussed wanting to spend time with friends on 'nights out,' at music concerts and on the high street.

- *York's got a great city centre, that certainly helps, weekends out, walking round, got history too.*

Group 6

- *For me it's access to good quality amenities locally and culture, so for me I'm a big live music fan and one of the things that is frustrating is having to travel further afield to see good quality acts and not having local culture on your doorstep'.*

Group 1

**Personal safety:** Most residents said they felt safe living in the region. One exception to this was Harrogate where a local drugs problem was noted. In York, bicycle theft in the city centre was cited as a problem.

- *For a city York is quite safe, you can walk from one side of the city to the other, you'd let the kids go there on their own for a walk around, it's more relaxed than other cities like Leeds, if you go for a night out there, everything is so far apart, and it feels too crowded.*

Group 6

- *I've got a 17 year old son and I don't like him cycling into town because of the thefts, it doesn't matter what lock you've got, they will cut through it.*

Group 6

- *People tend to gloss over the underbelly of living in Harrogate, we have a huge drugs problem, I was personally assaulted on The Stray by someone who was off his head on drugs. It went to court but he didn't go to prison because of his mental health condition.*

Group 3

## 11.3 Devolution Proposals

The second section of the group discussions concentrated on devolution and the proposals around this. At the start of this section, a set of slides detailing what devolution is and the proposals for York and North Yorkshire were handed out to participants and the facilitator read through the slides with participants. A copy of these slides can be found in appendix C of the full Westco report included at Appendix 2 of this report .

### 11.3.1 Views on Devolution

#### Understanding

Across most groups there was confusion over what devolution means and how it will be different to the current make up of local government and local services. The terminology was not familiar to many which added to their confusion (e.g. mayoral funding stream, combined authority). Some residents understand the current structure of local government in York and North Yorkshire and found it difficult to compare the current model with the devolution deal.

- *I feel like you know more about what they don't do [in reference to local councils] and I think that's because on a day to day basis oh they haven't done this.*

Group 1

- *It's hard to decipher the benefits at the moment and add to that you don't know who will be running the thing.*

Group 3

There was also confusion and sometimes scepticism over if and how the new governance arrangements will change things for them day to day.

- *I don't understand why North Yorkshire County Council can't have all these things. What will be different?*

Group 5

Many wanted to know more about how the changes will impact them and how things will work in the new structure of local government. While the devolution deal is about the transfer of powers and funding, residents often wanted information about how this would be used. Some found it challenging to assess whether a Combined Mayoral Authority and a Mayor would be a benefit without knowing the steps that a newly elected Mayor would take.

- *I think we're all in agreement, that between all of us, we want to know a little bit more about it.*

Group 5

- *In general, moving decisions closer to people has got to be better but it's all in the detail isn't it, and this isn't detailed enough.*

Group 3

## Local decision making

Overall, many residents were positive about the transfer of more decision-making powers to the region. Those in favour of devolution argued that decision making will improve because the decision makers will be based in York and North Yorkshire and will see the opportunities and challenges the region presents.

- *Decisions about local area by people who are local. That is the positive of this.*  
Group 1
- *It sounds amazing, they are giving the region money to improve the region in the way they want.*  
Group 9
- *“Andy Burnham in Greater Manchester has been doing a lot of work on the transport network... Mayor elected by the people who would be much more involved with the community”.*  
Group 1

However, this position was qualified with some arguing that the area covered by the region is so large and diverse that there is a risk that the needs of different and smaller towns/villages may be missed in favour of cities and larger conurbations.

- *If you have one mayor for both, the focus will be on York, they're going to overlook the smaller areas that's always how it happened in the past.*  
Group 7
- *In general, moving decisions closer to people has got to be better but it's all in the detail isn't it, and this isn't detailed enough.*  
Group 3

## Trust in delivery

While many residents were supportive of the principles that underline the devolution deal, such as local decision making, some lacked confidence in the delivery. Reservations were often based on their experiences and perception of existing local government, and some residents did not think that changes to the local government structure will lead to real change.

- *I lived in Reading for 20 years and they did this. They went from unitary to this, back to unitary again. And they spent money on doing it.*  
Group 5
- *If you take it at face value if local decisions are taken by local people, then that can only be a good thing, but it is about the execution because you do see how things are at the moment and so it's always gonna leave a sour taste in your mouth.*  
Group 1



Some were concerned that despite new funding streams as part of the deal, the amount of funding offered will not be sufficient. In part this was because of a perception that local government and services were already stretched and additional funding is needed to simply stabilise these services.

- *How will the councils meet demand, as they can't meet current demand in housing – i.e. maintenance of housing, they already can't do the work needed. Isn't giving them more responsibility going to make that worse?*

Group 1

Residents also suspected that the setup/running costs and the costs of specific projects may also cost more than the funding streams on offer.

- *How are you going to do that? Is this money getting invested so you can hire more people to run these different areas? I feel that's a missing kind of piece.*

Group 1

- *I work in construction and £13m to build new homes would only get you 80-100 new homes.*

Group 6

- *It all sounds a bit vague, and 'jam tomorrow'.*

Group 6

Some residents had heard stories about wasteful spending by local authorities in the region.

- *If it ain't broke, you don't try and fix it. You should stay with the existing system.*

Group 5

## **Funding and Finance**

Many residents questioned where the money for the new funding streams would come from. Several expressed concerns that key funding figures in the devolution deal, such as the £540 million in Mayoral Investment Fund would come from increased council tax.

Some expressed concerns that funding for new local authorities could come at the cost of money earmarked for lower tier local authorities such as town councils, (which have been replaced by North Yorkshire County Council). Residents also wanted more information about how the funding would be apportioned to projects vs. administrative costs.

- *How much of the £18m goes on running this new combined authority rather than on the proposals?*

Group 5

Others thought that some of the funding streams offered were not sufficient and are unlikely to have a positive impact.



- *It's peanuts really so in terms of additional investment, it's potentially quite confusing, and £18m in 30 years' time will be worth nothing, this document is just a sales pitch.*

Group 3

- *80 million across that many years, is that realistic to accommodate young people like us in terms of affordable housing, and how is it going to be designated?*

Group 2

- *I don't think that's enough money for all of these subjects they want to resolve, I understand that that's a lot of money over 30 years, but I just think that that money would be better off used to solve one of those problems.*

Group 1

Despite this, many held the perspective that any new funds are welcome and necessary.

- *Gaining more money for the area sounds positive, without knowing too much obviously about it, not my area of expertise but more money sounds good as it will help areas in need of that.*

Group 2

## **Housing and Regeneration**

Proposals for more funding and powers to support house building prompted much discussion in most groups, and several major themes emerged.

Firstly, many discussed the need for more housing and genuinely 'affordable housing' particularly in York. Residents in York noted that house prices are high and perceived that they were often out of the price range for people already living there and that people can get more for their money elsewhere. In this respect more money and powers to build new housing is seen as a positive.

- *Affordable housing and York, they're just two things that don't really go together any more no matter how many times people try to resolve it. What's affordable in one location would still unlikely be affordable in York".*

Group 1

However, positivity about new housing was tempered by concerns about the pressure new housing developments could have on existing infrastructure. Many gave examples of new homes putting pressure on the existing road network, health services, schools and other local amenities. These concerns were particularly pronounced in rural areas but were also expressed in urban areas like York and Harrogate.

- *Now due to the growth of Pickering, it's becoming more and more difficult. The infrastructure isn't keeping pace with the population and the building that's occurring.*

Group 5

- *We're struggling at the moment with healthcare, dentist, I know some people have concerns with schools, so if more people are coming in how they are going to deal with*

*it, we're going to need more dentists and surgeries with more houses, then you're going to have to keep expanding as a result you will harm the farmland and things like that and there's only so far you can go.*

Group 7

Finally, some were concerned about whether houses are genuinely affordable. Some were concerned that new housing being built will not be genuinely affordable or focused on specific groups such as students.

- *"When we say affordable [in terms of house prices], we need to define who can afford this.*

Group 1

- *It's great that they are building new homes but people have to be able to afford to live in them, I feel like the council are letting local people down, in favour of the student population and tourists.*

Group 7

## **Transport**

Transport was another major topic of discussion in terms of the devolution deal. Few were aware of what the Key Routes Network was and so had few opinions on the devolution deals impact.

There was a general perception that roads in York, especially the ring roads around towns and cities have become more congested. This links with housing development and population growth as discussed earlier. Residents were positive about the inclusion of transport and travel in the devolution deal and some were hopeful that the deal could lead to improvements, primarily because decision makers will live in the region and experience issues related to devolution.

- *For people who have to commute to work by car, York is a horrendous place to negotiate, you just need York races to be on and the whole city is at a standstill.*

Group 7

- *Infrastructure being in place ready for development, to include roads.*

Group 5

Residents also discussed buses. Many who rely on buses to get around the region felt that the services offered are infrequent, often unreliable and many important destinations like dentists are not accessible via the bus network. Older residents linked this with deregulation of bus services more generally.

Issues with buses were more impactful on young people, who rely on buses to get to school/college/apprenticeships etc., and people who do not drive. In general residents thought that bus networks should be considered alongside devolution proposals to build more houses – as the two are closely aligned.

- *I know others who use buses regularly who say the buses aren't on time or there are no drivers available. I live just off Hull Road and there are two bus services, supposed to be every 10 minutes, and if one bus isn't full the other one is.*

Group 8

- *These bus companies are just trying to make a profit out of routes.*

Group 3

- *If they extended the bus routes to areas they don't go now and it was free people would use it to go into town.*

Group 3

- *I rely on buses and trains to go to school, three or four times out of the five day school week the buses don't turn up.*

Group 1

As discussed earlier, there was a general perception that the rail network in York and North Yorkshire is underdeveloped and that it is hard to travel across and out of the region via trains, as well as being expensive. Some were unsure whether the devolution deal will be able to address this issue as the rail network extends beyond the York and North Yorkshire area.

- *Rail network is shocking.*

Group 5

- *Some of the rail, there's constant delays, they're private companies as well... you go from London to York and you pay £180 to sit on a floor, a lot of these issues I still struggle to see how devolution will solve these issues.*

Group 1

## **Skills and Employment**

The skills offer did not prompt much discussion amongst the groups. While younger residents and those with teenage children felt that education and adult education is important many felt this element of the proposal lacked detail, and some felt there needed to be more emphasis on vocational training and apprenticeships.

- *All young people in Harrogate are persuaded to stay on at school and go to university and the college has struggled forever to provide Apprenticeships in direct competition to the universities.*

Group 3

- *I know a lot of it so far has been negative, but I think Adult Education and the point on that is excellent, I've recently come back into education and I think if they help people do that, that's a really good thing, at the moment it's all virtual and I'm really struggling but if I could meet them face to face that would be great, and it's all online and I think its brilliant that they're thinking about doing it.*

There was also a lack of detail about employment in the proposals. Whilst residents generally felt that the region had low unemployment, especially in areas such as Harrogate, some were concerned about the effect of independent shops closing on small businesses in York city centre.

### Carbon Negative Region

Some residents were unsure whether it is possible to achieve the goal of becoming a carbon negative region. As the discussions took place around COP 27 some had a heightened awareness of the challenges of decarbonisation. As a consequence, some were concerned that the proposals represented an attempt at ‘greenwashing,’ rather than proposals that will make a difference. In particular, there was a concern that it will be difficult to achieve carbon emission targets alongside housebuilding and resultant population growth.

- *Generally, so, the environmental stuff – because I study that. I find it hard to understand how you can build houses and stuff, and ensure its carbon neutral, like sometimes I think it’s easy to put a stamp on it, but the practicality isn’t there and a lot can be hidden in that term, a lot of greenwashing can take there, I’d like to see a lot more detailed plans.*

Group 7

- *£7m is a drop in the ocean isn’t it.*

Group 3

Residents discussed the challenges of getting people to make changes that are beneficial in terms of carbon emissions but also inconvenient or difficult to achieve. There was an emphasis on making it easier and more accessible to switch to public transport for instance.

- *I know we are quite a small city but to get traffic off the road there has to be a benefit to us.*

Group 6

- *Living on a main road the pollution levels are ridiculous so it’s great to put money into things like that, but we’ll have to put money into that as well to allow [green economic growth] to happen, I live in a 1930s house how am I going to make that work, I can’t afford to buy an electric car. From my side of York I see the electric park and ride buses coming back and forth every 15 minutes with hardly anybody on them, and they are there in preference to a service for local people.*

Group 6

To improve the offer, some suggested more funding and also more community driven projects. One resident advocated locally driven ground up approaches adopted in areas like Cornwall as examples to follow.

- *I think if you're looking at investment in communities, the best place to go in rewilding projects and things like that, if you look at places like Cornwall, they have heavy involvement in their environment stuff and it encourages more people to come to their area, it's something we can really use to bring in more jobs and people in, but we just don't. Investment in that will improve other aspects too, as evidence shows green spaces impact mental health too, especially in North Yorkshire as it's known for its beauty.*

Group 7

### **Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner functions**

Discussion about the Mayor's role as a Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner was less detailed, partly because many were unaware that Police and Fire Commissioners are currently elected locally. Some residents expressed concern over whether a Mayor should have these additional responsibilities considering the other functions they will also fulfil.

- *If they have the sole power to decide whether the finances toward the fire commissioner goes and other funding goes, that doesn't sound like the best idea to me personally.*

Group 4

- *It's a lot of responsibility for one person to have.*

Group 3

Views on the level of crime in the region differed. As discussed earlier, some in central York referred to thefts, a minority in Harrogate discussed the problem of drugs in the town, and some living more rurally felt the levels of policing in their area were insufficient, leading to the introduction of a Neighbourhood Watch programme by residents.

- *If efficiencies can come from this then that's fine but I don't think police and fire are a huge problem here*

Group 3

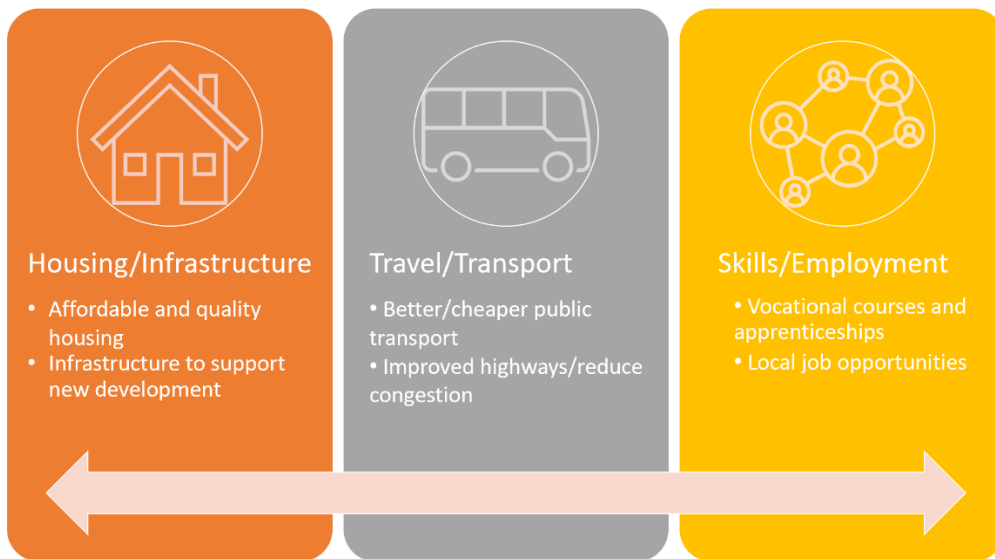
- *Are we going to get more police? There are rural watch people that help as there aren't enough police to man the area.*

Group 2

## **11.4 Prioritisation of proposals**

Residents were asked to complete a prioritisation exercise, to understand the relative importance of the different aspects of the proposals for them. They were asked to list their top three priorities in relation to devolution.

Across the groups the top three priorities were:



## Housing and Infrastructure

Much of the discussion around housing either focussed on availability of “truly” affordable housing, which was often the concern of younger residents, or it was linked to new housing developments being built without the infrastructure in place to service people moving into these homes and local areas.

- *There are so many new homes being built around Harrogate and they're not really affordable for the average person who works, and I am a primary school teacher in a village and the people moving in are not sending their kids to the village school, it's affecting the doctors, they are over-subscribed, and if I have to go for a doctors appt it's a 30 minute drive so that's a knock on effect on fuel costs as well.*

Group 9

- *Infrastructure being in place ready for development, to include roads, schools, workplaces we really do need workplaces.*

Group 5

- *I'm happy to have more housing, as long as it's not anywhere I live because I'm worried it will have a negative impact on my local services and my access to them.*

Group 4

- *The first priority is quality of low-cost homes, as we are currently renting but are looking in the market as we are both working.*

Group 2

## Travel and Transport

The themes discussed mainly focused on access to good value, frequent and reliable public transport and having better highway infrastructure and maintenance. There was also

discussion on congestion both within York and the surrounding areas and in more rural locations like Pickering and Skipton.

- *When you hit 16 you have to pay an adult bus fare but you're still studying at school, and you don't have an adult wage. When I was 16, I had a part time job one day a week but only paying £20 or £30.*

Group 6

- *Improving buses so I can get into town without using a car, but not cycling lanes though because local changes didn't benefit the locals.*

Group 3

- *Highways and transport investment, what about the rail network, and if we're trying to reduce traffic on the roads, the rail network around here is shocking.*

Group 5

- *It impacts me every day when I drive over potholes, the roads are in dire states*

Group 8

- *I am an asthma sufferer and the traffic is at a standstill between 2 and 5pm most days and this time of year it gets worse*

Group 8



## Skills and Employment

The discussion on skills and employment often focussed on having access to vocational opportunities and apprenticeships for young people who don't wish to go to university and having good local job opportunities to keep skills and young people in the area to enable growth.

- *My son couldn't get a job here and he's moved to Manchester now.*

Group 6

- *I think that T courses and apprenticeships will be very helpful, and after lockdown, people don't want a pure work focus any more, they want a way of staying in education.*

Group 9

- *I don't feel like it supports a wide variety of people, it only supports people who are academically smart*

Group 6

- *Jobs and jobs opportunities, I had to move out when I was 17 and join the military through apprenticeship because there wasn't a lot, but you want to keep talent in the area,*

Group 7

### 11.4.1 Landowners' views on Devolution

In general, landowners expressed similar views as residents about the devolution proposals. Landowners were also asked for their specific views on the Natural Capital Investment Plan aspect of the deal.

#### Initial opinions

Landowners were cautiously optimistic about the devolution deal. There was a sense that the structure of the combined authority will ensure it is not 'urban dominated' and will also take on board the needs and concerns of more rural issues, which landowners were apprehensive about.

- *'But the devil is in the detail so how things play out may not be what we are all hoping for'*

However, there were some concerns about the amount of funding available to the new authority. Several argued that £18m was a comparatively small amount of money and were unsure whether the new funding streams would match the amount of money given to lower tier authorities before being consolidated into North Yorkshire Council.

- *The old North Yorkshire itself spent over a billion a year so what's £18m, it's a fraction of one percent.*



## Housing

Landowners believed there were plenty of available sites rurally to help provide new housing as described in the proposals and felt this should be a focus, especially in terms of developing more rural villages. They echoed residents' concerns about the impact of lack of infrastructure on existing services.

They were unsure whether the £50m allocated to York brownfield regeneration was a good use of available funding given the perceived ease of funding such regeneration with private funding.

They were particularly interested in how a new combined authority will impact planning in the region. They generally felt that in the past, approaches to planning varied across the region and that planning policy seemed to not have a good understanding of rural issues. For instance, some discussed how planning would not classify rural villages as viable settlements, preventing developers from building in these areas despite the need for development.

Instead, they believed planning focused on market towns where planning requirements were more straightforward to fulfil, but where the infrastructure already struggles to keep pace with developments.

They also questioned the impact of an MCA on the National Planning Policy Framework but believed it should lead to greater consistency and balance of planning approach from combining different planning departments in authorities.

- *Rather than putting more pressure on market towns which are already overloaded, put a bit of development on to each of the villages over the next 10 years, which would not only go a long way to finding the new houses we need but they would also be in the right places.*
- *It's very easy for a good planner to get a thousand houses approved in an urban setting than in a village because they know the system, it's harder rurally but people just need to come and talk to us.*

## Transport

Landowners were critical of the current system of transport managed by the local councils and were concerned about whether a new Mayor would be able to solve these problems when the devolution deal outlines that maintenance will remain within the control of county councils. They highlighted the A64 and the A59 and the northern part of the ring road around York as highways that need particular attention.

- *The A170 isn't too bad but as soon as you go off the A170 it's a minefield of potholes.*

Landowners emphasised that the problem in rural areas is not about individual services (i.e., buses or trains) but a bigger problem of ensuring that people, especially young people, can get to the places where they need to go, such as work, school, college etc.

- *What is key here is that transport understands rural; people don't get it, we're not just talking about the A roads or buses or West Coast main line, we are talking about how these 16–18year olds get to their places of training and work without access to a car. East Yorkshire has had a very good Wheels to Work scheme because young people can't afford cars.*

### **Skills and employment**

Some landowners were also employers in the hospitality sector and identified that young people aged 16-18 need education to help them to better identify what they are good at, and that this could be facilitated by more vocational options such as apprenticeships and T level courses to help them better train for the types of business and employment available in the region.

- *The hotel and catering world is pretty strong in York and North Yorkshire.*

### **Police/ Fire/Crime Commissioner**

Landowners were generally positive about plans in this area as they felt that it was difficult to gauge whether progress was being made by the current Commissioner so having a Mayor take on this responsibility would help with transparency, and free up the council on providing services.

### **Carbon negative region**

Landowners were particularly interested in proposals towards becoming a carbon negative region. They welcomed the possibility of becoming more involved in informing the delivery of these ambitions, especially in areas such as flood management, bio-diversity net gain and electric grid infrastructure.

Ultimately, landowners believed this aspect of the proposals was broadly the right direction for the combined authority but questioned whether the new Mayor should have overarching responsibility for this aspect.

Landowners emphasised the complexity of Natural Capital Investment (NCI) and felt the development of a NCI Plan was unrealistic with only a budget of £7m – they believed this money would be best spent by the Mayor to help them lobby for additional funding in this area.

Landowners emphasised that NCI is an area still in its infancy and requires specialist expertise to develop strategies. As such, they were unsure whether a Natural Capital Investment Plan should sit with a Mayor. They needed to feel confident that any Mayor will put in place a good procurement process and that the plan would include rural areas.

- *Damage on flooding is in the hundreds of millions so a figure of £7m is not going to dent that, so it would be much better spent on lobbying for national funding or something that stops all these houses flooding for good.*
- *Unless they are going to incorporate a significant private sector funding element into their proposals, I am not convinced it is worth starting on and a lot of these eco system services have no defined agreed output mechanism, so that is challenging.*

- *North Yorks council have already said they will be going net zero by 2030 as a council, but that aim is based on zero understanding of how to measure it and how to do it, and bio diversity net gain coming in on planning. They think it is just planting some trees and they get to net zero rather than analysing all the different areas you can save carbon.*
- *It's just political spiel and probably isn't going to happen, we can all do our little bit which adds up, and in practice will be very hard to deliver, so encouraging people as individuals to do more, as well as councils would be by far the best thing, and it's probably too much for someone like a Mayor to deliver.*
- *North Yorks as a county has a great deal of natural capital, we are the largest county in England so somewhere we need to sort out the conflict between conservation and climate. If we plant lots of trees everywhere that will change the landscape dramatically so I think we need to ask do we want that.*
- *If you are going to write a good NCI plan and the Mayor is really good at campaigning at winning elections what we probably need is confidence in how the plan will be procured.*
- *If the fund is there to help put NCI plans together and give them credence I think that would be a good thing.*
- *We provide a huge amount of eco system services and it seems the thing that everyone identifies with that is planting trees but there are a lot of other services we can provide including clean water and flood prevention but at the end of the day trying to quantify that has beaten some of the best brains in the country and the whole carbon accounting issue is fraught with difficulties as no two people seem to agree on it.*

### **Mitigating the withdrawal of CAP investment**

Landowners believed that delivery of biodiversity net gain could be made more effective and simpler by paying hill farmers to use their land to deliver biodiversity net gain. Enabling landowners to contribute to biodiversity net gain would also help, for example in the case of private developers who are unable to offer biodiversity net gains on-site.

A Mayor could enable greater efficiency in this area by helping to introduce a system for 'scoring' the different categories of biodiversity net gains such as water courses, hedgerows, grassland habitats etc. and alleviating current sensitivities around taking productive agricultural land out of production and allowing them to be used if they also supported biodiversity net gain.

- *Perhaps the Mayor could help contribute a 'habitat bank' into which developers pay, and strategically seek sites across their local planning authority.*
- *We could do things to allow landowners and developers to all benefit and that is something that the Mayor could deliver.*

### **11.5 Creating a Mayoral Combined Authority**

In this part of the discussion residents were asked to read the proposals for governance arrangements:

- The proposed Deal requires the York and North Yorkshire Authorities establish a new Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) that would be led by an elected Mayor.

- The Mayor will not make decisions on their own but will work in partnership with the Unitary Councils.
- There will be a board with the Mayor and two representatives from the two unitary councils to make decisions together. So the Mayoral Combined Authority will have a total of 5 voting members.
- A Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) would be created, with the first Mayor for York and North Yorkshire elected in May 2024, by registered voters in the City of York and North Yorkshire Council areas.
- Each mayoral term will last for four years.

### 11.5.1 Understanding of a Mayoral Combined Authority and Governance Structure

The terminology and structure of a Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) was unfamiliar to many, so expectations of how a new MCA would work and the role and functions of a Mayor were either based on comparisons with existing county council two tier structures, or other regions with MCAs if residents were aware of these.

Awareness and detailed understanding of local politics and the way existing Councils worked was based on either experience of communicating with local councils, or from reports in the media which were often negative. Responses to change therefore generated positive hopes of growth but also fear of being worse off.

- *I'm very disappointed in local government, one example being the departure of the Chief Executive of York Council who was kept on full pay for 18 months and given a £400,000 payoff.*

Group 6

Few residents used the term Unitary Council and only a very small minority spontaneously referred to the upcoming reorganisation to a single North Yorkshire Unitary Council.

The proposals for the MCA in York and North Yorkshire generated several questions about how the two unitary councils would be combined and what potential benefits and disadvantages this might bring to residents. A theme running through discussions about the MCA was that York and North Yorkshire were very different in terms of their size, populations and needs and that there was a rural/urban divide which made it difficult to see how the new MCA would be able to manage differences and prioritise urban and rural residents needs fairly or standardise services without potentially damaging the unique character and profile of both urban and rural parts of the region.

- *People from rural areas may miss out, as places like York and Harrogate attract lots of tourists so the focus might be solely on trying to make them areas look good, and little areas/villages then miss out.*

Group 4

- *Scarborough is quite a run-down area, my initial thoughts were that places like Harrogate would get more money but places like Scarborough need more money, then are they going to get it? Will it be split fairly?*

Group 4

- *They're going to look at where the profit is, not these little areas, they've always done this in the past.*

Group 3

## 11.5.2 Questions about the MCA structure and functions

There was a general lack of clarity about the structure of a new MCA and how this would bring benefits over the existing Council structures.

- *I really don't understand how this is going to be different. Everything will be exactly the same.*

Group 5

Residents felt they might be reassured if they understood how an MCA structure had benefited other MCA regions. For example, some were aware that in West Yorkshire MCA transport had been subsidised and this was of interest, but residents assumed that it would be more difficult to introduce in their region because North Yorkshire's rurality could make this less feasible, or that York may need to subsidise rural fares to make this work.

Residents expected each council to have a voice in the new MCA so were pleased to see this reflected in the proposals.

However, there were some reservations about how the new board would be structured. It was assumed that each of the two representatives from each of the Unitary Councils would probably have a team of people working for them helping to brief them about issues but the primary roles/ functions of each of the two representatives from each Unitary Council were unclear. Residents wanted to know whether the new Mayor would be involved in selecting each of the representatives, or whether the Councils would decide, or whether residents would be voting these representatives in.

These discussions led to questions about the potential political structure of the Board and if / how this would impact the fairness of decisions made about allocating funds across the region.

Residents with more experience of their local councils believed it would be important to choose voting members who focus on change and growth in order to deliver on the proposals.

- *The budget might be biased, I was wondering if some independent people could be part of the board so they could have more input on it*

Group 4

- *In principle it sounds good but the public sector has a tendency to give people jobs not to offend them so my only concern is they don't give someone a job just because they've been ages in a particular council, because that won't drive change or growth. I would want people with very strong backgrounds, either commercial or professional experience in the areas they are going to have to make decisions on, not just someone who has worked in the council for decades*

Group 8

- *The structure seems right with everyone being accountable, but it's about how people would be put in place, it all depends on having the right people with the right frame of mind, not just people who bicker and argue.*

Group 8

Some residents wondered where the new combined authority would be located and what impact this would have on accessibility. A few thought that the new MCA offices might be based in Northallerton where North Yorkshire Council currently resides and this was felt to be relatively remote for those nearer York. Some also wondered if the mayor would be based in the same location.

Overall, the perceived benefits and disadvantages of having a MCA were as shown in this table, which will be discussed more fully.

POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES OF MCA	POTENTIAL DISADVANTAGES OF MCA
Greater accountability from having an elected Mayor	Fairness of how funds and resources are allocated
Greater transparency of decision making and control over resource allocation	Feasibility of standardising services
Greater efficiencies and economies of scale	Exacerbated rural / urban divide

### Perceived benefits of a Mayoral Combined Authority

A key perceived benefit of an MCA was that it would enable better local decision making and give more control over what happens in their region.

- *It's important to be in charge of your own region rather than it all is coming from Westminster. It's great to have money and that it will be managed locally, a local voice will be listened to which is important, it will be challenging to prioritise the need over the area it has to cover though.*

Group 9

- *I think a key thing that would be positive would be that people locally would be helping to make the decisions, rather than someone in London, I think the word local is a positive bit.*

Group 2



Residents assumed that having representatives from each Council on the Board would mean collaborative decision making and that the mayor would be held to account.

Another key benefit of an MCA was that standardising services across the region would make things fairer for all residents.

- *If you have one approach you haven't got small individual local authorities and councils who create their own restrictions or use outdated criteria for funding guidelines*

Group 8

- *The one thing that does sound good, I kind of agree on principle that decisions in your local area should be made by people who are local... if the positive of this is that it cuts off a chain of going somewhere else when asking permission to do something then that's great.*

Group 1

Residents believed that changing to two unitary councils offered a major potential benefit in terms of economies of scale, by reducing the total number of staff employed across York Council and North Yorkshire Council, with this cost saving being passed on to residents, and a reduction in bureaucracy from combining the two-tier structure into one. However, a small minority believed that because the unions were in favour of the devolution deal this could mean that staff would just be reshuffled with no saving on HR / no efficiencies.

### **Perceived disadvantages of a Mayoral Combined Authority**

Because of the lack of detail in the proposals, residents identified more disadvantages than advantages for the new MCA.

Primarily, many felt that because York and North Yorkshire were very different in terms of their size, population types and needs, although a reduction in bureaucracy and staffing levels could offer huge benefits the detail was not included to indicate how this would be achieved and where cost savings would be made, and there were concerns that the nuances of local needs would be more difficult to identify and address with a one-tier structure.

- *York is a massive area, and there's not potentially going to be enough funding for everyone to get their priorities so how do you work together, it's just such a big area.*

Group 4

- *It all looks lovely on paper and it sounds great but in reality will it take away a lot from our city being able to make its own decisions and not just being part of North Yorkshire?*

Group 6

- *What hasn't been explained here is why they are doing it; they have said what the benefits [of an MCA] will be but not how they will accrue those benefits. I haven't seen the word 'saving' mentioned in the document. The one thing that isn't stated in here is how the removal of duplication is going to reduce costs. We just have to trust that the 'powers that be' that they use the money wisely.*

Group 6

If the new MCA resulted in a reduction in council offices and relocation to North Yorkshire this could also lead to a lack of accessibility to the new MCA for residents.

In addition, the lack of detail in the proposals generated mixed views on whether an MCA structure would exacerbate the rural/urban divide or offer cost savings for residents throughout the region.

Concerns were raised about how fairness in decision making would be achieved in terms of allocating Mayoral and other funds across the region and of addressing the different priorities identified in the proposals.

- *If you have one mayor for both, the focus will be on York, they're going to overlook the smaller areas that's always how it happened in the past.*

Group 7

- *Would it standardise each area? Rather than each area competing for more resource.*

Group 7

- *They talk about investing in local priorities but if they're taking out a layer, Ryedale district council will no longer exist, how will they assess what is really needed at a local level when they're even more distant. How will that happen?*

Group 5

- *I just think the needs from Yorkshire and North Yorkshire will be very different, like York is a very busy tourist city. When I think of York I think of hustle and busy its somewhere you go it's totally different, so I think it's weird to combine the two.*

Group 2

- *Someone from York wouldn't understand the concerns of here. They should have a spokesperson from here... because we all know urban issues are different to rural issues.*

Group 2

- *I can say I am completely opposed to it, I really don't think places like North Yorkshire and York will work – they're completely different with different needs, with different members of society, York is a university town whereas Whitby is a place where people go to retire, so I don't think having a joint mayor is going to work unless you have a middle man, it's just never going to work unless they have a mayor in each area.*

Group 7

Although not overtly specified in the proposals, residents were concerned about whether they would ultimately have to contribute individually in order to achieve the plans for the region.

- *In terms of the extra funding it sounds positive but as long as it does not end up coming out of our council tax, and the reality isn't that we're actually paying for it.*



Group 2

In particular, residents from more rural areas wanted reassurance that the uniqueness and difference of rural locations would not be eroded by standardisation.

Many believed that York would be prioritised in decision making because of its size and the importance of tourism to the city and surrounding areas. Rural residents from North Yorkshire felt their needs were more likely to be ignored because of the likely greater amount of funding required to address rural issues.

Particularly in smaller rural towns, there was a concern that dissolving district councils would mean a reduction in access to local government generally, and connection to customer services, and an erosion of local knowledge and revenue allocation.

- *People move into areas like this for a reason, and my only fear would be that merging them together would mean it becomes less rural, like they might want to increase the amount of tourism, which would bring in more jobs and money, but I'm afraid it would become more like a city and you need a balance.*

Group 4

- *York is a massive area, and there's not potentially going to be enough funding for everyone to get their priorities so how do you work together, it's just such a big area.*

Group 1

- *The local councils are already massively overwhelmed with what they're trying to do on a day-to-day basis, so if you're adding to that it is going to overwhelm them more.*

Group 1

### Governance structure

Views of the governance structure tended to indicate a lack of understanding about the intricacies of how this might work in practice and a general feeling that this did not sound democratic.

It was difficult to believe that five voting members on the new MCA would be able to base their decisions fairly and without conflict and this related to residents' concerns that the new devolved council would be covering too large an area, so residents wanted to know more about how this structure would work in practice and the type of support each representative and the Mayor would receive. Some questioned how conflicts in voting would be resolved and how fairness in decision making would be ensured. Some wanted community involvement in decision making to ensure fairness.

- *That is a lot of power in very few hands.*

Group 5

- *To get a fair representation there should be more than five, even if they aren't official members.*

Group 4

- *[So it's a] Mayor who runs the area, who has other board members who help him make the decisions. They should have a sample of the community, rather than five people who might not even live in the area.*

Group 7

- *Not quite democratic and needs to be more democratic and have more voting, based on population size and age wise, everyone should have a vote rather than just councillors who vote, a mini election, we should vote for all members on the board.*

Group 7

- *I think it's like having a debate with two sides, and the mayor is like a judge who comes to the final decision and that mayor may favour an area more than another one.*

Group 7

- *It sounds like only five people will make all the decisions whereas now we have a much broader spectrum of people with different experience and representing people, that sounds very worrying if it doesn't go well.*

Group 3

### **Understanding of the role and functions of a Mayor**

There was a general level of confusion about the role of a mayor in an MCA. Some believed that a Mayoral role would be similar to that of a Chief Executive of the council. A few confused a Mayor of an MCA with the ceremonial role of Lord Mayor of York. Some thought there would be two Mayors, one for each of the Unitary Councils.

- *Would it be the Mayor of North Yorkshire or the Mayor of York? North Yorkshire is one of the biggest counties and spans over a big area. My impression is that it's the Mayor of York and then they consult with the different various councils across North Yorkshire.*

Group 1

- *You could call him a Chief Executive, couldn't you?*

Group 5

- *I think the title of Mayor is wrong, he/ she is ultimately the CEO of a large corporation.*

Group 3

There were also questions around the election of the Mayor. These included questions around how a candidate shortlist would be drawn up, which was important because local people would be voting on these individuals.

There was a level of scepticism about who would want to perform the role of Mayor, based on negative media reports about Mayors in other regions and recent negative media about individuals in the current government.

Residents questioned whether the election would be party political or if candidates would be voted for as individuals. There was a preference for the new Mayor to be elected as an

individual as residents were concerned that politically based appointments may perpetuate a lack of transparency about decision making, allocation of funds, and resources.

In addition, there were concerns that elections could become a competition between different geographical areas, with the largest by population size dominating elections and eventual allocation of resources and funding.

- *Would there be political party affiliations, would you have a labour candidate, a conservative candidate?... Is this going to be people voting on party affiliations rather than what they [the candidate for mayor] will do?... It would kind of be nice if it wasn't. Sometimes when you get local candidates and stuff, they kind of hide their party affiliations, and it just becomes noise and nothing local.*

Group 1

- *You constantly see politicians using personal gain.*

Group 1

- *With it being just one person, I'm worried is it going to be like a dictatorship and are they going to have the views of the constituents at heart or are they doing it for gain for themselves.*

Group 4

- *I think the worrying thing is, if there is a mayor are there certain people from certain areas going to be putting money under the table for her/him and are they going to do certain things to certain areas, and then the £18million is spent only in a couple of areas.*

Group 4

In terms of the type of profile of an individual who would become Mayor of a MCA, residents wanted someone who would communicate with the community, someone with knowledge of the region-either through living or working there, and preferably someone who was not a longstanding Council employee because this could potentially taint perceptions of their potential to deliver change and growth.

- *Do we have a clever enough person in Yorkshire to take on this job?!*

Group 3

- *We need someone who is going to be proactive and get things done.*

Group 9

- *Once we vote this mayor in, what do we then have a say in? Can we still vote for things, or do they make a manifesto and promise things but then change everything anyways?*

Group 1

Whilst residents were given information about how the new Mayor would be elected and their length of term, they were unclear about who the Mayor would report to in their role and who they would be accountable to in the event of not delivering on their plans.

- *How local is local? Could a Leeds person become the Mayor of York? And I know that the title means that they will have decisions on what's going on in North Yorkshire, but how is that person managed so that it's fair. Because then the things that's going to happen is that it becomes a population vote... I'm going to vote for a York person because I'm from York, where they're going to vote for a Leeds person.*

Group 1

- *Who can sack the mayor?*

Group 5

Questions were also raised about why a mayor isn't going to be elected until 2024 and how the new MCA will operate until then.

- *As far as I am aware, they're starting the council restructures. The new council is going to be live from 2023, but the new Mayor is going to be 2024. How will they run in-between...without a mayor?*

Group 5

Those who were aware of Mayors in other regions felt it would be useful to know more about how they have delivered against proposals in those regions to feel reassured that this role could make a difference to local people.

### **Perceived benefits of a Mayor**

The potential benefits of having a Mayor focused on having one person responsible for the region who would help to provide greater transparency of MCAs plans and someone to hold accountable if those plans are not delivered.

Having someone to represent the whole region was felt to be particularly important for those in North Yorkshire who felt the more rural areas of the region were currently side-lined in favour of York.

An assumption, based on Mayors in other regions, was that a Mayor would be much more involved with the local community which would benefit decision making for the region.

In addition, having an individual who could generate lots of media attention and raise the profile of the region could help with inward investment.

- *It's better having someone locally telling you how they are spending the money but you need more detail on how they will deliver it.*

Group 6

- *Andy Burnham in Greater Manchester has been doing a lot of work on the transport network... a mayor elected by the people would be much more involved with the community.*

Group 1

- *Andy Burnham always seems like he cares about the people, he's on TV a lot, and Tracy Brabin, she seems really enthusiastic and honest, she might not be but she seems as if she cares about the region and the people.*

Group 9

- *I could probably go into my bin and pull out different leaflets with loads of information about the different initiatives that local councils take... but a lot of the times it does just become a lot of noise around it... if this was going to be implemented it would be interesting to see how this changes how the messaging comes across.*

Group 1

- *I like the idea, knowing that it will go through someone closer to home than someone from government the way it currently does, we have an MP in the area, but it has to go through parliament, whereas now it won't be the case. It would be nicer to have someone representing us, our own mayor, representing each little area.*

Group 7

### **Perceived disadvantages of a Mayor**

There was a certain level of mistrust aimed at politicians generally and it was felt this could potentially influence the role of a Mayor such that anyone who wanted to take on the role may only be doing so to further their own political ambitions.

- *Based on what I've seen of Brabin and Burnham they just seem to be clashing with central government and saying 'oh I'd have done this' and vocally banging the drum for local people but really, they are only looking after their own political ambitions.*

Group 3

Residents were concerned that a Mayor would struggle to address the needs of the very different areas of the region unless they were 'a local' who would have a greater understanding of the regional differences and potential solutions. Someone who wasn't local may be swayed to prioritise more urban priorities.

- *It depends where the mayor comes from. If someone from Pickering they'd look after Pickering.*

Group 5

- *I'm a little bit more worried about these proposals than I thought because of the vagueness, and if the mayor comes from York he will get more pressure from locals to make changes there.*

Group 3

Residents were concerned generally about whether a mayor would be able to deliver on their mandate, based on other Mayors from MCAs who had struggled.

- *I think it's a good and a bad idea. There's a mayor now in West Yorkshire named Tracy and she's appalling. I moved from there to North Yorkshire because it's a nicer area. The city centre wasn't very safe, and the transport was poor, and she came saying she's*

*going to do this, but she didn't deliver, and it can be quite negative, that's why I agree there needs to be a lot more people in the conversation and not just that one person.*

Group 4

Young residents felt the Mayor might struggle to identify or relate to the needs of people in their age group.

- *Stereotypically the mayor is going to be a lot older than everyone that's here, so it's going to be a different point of view to what we are saying.*

Group 4

There were also some concerns about whether the Mayor was the right person to adopt the responsibility of the Police and Fire Commissioner roles. The role of Mayor seemed to be a wide ranging and substantial role to deliver and taking on the responsibilities of the Police/Fire/Crime Commissioner did not seem a logical addition given the specialist expertise required and could be perceived as a step too far in terms of the amount of power allocated to a Mayor.

- *I think it would be more what people are looking for if they had someone just concentrated on the city and then someone to focus on the surrounding areas.*

Group 1

- *If they have the sole power to decide whether the finances toward the fire commissioner goes and other funding goes, that doesn't sound like the best idea to me personally.*

Group 4

- *Will the Mayor have a clue, he is so far removed from what is happening on the ground, I think it's a step too far asking for the Mayor to handle this as well, and I know that the three most recent appointments in the major roles in the fire service were people from South Yorkshire who won't know anything about where are the vulnerable areas in this region or where you need the most amount of staff. Until last year I was in the fire service and Zoe Metcalfe has just decided to close one of the big fire stations in York but I dare say you won't get a reduction in your council tax.*

Group 9

### **11.5.3 Landowner's views of creating a Mayoral Combined Authority**

Landowners' views of creating a Mayoral Combined Authority generally echoed those of residents in terms of how the voting members would be chosen and conflict managed and if a Mayor would be involved in choosing the cabinet. They believed that an MCA could deliver cost savings from reducing the number of borough councils and could be successful providing it was not urban dominated. They questioned how an MCA would impact the National Planning Policy Framework.

Landowners were broadly positive about introducing a Mayor to the region, based on their knowledge of other Mayors in MCAs who had been successful in delivering devolution



deals in other regions and attracting inward investment. For York and North Yorks, landowners a Mayor needed to help deliver rural growth.

They believed that a Mayor would offer transparency and accountability and should focus their time on delivering a small number of 'special projects' which should include ambitions for becoming carbon negative. Other than this they questioned how priorities for the region would be decided on, and how the Mayor would be accountable for these.

Landowners believed the success of the MCA would be heavily dependent on choosing the right person as Mayor. They identified several important qualities and attributes for a Mayor:

- someone who is very familiar with the region and appreciates the needs of rural communities – 'a rural champion'.
  - a natural leader,
  - a good communicator,
  - has entrepreneurial flair,
  - good negotiator,
  - can find solutions to existing problems and challenges barriers to progress,
  - appeals to a wide range of people,
  - natural charisma,
  - ability to source additional funds when required e.g. from government.
- *I think it will be easier for people to relate to an individual that they vote for rather than parties and cohorts of anonymous commissioners, so maybe a Mayor is a good thing rather than the bit of money which could prove to be illusory if the government decide to cut the block grant to local government.*
  - *It would help if they have an understanding of rural issues and the rural economy, and someone who is prepared to listen, and adapt if necessary.*
  - *It needs to be someone who has some sort of power and influence and this person has got to have the courage to stand up and embarrass departments and authorities who are standing in the way of progressing things as well as having the negotiating skills to get them on board, you don't want someone who is lily livered and will run and hide if barked at by a Chief Planning Officer, that won't work, they need to have some backbone.*
  - *Ben Houchen of Tees MCA very much hung his hat on delivering specific projects and making them happen and I can see that approach being quite successful. In other authorities there is an overlap but it's not one person's priority, and if you give it to one person and call that person the Mayor and tell them to get things delivered and bang heads together and find solutions to the problems, go out and get extra funding from government, I can see that being a successful role.*

# 12 APPENDIX ONE: DEMOGRAPHICS

## 12.1 Online Survey

The survey was designed to collect limited demographic data, asking respondents to provide the following information.

### 12.1.1 Business sector

In response to the question

*If you selected 'business' - please select the sector that best describes your business.*

Respondents provided the following:

Providing Response as a Business	No.	%
No	1,794	92%
Yes	149	8%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of those that responded as a business their reported sector of operation was a follows

Sector	No.	%*
Arts	1	1%
construction	1	1%
Creative and digital	37	25%
Farming	1	1%
Financial and professional services	29	19%
Food and drink manufacturing	8	5%
Gardening	1	1%
Health and life sciences	17	11%
Heritage	1	1%
Hospitality	2	1%
Low carbon and environmental	11	7%
Manufacturing	16	11%
Prefer not to say	19	13%
Property	1	1%
Retail	1	1%
Tourism	3	2%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.



## 12.1.2 Age

In responses the question

*What is your age group?*

Respondents provided the following responses.

Age Group	No	%
16-19	5	0.3%
20-29	49	3%
30-39	69	4%
40-49	153	8%
50-64	468	24%
65-74	439	23%
75-84	132	7%
85 +	13	1%
Prefer not to say	31	2%
Skipped	584	30%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 12.1.3 Sex

In responding to a request for respondents sex the following was provided.

Sex	No.	%
Female	409	21%
Male	683	35%
I describe myself in another way	9	0.5%
Skipped	784	40%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 12.1.4 Disability

In response to the question

*Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person or to have a long-term, limiting condition?*

Respondents provided the following.

Disabled	No.
Yes	103
No	601
Prefer not to say	18
<b>Total providing responses</b>	<b>722</b>

## 12.1.5 Ethnicity

In response to the question

### *What is your ethnic group?*

Respondents provided the following.

Ethnicity	Number of respondents
Arab	1
Asian/Asian British Indian	4
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British Caribbean	1
European	1
Other ethnic group	6
Other White	23
White English/Welsh/Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British	663
White European	1
White Irish	9
White Yorkshireman	1
<b>Total providing responses</b>	<b>710</b>

## 12.1.6 Employment Status

In response to the question;

### *What is your employment status?*

Respondents provided the following. Please note that despite direction to select one box only respondents chose multiple occupations as seen in the table below.

Employment Status	No	%
Retired	586	30%
Working full-time	423	22%
Working part-time	124	6.4%
Self-employed	73	3.8%
Other	39	2.0%
Retired Working part-time	19	1.0%
Self-employed Working full-time	17	0.9%
Self-employed Working part-time	12	0.6%
Student	9	0.5%
Other Retired	7	0.4%
Retired Self-employed	6	0.3%
Part-time carer Retired	5	0.3%
Full-time carer	4	0.2%
Part-time carer Working full-time	4	0.2%
Unemployed	4	0.2%
Student Working full-time	3	0.2%
Apprenticeship/training Working full-time	2	0.1%
Full-time carer Self-employed	2	0.1%

Employment Status	No	%
Full-time carer Working full-time	2	0.1%
Other Working part-time	2	0.1%
Prefer not to say	2	0.1%
Retired Self-employed Working part-time	2	0.1%
Retired Student	2	0.1%
Self-employed Zero-hour contract Working part-time	2	0.1%
Student Working part-time	2	0.1%
Volunteer Retired	2	0.1%
Working part-time Working full-time	2	0.1%
Zero-hour contract	2	0.1%
Zero-hour contract Working part-time	2	0.1%
Also Town Cllr - 44 years + County Cllr 1981-2009Self-employed	1	0.1%
Apprenticeship/training	1	0.1%
Business owner Working full-time	1	0.1%
Charity shop worker/retired	1	0.1%
Full-time carer Self-employed Working part-time	1	0.1%
Full-time carer Working part-time	1	0.1%
Home Educator	1	0.1%
Homemaker	1	0.1%
I have a portfolio of activities. Self-employed Working part-time	1	0.1%
MD of A Hill & Sons Horticulture	1	0.1%
Mother Self-employed Working part-time	1	0.1%
None of your business	1	0.1%
Other Part-time carer Retired	1	0.1%
Other Part-time carer Working full-time	1	0.1%
Other Student Self-employed	1	0.1%
Other Zero-hour contract	1	0.1%
Part-time carer Full-time carer Zero-hour contract	1	0.1%
PhD Student	1	0.1%
Retired business owner Retired	1	0.1%
Retired Zero-hour contract	1	0.1%
Self-employed Working part-time Working full-time	1	0.1%
Self-employed Zero-hour contract	1	0.1%
Student Apprenticeship/training	1	0.1%
Unemployed Retired	1	0.1%
Unemployed Working full-time	1	0.1%
Voluntary work Retired	1	0.1%
Working two jobs one for NYCC but as underpaid compared to other schools in the area I have to work a second job as a barista and work 6-7 days a week. Working part-time Working full-time	1	0.1%
Zero-hour contract Working part-time Working full-time	1	0.1%
Skipped	554	29%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 12.2 Focus Group Participant Profiles

A total of 70 residents took part in the focus groups, their demographic profile was as shown in the tables below.

Age	No.
18 – 30	27
31 – 44	14
45 – 64	12
65 – 75	12
75+	5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>70</b>

Sex	No.
Male	32
Female	38
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>70</b>

Working status	No.
Working full time/part time	47
Retired	14
Unemployed	4
Homemaker	3
Student	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>70</b>

Ethnicity	No.
White	64
BME	6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>70</b>

<b>Disability</b>	<b>5</b>
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Area	No.
Harrogate	16
Knaresborough	2
Malton	3
Pickering	7
Scarborough	3
Skipton	4
Whitby	6
York (city and suburbs)	29
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>70</b>

# 13 APPENDIX TWO: WESTCO FOCUS GROUP REPORT

Attached as an embedded object is the full report produced by Westco detailed the focus group methodology and findings.



1179E Y&NY  
Devolution Focus Gro

## **JOINT DEVOLUTION COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Summary of the York and North Yorkshire Joint Devolution Committee Functions**

The York and North Yorkshire Joint Committee is established under Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, as applied by Section 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 and Regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 by the Executives of City of York Council and North Yorkshire County Council.

The Joint Committee will oversee and make decisions as required to ensure that stages of considering a Devolution deal prior to a potential creation of a mayoral combined authority is considered jointly by members of North Yorkshire Council and the City of York. The Joint Committee will provide a venue to review collaboratively the provisions of implementing the Deal and collaborating on projects that benefit the region through Devolution.

### **Membership**

The Joint Committee will comprise of:

- Two Executive Members appointed from City of York Council; and
- Two Executive Members appointed from North Yorkshire County Council

The Executives of the two Constituent Councils have resolved to establish joint arrangements to carry out the functions of the Joint Committee. Membership of the joint committee does not need to reflect the political composition of the Council

The following shall be invited to attend and participate in formal meetings of the Joint Committee however they will not have voting rights and they will not have the right to receive any confidential information pursuant to Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 which may from time to time be part of a formal agenda:

- The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
- A nominated representative of the LEP

### **Substitutes**

Each Constituent Council may appoint substitute members to attend formal meetings of the joint committee.

### Appointment of Co-Chairs

The Joint Committee, at its first meeting, resolved to appoint Co-Chairs from amongst its constituent members. The Co-Chairs are to be the Leaders of the two constituent councils. The Chairing is to be determined by where the meeting is held, with the City of York Council Leader chairing meetings in York and the North Yorkshire County Council Leader chairing meetings in North Yorkshire. In the absence of the scheduled Co-Chair, the remaining Co-Chair will chair the meeting.

### Quoracy

The four Members appointed to the Joint Committee will constitute a quorum

### Voting

Decisions will be made by majority vote. In the event of a vote being required, each Member (or substitute Member) will have the ability to cast one vote.

Decisions made will be binding on both Constituent Councils

### Rules of Procedure

The Standing Orders for North Yorkshire County Council will be the relevant Standing Orders for Rules of Procedure for formal meetings.

### Frequency of Meetings

The Joint Committee shall meet as and when required to do so either at the request of the respective Leaders of the Constituent Councils and or at the request of the Chief Operating Officer of City of York Council and or the Chief Executive of North Yorkshire County Council. Each meeting shall be classed as a formal meeting supported by agenda, reports and minutes.

### Administration of the York and North Yorkshire Joint Committee

North Yorkshire Council will take responsibility for the administration and support for the delivery of meetings for the Joint Committee. This includes production and publication of agendas, hosting of meetings and as such the Standing Orders as they relate to North Yorkshire County Council will be adopted for the purposes of supporting the Joint Committee.



### Access to Information

Its access to information regime is the same as that applied to the Executive of the relevant Constituent Council.

### Review of the terms of reference for the Joint Committee

In the event that the terms of reference for the Joint Committee require review and or amendment, this will be delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Leader of the respective Council and the Chief Executive/Chief Operating Officer of the respective Council.

### **FUNCTIONS**

The Joint Committee will have oversight of the development of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority and ensure that it is able to be launched in accordance with the Statutory Orders issued by Government.

The Joint Committee will ensure that sufficient resources are made available to support the creation and implementation of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority which includes financial management and oversight, securing of appropriate resources (officers, technical and otherwise) to enable delivery and the development of governance and a policy framework.

The Joint Committee will exercise the ability to approve or adopt any policy or policy framework which is solely and directly relevant to the development and implementation of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.

It is noted that any reference to North Yorkshire County Council above will be a reference to North Yorkshire Council from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

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## Equality impact assessment (EIA) form: evidencing paying due regard to protected characteristics

### *York and North Yorkshire Devolution- Outcome of consultation*

If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print or audio, please contact the Communications Unit on 01609 53 2013 or email [communications@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:communications@northyorks.gov.uk).



যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھیے۔

**Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are public documents. EIAs accompanying reports going to County Councillors for decisions are published with the committee papers on our website and are available in hard copy at the relevant meeting. To help people to find completed EIAs we also publish them in the Equality and Diversity section of our website. This will help people to see for themselves how we have paid due regard in order to meet statutory requirements.**

Name of Directorate and Service Area	Central Services
Lead Officer and contact details	Barry Khan
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the EIA	Barry Khan working in collaboration with City of York Officers
How will you pay due regard? e.g. working group, individual officer	Executive meeting
When did the due regard process start?	Following approval in September 2022 to carry out the consultation

**Section 1. Please describe briefly what this EIA is about.** (e.g. are you starting a new service, changing how you do something, stopping doing something?)

On 1 August 2022 the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced that the Government was minded to enter into a Devolution Deal with York and North Yorkshire with a view to establishing a Mayoral Combined Authority.

The devolution agreement available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/york-and-north-yorkshire-devolution-deal> includes:

- York and North Yorkshire establishing a combined authority and electing a directly elected mayor to provide overall vision and leadership, seek the best value for taxpayer's money, be directly accountable to the city region's electorate and to receive new powers on transport, housing and skills.
- Control of a £18 million per year allocation of investment funding over 30 years 35% capital, 65% revenue, to be invested by York and North Yorkshire to drive growth and take forward its priorities over the longer term.
- New powers to improve and better integrate local transport, including the ability to introduce bus franchising, control of appropriate local transport functions e.g., local transport plans, and control of a Key Route Network.
- An integrated transport settlement starting in 2024/25 and an additional £1 million to support the development of local transport plans.
- New powers to better shape local skills provision to meet the needs of the local economy, including devolution of the core Adult Education Budget, as well as input into the new Local Skills Improvement Plans.
- New powers to drive the regeneration of the area and to build more affordable homes including compulsory purchase powers and the ability to establish Mayoral Development Corporations.
- Over £13 million for the building of new homes on brownfield land across 2023/24 and 2024/25, subject to sufficient eligible projects for funding being identified.
- Investment of up to £2.65 million on projects that support York and North Yorkshire's priority to deliver affordable, low carbon homes across the area, subject to final business cases.
- Subject to a full business case, demonstrating the value of the scheme in delivering housing, jobs and GVA to the area, the government is minded to provide additional support to the York Central brownfield regeneration scheme.
- £7 million investment to enable York and North Yorkshire to drive green economic growth towards their ambitions to be a carbon negative region. This investment is subject to agreement of submitted business case.
- York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority will plan and deliver the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) from 2025/26 if there is a continuation of the Fund and the delivery geographies remain the same.
- Integration of the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (YNY LEP) into York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority. This will ensure there continues to be a strong and independent local business voice which informs local decision making.
- A commitment to explore a local partnership with Great British Railways so that the mayor can help shape and improve local rail.
- Support to develop a Natural Capital Investment plan for York and North Yorkshire.

- Commitments to work in partnership with the area on the development and delivery of strategies to realise the region’s cultural potential.
- Engagement on broadband and mobile infrastructure rollout and on the development of the Scarborough Cyber Cluster.
- A commitment to establish a programme working group in support of the BioYorkshire programme.
- A key leadership role for the mayor in public safety, taking on the role and functions of the Police Fire & Crime Commissioner and having a clear role in local resilience and civil contingency planning, preparation, and delivery.

The agreement states that the deal it is, “Subject to ratification of the deal by all partners and the statutory requirements including, public consultation, the consents of councils affected, and parliamentary approval of the secondary legislation implementing the provisions of this deal”. This consultation considered the devolution scheme. The scheme sets out the proposed role and functions of the Combined Authority.

On 6 October 2022, Councillors in York agreed to proceed with a public consultation on the scheme. Councillors in North Yorkshire agreed likewise on 6 September 2022. The consultation asked respondents for their views on:

- Governance arrangements for the proposed Mayoral Combined Authority
- Finance functions
- Role of a Mayor and Mayoral Combined Authority in delivery of net zero, climate change and natural capital ambitions
- Transport functions
- Housing and regeneration functions
- Skills and employment functions
- Transfer of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner functions

The eight-week consultation took place across York and North Yorkshire commencing on 21 October 2022 and ending on 16 December 2022. Results have been analysed and are presented in the report to City of York and North Yorkshire County Councils.

**Section 2. Why is this being proposed? What are the aims? What does the authority hope to achieve by it?** (e.g. to save money, meet increased demand, do things in a better way.)

The reason for proposing a Mayoral Combined Authority is to enable additional funding and powers to be taken locally in the region. This ambition is demonstrated in the Devolution Deal that is conditional on creating a Mayoral Combined Authority. It is hoped to create a new governance structure that will attract the Devolution Funding and be in a strong position to attract additional funding and be a voice for the region with Central Government and other agencies.

**Section 3. What will change? What will be different for customers and/or staff?**

All residents and organisations in York and North Yorkshire are stakeholders in the discussions on devolution for the region. However, it is difficult to project the decisions that a Mayor and a Mayoral Combined Authority may take in the future. As such, this EIA considers the impact of the devolution scheme – that is the proposed role and functions of the MCA – on stakeholders.

For all residents, the devolution of powers and funding to York and North Yorkshire could be transformative.

Support for the region's net zero, climate change and natural capital ambitions will have long reaching benefits for all residents.

Drilling down in more detail, bus users may benefit from powers to introduce bus franchising for the region while all road users may benefit from the coordination of the Key Route Network in the region. An integrated transport settlement will support strategic management of the network which could benefit those who use the transport in the region more broadly.

Powers over housing development could support ambitions to develop homes for those looking to get on the housing ladder whilst regeneration powers will help to create infrastructural, community development and wellbeing opportunities to support physically and emotionally healthy, connected lives throughout the region.

The proposal to devolve the Adult Education Budget (AEB) has the potential to help those looking to find new employment opportunities or upskill to align with the needs of the local economy.

Whether that is having further control of regional transport decisions that supports business growth, community infrastructural development that helps the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors reach more people, or control of the AEB for skills providers, the benefits of devolution are equally as applicable to institutional stakeholders in the city.

**Section 4. Involvement and consultation** (What involvement and consultation has been done regarding the proposal and what are the results? What consultation will be needed and how will it be done?)

#### **Public consultation events**

Public consultation events gave members of the public the opportunity to ask questions about the devolution proposals in an open and accessible format.

In York, City of York Council held four public consultation events in libraries across the city (plus an ongoing display in West Offices). The decision to host the events in the libraries was taken to ensure accessibility for all interested parties. In North Yorkshire, events were hosted by the LEP and North Yorkshire County Council and were part of a wider 'Let's talk' consultation. In total, 564 people attended face to face consultation events, or made comments regarding the consultation received via the dedicated consultation inbox, the Common Place platform and social media accounts.

#### **Focus Groups**

Focus groups provided an opportunity for residents to delve into the detail of the devolution process in more detail in a more discursive environment. Nine resident focus groups took place across York and North Yorkshire both in-person and online. A total of 70 residents took part in the discussions.

The objectives of the events were to engage and consult with the public on their views of the following;

- To explore what influences quality of life in the local area – York and North Yorkshire
- Explore understanding and views towards devolution as a concept – in favour/opposed/concerns and why

- To explore understanding of governance and Mayoralty - in favour/opposed/concerns and why
- To explore residents' relative priorities in devolution delivery in York and North Yorkshire, and perception and expectations of what devolution can/should deliver

A specialist agency (Westco Communications) was commissioned to run a programme of focus groups run across the geography targeting audiences identified as 'seldom heard' and cross referenced against a demographic analysis conducted before the consultation began. This series of focus groups took place after the Mid-term of the Consultation enabling the team to identify selected groups that had not engaged with the Consultation through other methods.

### **Young People**

To ensure that the voices of younger residents were heard during the consultation, staff gave presentations and held question and answer sessions with students at York College and with York Youth Council and North Yorkshire Youth Forum

### **Disabled People**

Better Connect, The Opportunity Centre in Scarborough and North Yorkshire Disability and Carers forum were directly engaged to share information with audiences.

### **Institutional stakeholders**

Various meetings were held with institutional stakeholders to discuss the devolution proposals. As employers they have a significant interest in how devolution may improve skills and infrastructure in the region in addition to being able to articulate the opportunities and challenges that the proposals may present their workforces.

### **Engagement with elected representatives**

There has been continual engagement with elected representatives (MPs, Councillors) throughout the development of the MCA deal to ensure that their views are taken into account as the deal progresses.

### **Communications campaign**

A communications plan included broadcast and advertorial, targeted social media across a range of platforms and offline activity. Communications signposted either direct to the survey or to the 'home' website where an animation video delivered headline key messages to inspire response. Public events were also publicised on the website and through social media and localised media activity.

### **Consultation survey**

The consultation survey was available online and in hard copy from public libraries and community spaces. Hard copy surveys included a return freepost envelope.

The survey was produced in different accessible formats, e.g. Braille, to encourage participation. Available on request were translations in the following languages and a large print version:

- Arabic
- Kurdish (there are several types)
- Pashto
- Romanian



- Polish
- Dari
- Ukrainian
- Bengali
- Farsi

A video explainer (with subtitles) of the consultation document was also available. Varying audio formats of the video were also available (without background music for example).

### **Section 5. What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?**

Please explain briefly why this will be the result.

The proposal of creating a Mayoral Combined Authority will mean that additional funding will be available across the York and North Yorkshire Region. In total £52.3m new funding will be received in the CSR period (up to March 2025).as identified in the Executive report dated 6th September 2022

On satisfaction of the conditions within the deal additional funds will also be invested through the MCA route which are currently routed through the two councils. This includes the Consolidated Transport Budget and Adult Education Budget. The current annual value of North Yorkshire's Local Transport Plan is £40m. It is envisaged that the LTP for North Yorkshire and York will be received directly from government to the MCA as the Strategic Transport Authority rather than directly to the constituent authorities. It is then envisaged that the combined LTP will be distributed to the Constituent Authorities who will retain the delivery responsibility as the statutory Highways Authorities 10.4 As per the scheme, provision should also be made for the Constituent Councils to meet the costs of the Combined Authority and how the costs are to be apportioned between the Constituent Councils. The Mayoral Combined Authority will be funded entirely from the capacity funding set out above plus the Mayoral Investment Fund. It is also expected that future projects and funding pots will include with them an element of capacity funding to support the running of individual schemes.

Further details of the financial details are set out in paragraph 10 : Financial Implications of the Executive report dated 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 : [Devolution Deal Report.pdf \(northyorks.gov.uk\)](https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/devolution-deal-report)

<b>Section 6. How will this proposal affect people with protected characteristics?</b>	<b>No impact</b>	<b>Make things better</b>	<b>Make things worse</b>	<b>Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.</b>
Age		✓		The consultation engaged individuals across all adult age groups. A common theme emerging was related to transport provision in the region, an issue particularly pertinent to younger and older demographics. The transfer of some transport functions, including bus franchising, has the potential to support better public



		✓		<p>transport connectivity in the region supporting those reliant on services.</p> <p>An additional theme emerging particularly for young people was access to affordable housing. Funding being made available through the devolution agreement provides an opportunity to support the development of affordable housing in the region.</p> <p>Young people – deal is an opportunity to increase higher paid jobs and retain talent in our area, to create a place where young people can see a positive future, where they want to stay, live and work.</p> <p>Devolution will bring draw powers down from Whitehall to York and North Yorkshire. However, there will be a need to ensure that decision-making is made accessible to all via physical and digital options (otherwise it will make things worse).</p> <p>Working age population – deal is an opportunity for businesses, skills providers and communities to work in a more joined up way to deliver economic benefits for the region. Bringing a closer relationship and alignment between the business needs, skills providers and residents so people have the relevant skills and knowledge for jobs that are needed in the region, now and into the future.</p>
	✓	✓		
		✓		
Disability	✓			<p>(At the end of the consultation period, 15% of respondents considered themselves disabled or having a long-term limiting condition.)</p> <p>The transfer of Police, Fire and Crime powers to a Mayor will support the connectivity between community safety and wider strategic ambitions of region. This may support work to prevent discrimination and hate crime.</p> <p>Powers related to transport and regeneration can also support work to improve infrastructure requirements for those with disabilities. For example, developments such as York Central are designed to be enjoyed and accessible to all.</p>
Sex		✓		<p>The transfer of Police, Fire and Crime powers to a Mayor will support the connectivity between community safety and wider strategic</p>

				ambitions of region. This may support work to prevent discrimination and hate crime.
Race		✓		The transfer of Police, Fire and Crime powers to a Mayor will support the connectivity between community safety and wider strategic ambitions of region. This may support work to prevent discrimination and hate crime.
Gender reassignment		✓		The transfer of Police, Fire and Crime powers to a Mayor will support the connectivity between community safety and wider strategic ambitions of region. This may support work to prevent discrimination and hate crime.
Sexual orientation		✓		The transfer of Police, Fire and Crime powers to a Mayor will support the connectivity between community safety and wider strategic ambitions of region. This may support work to prevent discrimination and hate crime.
Religion or belief		✓		The transfer of Police, Fire and Crime powers to a Mayor will support the connectivity between community safety and wider strategic ambitions of region. This may support work to prevent discrimination and hate crime.
Pregnancy or maternity	✓			No evidence identified
Marriage or civil partnership	✓			No evidence identified

<b>Section 7. How will this proposal affect people who...</b>	<b>No impact</b>	<b>Make things better</b>	<b>Make things worse</b>	<b>Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.</b>
..live in a rural area?		✓		Rural poverty - people who live in remote areas hindered by poor infrastructure. The deal opens up new opportunities to better connect people and places through the MCAs increased influence or investment over transport, the economy and digital connectivity, if the focus is upon all areas of YNY (rather than prioritising urban areas). All have the potential to improve work and family life for this group
...have a low income?		✓		The scheme contains a range of functions that may support those in low income groups, including the devolution of the Adult Education Budget and the powers to drive the development of affordable housing.
...are carers (unpaid family or friend)?		✓		The transfer of some transport functions, including bus franchising, has the potential to create better public transport connectivity in

				<p>the region supporting those reliant on services.</p> <p>Powers related to transport and regeneration can also support work to improve infrastructural requirements for those who have a caring role .</p>
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**Section 8. Geographic impact – Please detail where the impact will be (please tick all that apply)**

North Yorkshire wide	✓
Craven district	
Hambleton district	
Harrogate district	
Richmondshire district	
Ryedale district	
Scarborough district	
Selby district	

**If you have ticked one or more districts, will specific town(s)/village(s) be particularly impacted? If so, please specify below.**

The proposals of creating a Mayoral Combined Authority will have an impact on all of North Yorkshire and York. The decision being considered is to submit the results of the consultation to government for them to determine whether the statutory test has been met and whether to create a Mayoral Combined Authority.

**Section 9. Will the proposal affect anyone more because of a combination of protected characteristics? (e.g. older women or young gay men) State what you think the effect may be and why, providing evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.**

The decision of submitting the results of the consultation and the scheme to ask the Government to consider creating a Mayoral Combined Authority and releasing the funding for a devolution deal will not affect anyone more because of a combined protected characteristics. The decisions of a potential future MCA will need to be assessed separately.

<b>Section 10. Next steps to address the anticipated impact. Select one of the following options and explain why this has been chosen. (Remember: we have an anticipatory duty to make reasonable adjustments so that disabled people can access services and work for us)</b>	<b>Tick option chosen</b>
<b>1. No adverse impact - no major change needed to the proposal.</b> There is no potential for discrimination or adverse impact identified.	✓
<b>2. Adverse impact - adjust the proposal -</b> The EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. We will change our proposal to reduce or remove these adverse impacts, or we will achieve our aim in another way which will not make things worse for people.	
<b>3. Adverse impact - continue the proposal -</b> The EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. We cannot change our proposal to reduce or remove these adverse impacts, nor can we achieve our aim in another way which will not make things worse for people. (There must be compelling reasons	

for continuing with proposals which will have the most adverse impacts. Get advice from Legal Services)	
<b>4. Actual or potential unlawful discrimination - stop and remove the proposal</b> – The EIA identifies actual or potential unlawful discrimination. It must be stopped.	
<b>Explanation of why option has been chosen.</b> (Include any advice given by Legal Services.)	
As the consultation considered the scheme setting out the proposed role and functions of the Combined Authority, there is an opportunity to enact the findings of this EIA into how the the new Mayoral Combined Authority may operate in the future. The assessment has identified areas that may support residents from all backgrounds to lead better lives. However, it will be for the future Mayoral Combined Authority to determine a course of action to make this a reality.	

**Section 11. If the proposal is to be implemented how will you find out how it is really affecting people?** (How will you monitor and review the changes?)

The Mayoral Combined Authority will consider EIA's as part of its ongoing programme of work.

**Section 12. Action plan.** List any actions you need to take which have been identified in this EIA, including post implementation review to find out how the outcomes have been achieved in practice and what impacts there have actually been on people with protected characteristics.

Action	Lead	By when	Progress	Monitoring arrangements
Accessibility of Council meetings	Monitoring officer(s)	As Mayoral Combined Authority is established		

**Section 13. Summary** Summarise the findings of your EIA, including impacts, recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker.

The findings of this EIA has considered the responses from the consultation exercise and considered the needs of those with protected characteristics. The proposal of creating a mayoral combined authority and accessing the minded to Devolution Deal will bring additional funding into the region which will assist our residents and businesses. The decisions on which projects will progress will be a matter for the future Mayoral Combined Authority if created and those proposals will need to be assessed individually in consider the Public Sector Equality duties.

**Section 14. Sign off section**

This full EIA was completed by:

**Name:** Barry Khan

**Job title:** Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic), Directorate: Central Services

**Signature:** *Barry Khan*

**Completion date:** 6 Feb 2023

**Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature):** *Barry Khan*

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023

## FORWARD PLAN

The decisions likely to be taken by North Yorkshire County Council in the following 12 months are set out below:

Publication Date: 6 February 2023

Last updated: 6 February 2023

Period covered by Plan: 29 February 2024

**PLEASE NOTE:**

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to information) (England) Regulations 2012, at least **28 clear days' notice**, excluding the day of notification and the day of decision taking, must be published on the Forward Plan of any intended key decision. It is also a requirement that **28 clear days' notice** is published of the intention to hold an Executive meeting or any part of it in private for the consideration of confidential or exempt information. For further information and advice please contact the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager on 01609 533531.

**FUTURE DECISIONS**

<b>Likely Date of Decision</b>	<b>**Decision Taker</b>	<b>In Consultation with</b> (Executive Member or Corporate Director)	<b>Description of Matter</b> – including if the report contains any exempt information and the reasons why	<b>Key Decision</b> <b>YES/NO</b>	<b>Decision Required</b>	<b>Consultees</b> (i.e. the principal groups to be consulted)	<b>Consultation Process</b> (i.e. the means by which any such consultation is to be undertaken)	<b>Contact details for making representations</b> (Tel: 0845 034 9494) unless specified otherwise)	<b>Relevant documents already submitted to Decision Taker</b>
14 Feb 2023	Executive		Devolution	Yes	Devolution: decision regarding mayoral combined authority	Members	Emails	Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Democratic Services) barry.khan@northyorks.gov.uk	
14 Feb 2023	Executive		Agree creation of Mayoral Combined Authority subject to consultation responses	Yes	Agree creation of Mayoral Combined Authority subject to consultation responses	Management Board Members' Seminar Group Leaders	Meetings and emails	Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Democratic Services) barry.khan@northyorks.gov.uk	
14 Feb 2023	Executive		Consideration of the outcomes of consultation process regarding the pausing of the offer of residential provisions at Welburn Hall Special school	Yes	The purpose of the report is to consider the outcomes of the public consultation exercise regarding the pausing of the offer of residential provision at Welburn Hall Special school. The proposal would involve the pausing of the residential offer for a two year	The principal groups of consultees are all families whose children are currently in residential provision at Welburn Hall Special	Public consultation to be launched on January 3rd, 2023 – which will be supported by two public meetings (on January 10th and January 18th). Executive - 13	Assistant Director Strategic Resources 01609 532188; howard.emmet@northyorks.gov.uk	outcomes of consultation process regarding the pausing of the offer of residential provisions at Welburn Hall Special school Appendix 1 Draft

**FUTURE DECISIONS**

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Page 259					period from September 2023. The decision to undertake a public consultation exercise was approved by North Yorkshire Executive on December 13th, 2022.	school – including very small number of families where that offer would potentially continue into the academic year 2023-24. Other principal consultees will include the wider Welburn Hall school community, particularly staff groups, but also the Governing Body of the school and the wider community of all	December 2022.		Consultation Document Appendix 2 Heating and Drainage - Technical Assessment Appendix 3 Heating and Drainage - Risk Register Appendix 4 Heating and Drainage - Project Timeline Appendix 5 Equalities Impact Assessment Appendix 6 Climate Change Impact Assessment

**FUTURE DECISIONS**

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						parents of pupils at the school.			
14 Feb 2023	Executive		Ministry of Defence offer to use additional empty MOD houses in North Yorkshire for Afghan ARAP families	Yes	To seek approval to take-up the Ministry of Defence's offer to use additional empty MOD houses in North Yorkshire for Afghan ARAP families currently residing in third countries. The properties are being offered on a temporary basis on leases of up to three years.	RDC has been consulted to establish resourcing pressures. NYCC School admissions has been consulted to establish school place pressures in the areas where the MOD properties have been offered	Executive	Neil Irving, Assistant Director - Policy, Partnerships and Communities neil.irving@northyorks.gov.uk	
21 Feb 2023	Executive		Q3 Performance Monitoring and Budget Report	Yes	Q3 Performance Monitoring & Budget report including: Revenue Plan; Capital Plan; Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators.	Management Board		Corporate Director for Strategic Resources, gary.fielding@northyorks.gov.uk,	



**FUTURE DECISIONS**

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21 Feb 2023	Executive		Community Networks	Yes	To review options regarding the development of an operating model for community networks.	Member Working Group on Localities Group Leaders Members Officers	Meetings and email	Assistant Director - Policy, Partnerships & Communities neil.irving@northyorks.gov.uk	
21 Feb 2023	Executive		Closure of Scarborough & Ryedale Community Health and Social Care	No	To request the approval of the Executive to apply to Strike Off the company. The Company was set up as a Community Interest Company and as it has been dormant it no longer meets the requirements of a "CIC". It is no longer required as a separate legal entity and therefore can be closed.	None.	None.	Sarah Morton, Senior Solicitor (Commercial, Contracts and Procurement) sarah.morton@northyorks.gov.uk	Closure of Scarborough & Ryedale Community Health and Social Care
21 Feb 2023	Executive		Creation of new Property and Estates Company – Align 2 (APP2)	Yes	To consider the establishment of a new Teckal company for the provision of property projects and			Vicki Dixon, Assistant Director, Strategic Resources	

**FUTURE DECISIONS**

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					estates services, and highways design and project services which would adhere to the Teckal exemption in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.			BES & CS 01609 532206	
21 Mar 2023	Executive		Confirm Statutory Instrument to create Combined Authority	Yes	Confirm Statutory Instrument to create Combined Authority	Members' Seminar Management Board Group Leaders	Meetings and emails	Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Democratic Services) barry.khan@northyorks.gov.uk	
21 Mar 2023	Executive		Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School – School Closure Proposal	Yes	Decision to publish statutory proposals and notices for the closure of Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School with effect from 31 August 2023.	Parents, Staff, Governors, Local Elected Members, District and Parish Councils, Diocese, MP and other local stakeholders.	Consultation ran from 6 Jan 2023 to 24 Feb 2023. Consultation document issued to consultees and available on NYCC website. Statutory proposals will be published on NYCC website. Statutory notice will be published	Strategic Planning Manager, Education & Skills andrew.dixon@northyorks.gov.uk	

**FUTURE DECISIONS**

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21 Mar 2023	Executive		Proposal to close Hovingham CE VC Primary School, Hovingham	Yes	To seek approval on the proposal to close Hovingham Church of England VC Primary School, Hovingham from 31	Parents, Staff, Governors, Local Elected Members,	in local newspaper and placed on the school gate. Statutory proposals representation period from 30 Mar - 27 April 2023. Representations in writing to the Corporate Director- Children and Young People's Service, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, or by email to schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk by 27 April 2023.	Andrew Dixon, Strategic Planning Manager, Education & Skills	
							Consultation document issued to consultees and available on NYCC website. The consultation		

**FUTURE DECISIONS**

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Page 264					March 2023.	District Council, Parish Council, Diocesan Boards and other local stakeholders.  Executive - 24 January 2023.	process ran for 6 weeks from 31 Oct to 12 Dec 2022, included a public consultation meeting in the village. Subject to member approval will be followed by a further 4 week statutory representation period in Feb 2022 during which notices will be published in the local press and at the school gates.	01609 532162	
	21 Mar 2023	Executive		Yes	To appoint where necessary to the positions that will be vacated upon the cessation of the District and Borough Councils	District and Borough Councils All Councillors	Emails	Corporate Director for Strategic Resources gary.fielding@northyorks.gov.uk	
	21 Mar 2023	Executive		Yes	To approve the North Yorkshire Council Maximum table of	Hackney Carriage drivers in	Statutory Public Notice.	Abigail Burns, Project Manager	

**FUTURE DECISIONS**

<b>Likely Date of Decision</b>	<b>**Decision Taker</b>	<b>In Consultation with</b> (Executive Member or Corporate Director)	<b>Description of Matter</b> – including if the report contains any exempt information and the reasons why	<b>Key Decision</b> <b>YES/NO</b>	<b>Decision Required</b>	<b>Consultees</b> (i.e. the principal groups to be consulted)	<b>Consultation Process</b> (i.e. the means by which any such consultation is to be undertaken)	<b>Contact details for making representations</b> (Tel: 0845 034 9494) unless specified otherwise)	<b>Relevant documents already submitted to Decision Taker</b>
			Maximum table of fares for Hackney Carriage drivers from 1 April 2023		fares for Hackney Carriage drivers from 1 April 2023.	North Yorkshire. Wider Public		abigail.burns@northyorks.gov.uk	
21 Mar 2023	Executive		Approval of Customer Service Standards and Policies	Yes	Approval of Customer Service Standards and Policies: - Corporate Complaints Policy - Vexatious Customer Policy - Customer Service Standards	Member Working Group on Customer	Meetings	Robert Ling robert.ling@northyorks.gov.uk	
21 Mar 2023	Executive		Pilots town/parish councils who have additional powers and responsibilities for the unitary council	Yes	Consideration of identifying a number of pilots town/parish councils who have additional powers and responsibilities for the unitary council and the process for considering such transfers	Member Working Group on Locality	Meetings of the Member Working Group	Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Democratic Services) barry.khan@northyorks.gov.uk	
18 Jul 2023	Executive		Consider the adoption of the Parish Charter	Yes	Consider the adoption of the Parish Charter	Public consultation with parish and town	Public consultation	Assistant Director - Policy, Partnerships &	

**FUTURE DECISIONS**

<b>Likely Date of Decision</b>	<b>**Decision Taker</b>	<b>In Consultation with</b> (Executive Member or Corporate Director)	<b>Description of Matter</b> – including if the report contains any exempt information and the reasons why	<b>Key Decision</b> <b>YES/NO</b>	<b>Decision Required</b>	<b>Consultees</b> (i.e. the principal groups to be consulted)	<b>Consultation Process</b> (i.e. the means by which any such consultation is to be undertaken)	<b>Contact details for making representations</b> (Tel: 0845 034 9494) unless specified otherwise)	<b>Relevant documents already submitted to Decision Taker</b>
						councils		Communities neil.irving@northyorks.gov.uk	
21 Mar 2023	Executive		Consider high level vision/ambitions for locality transformation	Yes	To consider the locality approach informed by engagement and the "Let's Talk" campaign	Executive Members Locality and Governance Member Working Group	Meetings	Assistant Director - Policy, Partnerships and Communities neil.irving@northyorks.gov.uk	
21 Mar 2023	Executive		Harmonised Fee structure for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing across North Yorkshire from 1st April 2023	Yes	To consider the outcome of the consultation on the changes to Taxi Fees as paid by Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Operators in North Yorkshire for the new North Yorkshire Council	Members of the public Members Executive 24 January 2023	Public consultation and meetings	Project Manager abigail.burns@northyorks.gov.uk	
21 Mar 2023	Executive		Redeployment of land to the north and south of Crosshills Lane, Selby	Yes	To approve the proposed redeployment of the property	Executive members & Management Board at the informal Executive meeting held on 8		Non-Operational Property Manager, NYCC Property Services Philip.Cowan@northyorks.gov.uk	

**FUTURE DECISIONS**

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						June 2021		ov.uk	
18 Apr 2023	Executive		Local Area SEND Strategy Adoption	Yes	Executive to recommend to Full Council adoption of the Local Area SEND Strategy			Head of SEND Strategic Planning and Resources chris.reynolds@northyorks.gov.uk	
18 Apr 2023	Executive		Managing Adult Social Care Pressures	Yes	To update on actions being taken to address adult social care waiting times and workforce pressures and to set out the evaluation of the Ethical Decision-Making Framework that was put in place in January 2022			Richard Webb, Corporate Director of Health and Adult Services richard.webb@northyorks.gov.uk,	
30 May 2023	Executive		Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School – School Closure Proposal	Yes	To determine whether to cease to maintain (to close) Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School with effect from 31 August 2023. If there are no objections to the statutory notices, this	Parents, Staff, Governors, Local Elected Members, District and Parish Councils, Diocese, MP and	Public consultation to run from 6 Jan - 24 Feb 2023. Consultation document issued to consultees and available on NYCC website. Subject to member	Strategic Planning Manager, Education & Skills andrew.dixon@northyorks.gov.uk	Report to Executive Member for Education Learning & Skills for approval to consult on 13.12.22

**FUTURE DECISIONS**

<b>Likely Date of Decision</b>	<b>**Decision Taker</b>	<b>In Consultation with</b> (Executive Member or Corporate Director)	<b>Description of Matter</b> – including if the report contains any exempt information and the reasons why	<b>Key Decision</b> <b>YES/NO</b>	<b>Decision Required</b>	<b>Consultees</b> (i.e. the principal groups to be consulted)	<b>Consultation Process</b> (i.e. the means by which any such consultation is to be undertaken)	<b>Contact details for making representations</b> (Tel: 0845 034 9494) unless specified otherwise)	<b>Relevant documents already submitted to Decision Taker</b>	
Page 268					decision will be taken by the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills at their meeting with the Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service	other local stakeholders	approval, Statutory notices will be published in the local press and at the school gates providing a further 4-week statutory representation period from 30 March - 27 April 2023.			
	30 May 2023	Executive		Q4 Performance Monitoring and Budget Report	Yes	Q4 Performance Monitoring and Budget report including: Revenue Plan; Capital Plan; Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators.	Management Board	Meetings	Corporate Director for Strategic Resources gary.fielding@northyorks.gov.uk	Q4 Performance Monitoring and Budget Report
	20 Jun 2023	Executive		Future arrangements for the Harrogate and Rural Alliance	Yes	To approve the continuation of the Harrogate and Rural Alliance and agree the proposed legal framework and consultation process.	NHS Commissioners and Providers	Correspondence, meetings and Council website	Assistant Director Adult Social Care, Care & Support chris.jones-king@northyorks.gov.uk	
	20 Jun 2023	Executive		Care market proposals for South Craven	No	To update Executive on proposals for the development of the	Local stakeholders	Stakeholder meetings	Head of Housing Marketing	



**FUTURE DECISIONS**

<b>Likely Date of Decision</b>	<b>**Decision Taker</b>	<b>In Consultation with</b> (Executive Member or Corporate Director)	<b>Description of Matter</b> – including if the report contains any exempt information and the reasons why	<b>Key Decision</b> <b>YES/NO</b>	<b>Decision Required</b>	<b>Consultees</b> (i.e. the principal groups to be consulted)	<b>Consultation Process</b> (i.e. the means by which any such consultation is to be undertaken)	<b>Contact details for making representations</b> (Tel: 0845 034 9494) unless specified otherwise)	<b>Relevant documents already submitted to Decision Taker</b>
					adult social care market in South Craven and secure formal approval for the proposals			Development (Commissioning), Health and Adult Services michael.rudd@northyorks.gov.uk	
20 Jun 2023	Executive		Proposed extra care housing scheme	Yes	To approve funding to support the development of an extra care housing scheme in Whitby. To review the proposed scheme and outcome of the procurement.			Head of Housing Marketing Development (Commissioning), Health and Adult Services michael.rudd@northyorks.gov.uk	
22 Aug 2023	Executive		Consideration of expressions of interest for Double Devolution Pilot	Yes	Executive to consider expressions of interest from Town and Parish Councils for potential Double Devolution Pilot	Executive	Meetings	Assistant Director - Policy, Partnerships & Communities neil.irving@northyorks.gov.uk	
22 Aug 2023	Executive		Q1 Performance Monitoring and Budget Report	Yes	Q1 Performance Monitoring and Budget report including: Revenue Plan; Capital Plan; Treasury	Management Board	Meetings	Corporate Director for Strategic Resources gary.fielding@northyorks.gov	

**FUTURE DECISIONS**

<b>Likely Date of Decision</b>	<b>**Decision Taker</b>	<b>In Consultation with</b> (Executive Member or Corporate Director)	<b>Description of Matter</b> – including if the report contains any exempt information and the reasons why	<b>Key Decision</b> <b>YES/NO</b>	<b>Decision Required</b>	<b>Consultees</b> (i.e. the principal groups to be consulted)	<b>Consultation Process</b> (i.e. the means by which any such consultation is to be undertaken)	<b>Contact details for making representations</b> (Tel: 0845 034 9494) unless specified otherwise)	<b>Relevant documents already submitted to Decision Taker</b>
					Management and Prudential Indicators.			.uk	
19 Sep 2023	Executive		Future arrangements for the Harrogate and Rural Alliance	Yes	To consider feedback from the consultation and approve the final legal framework.	NHS Commissioners and Providers	Correspondence and meetings	Assistant Director Adult Social Care, Care and Support chris.jones-king@northyorks.gov.uk	
20 Sep 2023	Executive		Outdoor Learning Service	Yes	To consider the outcome of the strategic review and full business case for the Outdoor Learning Service.	Not applicable	Not applicable	Assistant Director, Education & Skills amanda.newbold@northyorks.gov.uk	
28 Nov 2023	Executive		Q2 Performance Monitoring and Budget Report	Yes	Q2 Performance Monitoring and Budget report including: Revenue Plan; Capital Plan; Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators.	Management Board	Meetings	Corporate Director for Strategic Resources gary.fielding@northyorks.gov.uk	Q2 Performance Monitoring and Budget Report

Should you wish to make representation as to the matter being discussed in public please contact Daniel Harry  
Email: (daniel.harry@northyorks.gov.uk) Tel: 01609 533531.