

Community Governance Review

Final Recommendations

Harrogate Unparished Area

July 2023

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1. The Review

- 1.1. A Community Governance Review (CGR) is a review of whole or part of a principal council's area for the purpose of making recommendations with regard to creating, merging or abolishing parishes and the naming and electoral arrangements of parishes. Where a parish of over 1,000 electors is created it must have a parish council. A parish council may be called a Town, Community, Neighbourhood or Village Council. The review is undertaken:
 - In accordance with the legislation in Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007;
 - Having regard to guidance published by the Secretary of State and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England; and
 - Complying with the terms of reference that the council has adopted for the review
- 1.2. A review is often undertaken when there have been changes in population or in reaction to specific new issues to ensure that community governance for the area continues to be effective and convenient and reflects the identities and interests of the community. The aim of the review is to bring about improved community engagement, communities that are more unified, better local democracy and more effective and convenient delivery of local services.
- 1.3. On 1 April 2023, a new unitary authority known as North Yorkshire Council (NYC) was created replacing North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and Harrogate Borough Council (HBC), along with the county's six other district and borough councils. This new council is responsible for the delivery of all local services previously provided by the eight predecessor councils.
- 1.4. The only parts of North Yorkshire which do not have a parish or town council are the towns of Scarborough and Harrogate. NYC is committed to keeping services local and empowering local communities and having no parish or town council limits the opportunities for delivery of services by local bodies.
- 1.5. Harrogate and Scarborough Borough Councils had borough status, which entitled them to have a Mayor. To preserve the historic property, privileges, rights and traditions associated with a Mayor, the structural changes order approved by Government to allow the creation of NYC established charter trustee areas for both Harrogate and Scarborough from 1 April 2023. Whilst charter trustee areas are intended to protect the history and traditions of an area, they have no powers in respect of providing services to residents and the charter trustees may carry out ceremonial functions only. Charter trustees are the councillors on NYC

representing the electoral divisions in the unparished areas. More information on charter trustees can be found here: [Charter Trustees | North Yorkshire Council](#)

- 1.6. In the event that a parish council is created for the whole of the Harrogate unparished area, the charter trustee body would be dissolved. If no parish council is created the charter trustees will continue and would only be dissolved should a parish council be established in the future.
- 1.7. Parish and town councils play a key role in representing the views and promoting the needs of communities and can provide services to their residents. Parish councillors are directly elected to the parish council by the electors of the parish area. Parish Councils are mainly funded by a levy incorporated into local residents' council tax bills, known as a precept. Parish Councils are also able to bid to a wide range of bodies for grant funding at a local level.
- 1.8. NYCC agreed to conduct this review at a meeting of the Executive on 19 July 2022. The report and the legal basis on which the review is conducted, along with the terms of reference for this review can be found here: [Agenda for Executive on Tuesday, 19th July, 2022, 11.00 am | North Yorkshire County Council](#). The Executive resolved that:
 - i. Community governance reviews be undertaken for the unparished parts of Harrogate and Scarborough, incorporating Eastfield Town Council.
 - ii. The Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) in consultation with the relevant Executive Members be given delegated authority to approve the terms of reference once final typographical changes have been completed and to take any necessary action to progress the Community Governance Review.
- 1.9. The timetable for the review is set out below:

Revised Timetable*	
Aug 2022 to Oct 2022	Stage 1 consultation
Nov 2022 to Jan 2023	Consideration of responses and drafting of recommendations
Mar 2023 to May 2023	Stage 2 consultation on draft recommendations
May 2023 to Jun 2023	Formulation of final recommendations

1.10. This review offered two opportunities for residents to have their say. The stage 1 consultation formed the basis of a set of draft recommendations, detailed at 1.15 below, which were approved by NYCC’s Executive on 10 January 2023. The report presenting the draft recommendations and full consultation outcome report can be found here: [Agenda for Executive on Tuesday, 10th January, 2023, 11.00 am | North Yorkshire Council](#). The Executive resolved:

- i. That the responses from the consultation process which took place following publication of the Terms of Reference in July 2022 and the comments of the Member Working Group be noted.
- ii. That the draft recommendations (as amended) set out in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the report be agreed and publicised as part of a Stage 2 consultation commencing on 20 February for eight weeks.
- iii. That the Executive note the Notice of Motion approved by Harrogate Borough Council on 21 September 2022. Rather than hold a binding referendum, it was agreed that as part of the Stage 2 public consultation process for the Community Governance Review, every household in the Harrogate and Scarborough unparished areas will be written out to again with information on the detailed proposals.

1.11. During the stage 1 consultation 1,250 responses were received, the outcomes were as detailed in the table below:

Stage 1 - Option	Number	Percentage
Option 1 – not to create a parish council	181	14.5%
Option 2 – to create a parish council	934	74.7%
Some other option	36	2.9%
Don't know / not sure	99	7.9%
	1,250	100%

1.12. A stage 2 consultation exercise has now been undertaken, which forms the basis of the final recommendations.

1.13. The full methodology used for the stage 2 consultation is set out at Appendix A and the survey at Appendix B.

1.14. Residents were able to give views on each recommendation by submitting a survey which listed each draft recommendation, and were asked to say whether they agreed, disagreed, or didn't know / weren't sure, as well as provide any comments.

1.15. The draft recommendations that residents and stakeholders were consulted specifically on, for this area were:

Recommendation 1 - A new parish be established for the unparished area of Harrogate

Recommendation 2 - The new parish be named Harrogate

Recommendation 3 - The new parish of Harrogate should have a parish council and be called Harrogate Town Council

Recommendation 4 – That the parish comes into effect from 1 April 2024 for administrative purposes, and the first election for the town council be 2 May 2024 for a reduced term of three years, with ordinary elections taking place in 2027 and every four years thereafter

Recommendation 5 -

the parish be divided into wards

the ward names for the parish shall be those which apply for North Yorkshire Council, with the exception of Oatlands and Saltergate wards, which comprise the unparished parts of the Oatlands and Pannal division and the Killinghall, Hampsthwaite and Saltergate division respectively. The ward names are as detailed below:

Bilton & Nidd Gorge
Bilton Grange & New Park
Coppice Valley & Duchy
Fairfax & Starbeck
Harlow & St Georges
High Harrogate & Kingsley
Oatlands
Saltergate
Stray, Woodlands & Hookstone
Valley Gardens & Central Harrogate

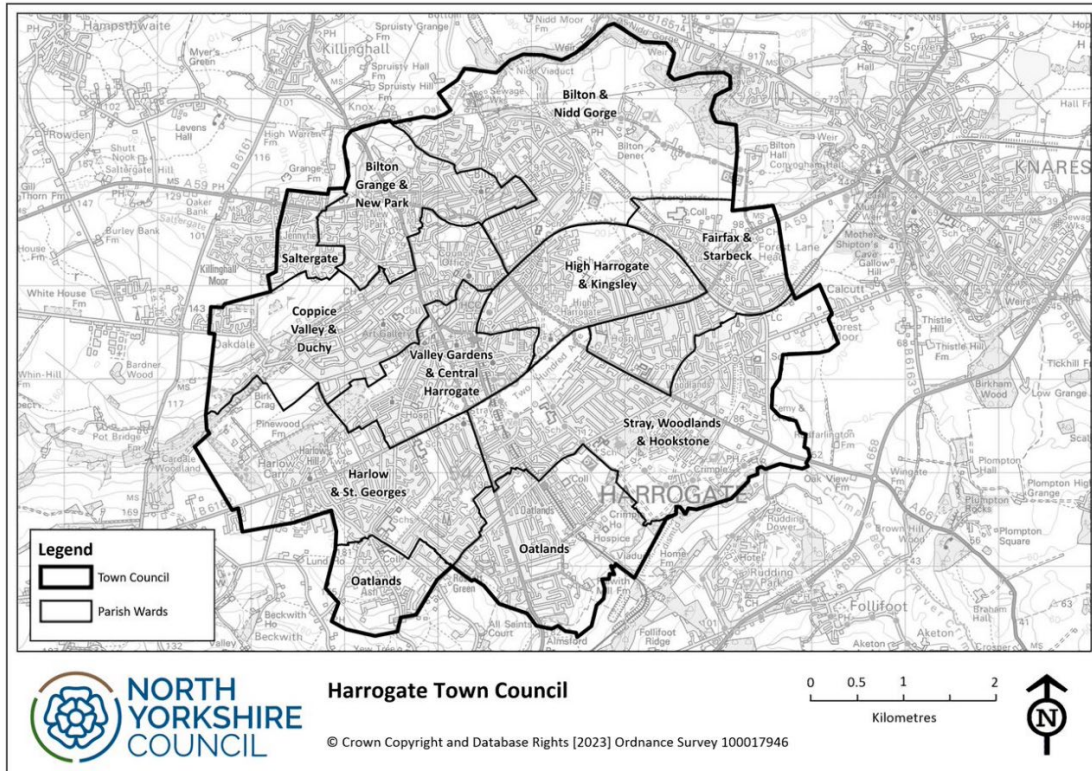
Recommendation 6 – there should be 19 councillors elected to the parish

Recommendation 7 - the number of parish councillors to be elected for each ward shall be:

Bilton & Nidd Gorge	2
Bilton Grange & New Park	2
Coppice Valley & Duchy	2
Fairfax & Starbeck	2
Harlow & St Georges	2
High Harrogate & Kingsley	2
Saltergate	1
Oatlands	2
Stray, Woodlands & Hookstone	2
Valley Gardens & Central Harrogate	2
TOTAL	19

Recommendation 8 – that the change takes effect on 15th October 2023 for electoral purposes (ahead of publication of the revised register planned for 01 December 2023)

A map of the draft recommendations is as follows:

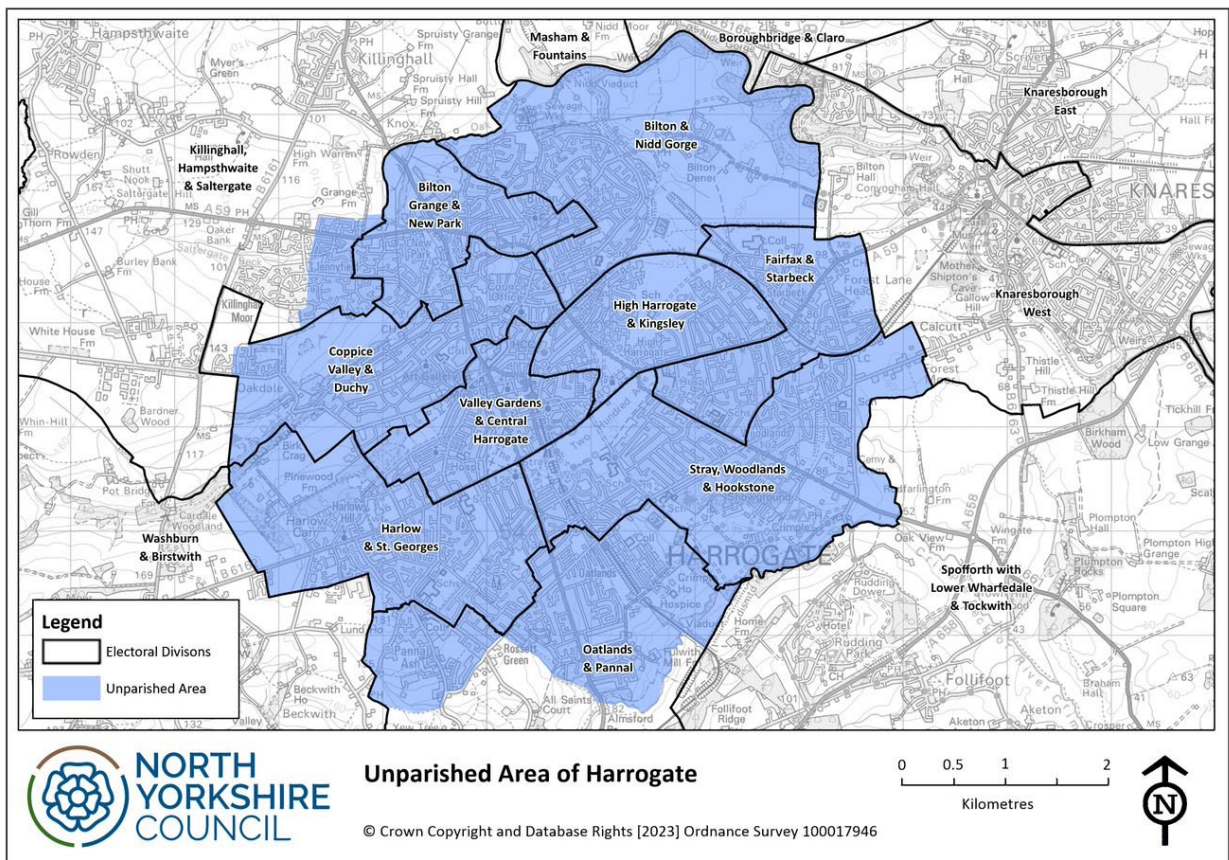


2. Background information

Current arrangements

2.1. The unparished area of Harrogate includes the following current NYC divisions, which since 1 April 2023 is the charter trustee area:

Division	Electorate (as at 1 Dec 22)	Households (as at 1 Dec 22)
Bilton & Nidd Gorge	5,890	3,675
Bilton Grange & New Park	5,876	3,744
Coppice Valley & Duchy (PART)	5,554	3,763
Fairfax & Starbeck	5,996	3,805
Harlow & St Georges	6,495	3,861
High Harrogate & Kingsley	6,410	4,363
Killinghall, Hampsthwaite & Saltergate (PART)	1,777	1,207
Oatlands & Pannal (PART)	4,277	2,447
Stray, Woodlands & Hookstone	6,091	3,533
Valley Gardens & Central Harrogate	6,130	5,115
Total electorate	54,496	35,513



2.2. The Harrogate town area has been unparished since Harrogate Borough Council was created in 1974 and there has been debate over the years on whether a town council should be created. Following the government decision in 2021 that a single council be formed for the county of North Yorkshire, NYCC commenced a review to consider the creation of a town council.

Five year electorate forecast

2.3. The electorate and 5 year forecast of the unparished area is as follows:

Division	Electorate (at 1 Dec 22)	Forecast electorate (2027)	Forecast increase in electorate
Bilton & Nidd Gorge	5,890	5,915	25
Bilton Grange & New Park	5,876	5,904	28
Coppice Valley & Duchy (PART)	5,554	6,615	1,061
Fairfax & Starbeck	5,996	6,188	192
Harlow & St Georges	6,495	7,016	521
High Harrogate & Kingsley	6,410	7,716	1,306
Killinghall, Hampsthwaite & Saltergate (PART)	1,777	2,080	303
Oatlands & Pannal (PART)	4,277	4,832	555
Stray, Woodlands & Hookstone	6,091	6,203	112
Valley Gardens & Central Harrogate	6,130	6,672	542
Total electorate	54,496	59,141	4,645

2.4. The forecast increases in electorate have been calculated by considering planning permissions likely to be delivered within the next five years.

3. Assessment of Submissions

- 3.1. The following table shows the number of households written to, the number of submissions received, and response rate, for both phases of consultation during this review. Responses were not limited to households only, anyone with an interest was invited to respond.

Consultation Stage	Stage 1	Stage 2
Households posted to	35,431	35,583
Responses received for area	1,250	1,698
Response rate	3.53 %	4.77 %

- 3.2. Responses were received through a combination of online surveys, paper surveys returned, and emails containing views/comments, which have all been fed into the consultation responses and statistics.
- 3.3. Submissions received, both in summary form and in full can be found in the Harrogate area consultation stage 2 report at Appendix C. Some comments are quoted in this assessment where they may be helpful to illustrate a point.
- 3.4. Response rates in the table above were calculated by comparing the number of returns with the number of households directly consulted by means of a mail out inviting responses from all households in the areas under review. 448 more responses came in for this stage 2 consultation than the initial stage.

Proposal for a new Harrogate Town Council

- 3.5. The survey asked 'It is recommended to create a town council named Harrogate Town Council for the unparished parts of Harrogate. Do you agree with this proposal?' Responses are detailed in the table below.

Answer	Stage 2 Number	Stage 2 %
Yes	1,104	65.0%
No	483	28.4%
Don't know / not sure	111	6.5%
Total	1,698	100%

Comments agreeing with the creation of a new town council for Harrogate

- 3.6. 1104 respondents agreed with the proposal that a town council be created, and of these 305 provided further comments.

The most common reason given for supporting the recommendation related to the importance of local representation and decision making and 157 comments included the word “local”. Many respondents said they would like to see local control of services - services provided locally and run by local people who understood local needs. A town council would allow local voices to shape services and enable community based decision making. A town council would be able to act on behalf of residents, listen to residents, represent local interests and enable local self-determination.

Further to this, some respondents felt a town council would provide a forum for local issues to be raised and addressed, and would provide a greater opportunity for local people to be involved in local governance. Another comment referred to the opportunity for neighbourhood planning.

A number of respondents commented on the importance of Harrogate being brought into line with other towns in North Yorkshire which had town councils, and felt that Harrogate might be disadvantaged without such a body to protect its interests.

“It is essential that Harrogate has a new town council. With maximum powers awarded to it. Harrogate is a unique town both within North Yorkshire and within the bigger Northern Region. It would be unthinkable for it not to have any powers of local governance. I am completely in favour of the unitary authority. But I do want to see a town council, to bring it into line with other towns in the region.”

“It is absolutely vital that Harrogate residents have local democratic representation, and that the town council has as much power devolved as is legally possible and a meaningful financial budget and fund raising powers to help sustain the great features and facilities in this lovely town.”

“It will provide a voice for local residents and be able to focus more on local matters and concerns”

Some comments referred to a town council being able to ensure the continuation of civic traditions, and also to help protect and preserve the distinct history and identity of the town including the spa town ethos. A number of comments mentioned assets such as the Valley Gardens and Stray being better preserved through a town council. Other comments also referred to a town council being able to support tourism and hospitality within the town and also being able to support Harrogate in the wider role it plays in the economy of North Yorkshire

A number of respondents expressed concerns over unitary status, and whether Harrogate would continue to be adequately represented given that NYC covered such a large area. Some felt a town council was the only way of retaining some,

limited powers and might provide checks and balances on NYC decisions. Other comments suggested a town council could provide a voice for Harrogate at NYC and a town council might have the ability to apply pressure in support of the town.

Comments disagreeing with the creation of a new town council for Harrogate

- 3.7. 483 respondents did not agree with the proposal to create a town council and of these 363 provided further comments.

The most common reasons for objecting to the creation of a town council were the cost and the additional bureaucracy. Many respondents commented that they felt it would be a waste of money and they would not be happy about the increase in council tax to fund. Some comments referred to the difficulties this would cause and the cost of living crisis. A few people also suggested that the costs of a town council should be met by NYC through savings arising from local government organisation. There were a number of comments about paying for councillor allowances.

Many respondents referred to local government reorganisation. Many were supportive of abolishing the two tier system and introducing a single unitary council to reduce costs and find efficiencies. They felt that introducing a new tier of government was a backward step and didn't make sense, almost to the point of negating the recent reorganisation. Many felt that the unitary authority was sufficient to manage political and practical aspects of local government in Harrogate and that current Harrogate representation on NYC was sufficient to represent the interests of Harrogate. Even those who disagreed with reorganisation felt that it didn't make sense to return to a two tier system so soon.

A number of respondents stated they felt a town council would just be more bureaucracy and provide an unnecessary layer of government. They didn't see any need for a town council, which many felt would just be a talking shop with "*jobs for the boys*". There was concern that a town council would have limited responsibilities with no real budget, power or authority and therefore be of no benefit to residents.

Some respondents referred to concerns they had about the performance of the former Harrogate Borough Council and whether a town council would be 'more of the same'. Others felt it might be better to wait a few years and see how unitary status worked before making a decision on a town council.

"Complete waste of money and resource. Establishment of North Yorkshire Council was supposed to bring efficiencies, and reduce cost. Not to introduce another unnecessary layer of bureaucracy."

"What a waste of money when people are struggling financially"

“Unnecessary additional layer of bureaucracy which the taxpayer will be charged for.”

“We already pay enough for local government, this just adds an extra layer.”

A few of the comments referred to the response rate at the stage 1 consultation, stating that they felt that it was too low to justify making a decision in favour of a town council.

Comments not sure about the creation of a new town council

- 3.8. 111 respondents said they were ‘Not sure’ about the proposal that a town council be created, and of these 71 provided further comments.

The main reason given for not being sure was that they didn’t feel as though they had enough information to be able to provide an opinion. Respondents felt that they would have liked more detail on exactly what powers a town council would have, and also the costs.

“Until we know precisely what the new Harrogate town council will be responsible for, we cannot comment on whether it will be worth the money”

“At the moment there is not enough information to give an informed view and the proposal seems to be being rushed through before even the new Council can have a clear understanding about how this would work, what it would cost and what responsibilities would be taken on. Would it be better for the new Council to have a period of time with responsibility for all the services covering Harrogate and gain a better understanding of what could/should be delegated to a town council.”

Some respondents felt they would have been able to support a town council if the costs were covered by NYC or by a town council being given responsibility for services which would raise money such as car parks, not an additional precept. Some felt that they would be asked to pay extra for things which were previously included in the council tax.

There were some comments that the information did not clearly explain what the benefits of a town council would be. There were uncertainties about reorganisation and the perception that Harrogate Borough Council had been abolished only to be replaced with a town council which would be little different.

Warding pattern

- 3.9. Of the 1,104 respondents who agreed with the creation of a town council, 968 agreed with the proposed warding pattern, and in total 1,058 respondents agreed, even if they did not agree with the creation of a parish council. In total 304 respondents provided comments.

Comments in support referred to it being sensible and reasonable to use the existing warding pattern, which would reduce confusion amongst voters and avoid costs in making changes. There were also comments that the division was fair and even across the town.

“Already exist and understood”

“Established and manageable”

“Maintains identity of different areas with different needs”

“If a new town council is established, then it is logical to follow the existing boundaries.”

Of those who disagreed the majority felt there were too many wards and councillors, although some did say they would have liked to see more wards with the old Harrogate Borough Council warding pattern used for the town council.

Some comments reflected that people thought ward boundaries were cutting across communities and the ward name didn't reflect the particular part of town they covered, and suggestions were made to move things round to more accurately reflect this.

A number of comments noted the inequalities surrounding the smaller wards of Oatlands and Saltergate, which has arisen due to those wards being the unparished part of larger NYC divisions which covered both parished and unparished areas.

Some respondents didn't feel that it was necessary to break the area into wards, with one person suggesting one single ward and elections by PR. Other people also commented on the electoral system which would be used.

Some comments considered that the suggested warding pattern was uneven and made suggestions about changes including:

- Include the whole of the Jennyfield estate in with the Saltergate ward as it is part of the town
- High Harrogate should not be with Kingsley as they have little in common
- Bilton and Nidd Gorge should be split due to the proposed housing growth in the area
- Saltergate and Bilton Grange and New Park wards should be combined; the part of Fairfax and Starbeck ward north of the railway should be combined with the Bilton and Nidd Gorge ward and the part south of the railway should be combined with the Stray, Woodlands and Hookstone ward to reduce the number of councillors by three
- Redraw the boundaries so that Oatlands ward is contiguous
- Part of Harlow and St Georges should be added to Oatlands to even out sizing and arrangement

- The larger Oatlands section should be merged with St Georges and the smaller included in Harlow ward
- The King Edwins development should be included, extend boundary to B6161
- Changes needed to Harlow & St Georges, Pannal and Washburn & Birstwith to reflect large scale housing development to the west of the town.
- There should only be four wards

Additional response on warding pattern

3.10. In advance of consideration of the draft recommendations by Executive on 10 January, Councillor Chris Aldred submitted an email to the Executive in which he made the following proposal:

“Rather than a future Harrogate Town Council consisting of 19 Councillors, the majority of these being elected as two Councillors from the NYCC/ NYC Divisions contested for the first time last May, as is the current Recommendation 7, **I would urge you to consult on 19 Councillors, but use the current HBC boundaries, as is alluded to at 13.3 (2) in the report.** “

It was confirmed at the meeting that this proposal could form part of the Stage 2 consultation. This proposal is discussed at paragraph 4.16.

Names of wards

3.11. Of the 1,104 respondents who agreed with the creation of a town council, 1,060 supported the proposal that the names of the 10 wards of a town council be the same as the names of the existing divisions used for the county council and the new unitary council. There were two exceptions to this: the unparished part of the Oatlands and Pannal division, was proposed to be called Oatlands ward; and the unparished part of the Killinghall, Hampsthwaite and Saltergate division, which was proposed to be Saltergate ward. In total 1,111 respondents agreed, even if they disagreed with the creation of a parish council.

There were few comments on the proposed names of the wards, with most people who supported the proposal for a town council agreeing that keeping the same names as for divisions kept it simple and they couldn't see any reason to change.

“the names given for the wards are appropriate.”

“To keep the same names provides continuity”

Three respondents felt that an entirely new warding pattern was needed.

“If a new council is to be formed there should be new wards and names to reflect the current demographic of Harrogate”

A number of comments were received in relation to Saltergate and Oatlands, and suggestions and reasons are included below.

Some suggestions were made:

- Saltergate ward should be renamed Jennyfields, and this was often made in conjunction with the suggestion that the whole Jennyfield estate be included.
- Saltergate means nothing to new residents
- Bilton & Nidd Gorge should be renamed Bilton with Harrogate and Nidd Gorge
- Valley Gardens should be renamed Central Harrogate
- Oatlands Ward should be renamed Crimple ward to reflect the area it covers
- Oatlands Ward should be renamed Oatlands with Pannal Ash or reflect Pannal / Pannal Ash in some way as the eastern part is a long way from Oatlands. Other suggestions for the eastern part included Rossett or Ashville
- Fairfax is nothing to do with Starbeck
- Rename Fairfax & Starbeck just Starbeck as Starbeck is the bigger, better known area / there isn't an area called Fairfax
- Saltergate should be named Killinghall, Hampstwaite & Saltergate
- "Each of the old HBC Wards should have 1 Councillorthis would distinguish specific areas and who is responsible to which set of electors / residents. 2 Councillors for joined up geography's doesn't work. Coppice Valley is distinctive to Duchy, Fairfax is distinctive to Starbeck."
- Bilton Grange should become Knox as no-one talks about Bilton Grange
- Wedderburn would be better than Fairfax

Council Size

3.12. Of the 1,104 respondents who agreed with the creation of a town council, 900 supported the proposals that each of the 10 wards be represented by 2 councillors per ward, with the exception of Saltergate ward which would have 1 councillor giving a total council size of 19 councillors. In total 956 respondents agreed, even if they disagreed with the creation of a parish council.

Generally respondents who agreed with a town council being created were supportive of the proposals.

Many respondents who disagreed with a town council were more likely to say there should be one councillor per ward, or none as they felt 19 would be too costly. Many felt that a lower number would facilitate collaborative working. Many comments reflected a poor view of councillors in general. A number of respondents felt that there were too many councillors for the level of responsibility a town council is likely to have.

"19 councillors are excessive and will be expensive - one per ward is enough".

A few alternative suggestions were made:

- Suggest 1 councillor per ward, giving a council size of 10 councillors
- Suggest 4 councillors per ward
- Suggest 3 councillors per ward, with 2 for Saltergate

- Suggest High Harrogate and Harlow have 3 councillors each to reflect large size of ward, given that Oatlands has 2
- One councillor
- A maximum of five councillors
- There should be an odd number of councillor per ward
- A single large ward
- Reduce the number of wards to eight and the number of councillors to 16
- Suggest a mixture of elected councillors and co-opted representatives from local organisations

A few respondents asked why Saltergate was proposed to only have one, and there were many suggestions that the Saltergate ward be expanded to include the rest of Jennyfield and therefore have two councillors.

A number of comments were made throughout the survey suggesting that restrictions be placed on who could stand for election for the town council, these included:

- A candidate had to live in the ward in which they were standing
- Candidates must be independent and not political
- The existing NYC division councillors should stand
- NYC councillors should not be able to stand
- There be some sort of process to determine a candidate's abilities before allowing them to stand
- Invite people involved in community groups to stand and should be paid, not the usual people of privilege who stand
- "I believe that each member of the assembly should work for 12 months, that membership should rotate through all residents from age sixteen."

Many respondents referred to councillors being paid or receiving allowances, and therefore objected to there being 19 on the grounds of increased costs.

Comparisons were made to Ripon City Council and Knaresborough Town Council having a greater ratio of councillors to population, and suggested there should be double the number of councillors to achieve a similar representation. Further comparisons were made to parish council levels of representation.

Timescales

- 3.13. Of the 1,104 respondents who agreed with the creation of a town council, 1015 supported the proposals that the first elections to a town council take place on 2 May 2024 for a reduced term of three years, with ordinary elections taking place in 2027 and every four years thereafter. In total 1,103 respondents agreed, even if they did not agreed with the creation of a parish council.

Many comments supported the proposal.

"Sensible to fit with NYC elections."

“I presume that the proposed dates align with those for the new North Yorkshire Council, which seems sensible and as we will then be voting for two sets of representatives at the same time will be more cost efficient.”

Many of those who supported the proposal had further suggestions to make. A number of respondents expressed disappointment that elections would not be taking place in May 2023, and expressed concern at the delay to May 2024. They felt that the town was being left in limbo for a year and might be disadvantaged through not having a town council straight after reorganisation.

*“It is disappointing that elections cannot be held until mid 2024”
“I would prefer the election to take place earlier if possible”*

Two respondents suggested a longer pause before the first elections.

“Would prefer to understand powers and responsibilities of town council to be better understood and negotiated before establishment”

Many respondents suggested elections take place more frequently than every four years to hold councillors to account and to enable councillors to maintain their enthusiasm. Should that not be possible there should be a mechanism to monitor performance of councillors and take action if needed.

“ideally each member should face re-election every year.”

“Local elections should be held every 2 years. To make sure that councillors do not become too comfortable and complacent in their positions.”

“Would prefer that the initial council be in place for two years, and that follow election be every 3 years. 4 years is too long to be in position.”

“I disagree with this timetable. It envisages elections from 2027 onwards being held at the same time as the elections to the North Yorkshire Council. I'm guessing this is mainly based on minimising costs by holding local elections only once every four years. I consider that this too long a gap. The public should be consulted every 2 years with North Yorkshire Councils elections alternating with Harrogate town council elections. This would allow the electorate to concentrate attention on the different issues facing the two councils instead of asking them to consider two largely separate sets of issues at the same time. Thus, I would prefer to see the recommendation replaced by 4 - that the parish comes into effect from 1 April 2024 for administrative purposes, and the first election for the town council be 2 May 2024 for an extended term of five years, with ordinary elections taking place in 2029 and every four years thereafter”

Two comments suggested elections by thirds or halves

“This is far too long an interval between elections, It would be more democratic to have one third or better still half of the positions voted on every year”

“Postpone the entire notion of Harrogate Council members for at least 5 years until we see how the new organisation performs”

“Let's see how Harrogate runs without a town council. What is the rush”

Community Organisations

3.14. 20 responses were received where the respondent indicated they were a member of a community organisation, though it was not always clear if the responses were on behalf of an organisation or from individuals who were connected with community organisations. Of these 18 agreed with the recommendation that a town council be created, and two were not sure.

3.15. The Harrogate Civic Society responded that

“Harrogate Civic Society agrees with the recommendation to create a town council named Harrogate Town Council for the unparished parts of Harrogate. We have the following comments to make: Harrogate was one of the original English Spa towns, with the first medicinal waters discovered in 1571. It became one of England’s most popular spa towns. Today its fine Victorian and Edwardian public buildings, hotels and private homes, elegant town centre streets, and 200 acres of parkland (known locally as “the Stray”) ensure Harrogate’s popularity as a place to live, work and visit. Harrogate Civic Society was established in 1971 and is committed to celebrating the town’s architectural and social history, contributing to discussions about how the town is developed, and to ensuring that Harrogate both retains the best of its historic character and embraces the future. The Society aims to celebrate our past, enhance our present and shape our future. We believe that this can best be done with a Harrogate Town Council, so key decisions will be made by local councillors who live in the town. We note the possible remit of the new council set out in the consultation document, but would like to see it have more of a role over time. This would enable opportunities to raise income, protect and enhance the key assets of the town, have a greater say in planning and development (through a Neighbourhood Plan), and promote a vision for the town which makes it a premier spa and floral town. Harrogate Civic Society would wish to work constructively with a new town council to keep the town the jewel in the crown of North Yorkshire and we look forward to a positive outcome to this consultation”

And in response to the proposals in relation to ward names

“I think Valley Gardens is wrong and the Ward should be called Central Harrogate”

4. Statutory Criteria and Consideration of Submissions

- 4.1. Section 93 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires that the Council must have regard to the need to secure that community governance in an area under review
- reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area
 - is effective and convenient
- and in deciding what recommendations to make the principal council must take into account any other arrangements for community representation or community engagement that already exist in an area.
- 4.2. Parish councils have two main roles: community representation and local administration. For both purposes it is desirable that a parish should reflect a distinctive and recognisable community of place, with its own sense of identity. The views of local communities and inhabitants are of central importance. Some of the factors which help define communities of place are: the geography of an area, the make-up of the local community, sense of identity, and whether people live in a rural, suburban, or urban area.
- 4.3. It is proposed that a new parish be created for the unparished area of Harrogate. The response to the consultation supports this, with 65% of those responding that they agreed with the proposal to create a parish council, and 28.4% disagreeing with proposal. Respondents wanted to see increased local representation and decision making and service delivery at a more local level. The proposed parish is a clearly identifiable built up area, surrounded on three sides by a large rural hinterland and separated from the town of Knaresborough by the greenbelt. The town is made up of a number of residential suburbs, each with their own identities and small secondary shopping areas, but the town is of such a size that many shops and services are based centrally and the town centre is seen as the focal point for town life.
- 4.4. As the parish has over 1,000 electors a parish council must be created for the parish of Harrogate, and it is proposed that this be known as Harrogate Town Council. Creating a parish council will enable community representation and local administration to take place for the area, and the consultation responses have demonstrated that residents see these as the main reasons for supporting the creation of a parish council. Having the style of a town council will enable it to have a Mayor and continue the longstanding civic tradition currently being carried out by the Charter Trustees for Harrogate.
- 4.5. The Government believes that the effectiveness and convenience of local government is best understood in the context of a local authority's ability to deliver quality services economically and efficiently, and give users of services a democratic voice in the decisions that affect them.
- 4.6. Local communities should have access to good quality local services, ideally in one place. A parish council may be well placed to do this. With local parish and town councils in mind, effective and convenient local government essentially means that such councils should be viable in terms of providing at least some local services,

and if they are to be convenient they need to be easy to reach and accessible to local people.

- 4.7. A single town council covering the whole of the unparished area is more likely to provide a council with the capacity to consider taking on services, should it be able to reach an agreement with the principal council. A single large council would provide economies of scale, freeing up resources for services.
- 4.8. Some consultation responses suggested that a single town council for the unparished area would be too large or that distinct suburbs such as Starbeck or Bilton have separate parish councils created, distinct from a larger Harrogate Town Council. Whilst such an arrangement would recognise the distinctive identities of such areas, and it is very likely that a series of smaller parish councils would be successful at a local level and bring local communities together, this would not provide the single unified voice to speak on behalf of the whole town, which is what a large number of respondents in favour of a town council gave as the reason for opting for a town council. Any such parishes created would be relatively very small and would not be large enough to consider delivering services locally and with economies of scale, potentially leading to the residents of Starbeck and Bilton missing out on the opportunities to be provided by a larger town council. It is therefore proposed that a single parish be created for the area under review.
- 4.9. A number of respondents requested that the housing estates at the western end of Jennyfield known as Killinghall Moor and the King Edwin's estate on Penny Pot Lane which currently fall within Killinghall parish, would be better included within a Harrogate town council, rather than a rural parish. Further comments related to the Otley Road housing developments extending into Washburn and Birstwith division. This is beyond the scope of this current review.
- 4.10. Where a review recommends the creation of a parish council, recommendations must also be made in respect of the electoral arrangements. If the principal council recommends dividing a parish into wards when considering the size and boundaries of wards and the number of councillors to be elected for each ward they must have regards to
- The number of local government electors for the parish
 - The projected electorate in 5 years
 - The desirability of fixing boundaries which are and will remain easily identifiable
 - Any local ties which will be broken by the fixing of any particular boundaries
- 4.11. It is proposed that the parish be divided into wards following the same ward boundaries as for the existing county divisions. These divisions were formed by combining two wards of the now abolished Harrogate Borough Council, and there can be confidence that such boundaries appropriately reflect the various communities within the town and boundaries between those communities. Forecast electorates have been considered.

- 4.12. It is also proposed that the names of the wards be the same as the names of the existing county divisions, with the two exceptions detailed in paragraph 4.13.
- 4.13. Using the division pattern means that two of the proposed wards are smaller than the other eight. The Oatlands and Pannal electoral division includes the parish of Pannal and Burn Bridge, therefore only the northern part of the division falls within the unparished area. This has created a small ward with a proposed name of Oatlands with a projected electorate of 4,832 electors, the average size of the full wards is 6,528. The Killinghall, Hampsthwaite and Saltergate electoral division mainly falls outside of the unparished town, with only the housing estate at the eastern end of Jennyfield being included in the parish council. This has created a small ward proposed to be called Saltergate with a projected electorate of 2,080.
- 4.14. 62.3% of respondents agreed with the proposed warding pattern. The majority of comments disagreeing related to the small wards of Oatlands and Saltergate and made suggestions for evening out the warding pattern by combining with other wards or redrawing the boundaries. In order to comply with good practice guidance that no parish ward should be split by a division boundary, and in order to maintain a warding pattern that is easy for residents to understand, it is proposed to retain the boundaries as proposed.
- 4.15. Other comments on warding suggested that the grouping of former HBC wards to create large NYC divisions should be changed, or that lines be redrawn to reduce the number of wards and make Oatlands one contiguous area. All those suggestions would mean parish warding did not reflect the division pattern and are therefore not recommended.
- 4.16. A suggestion was received that the warding pattern used by the now abolished Harrogate Borough Council be used. This would result in the same number of councillors, with two wards per division and would enable smaller areas to clearly identify with a single ward councillor. Such a warding pattern would be possible within the guidance as it would not lead to any parish ward being split by a division boundary. This is not recommended as the majority of respondents agreed with the proposal to use the NYC division boundaries, and it is felt it would be clearer for residents to understand a warding pattern which reflected the existing division pattern.
- 4.17. There were few comments in relation to ward names, with alternatives being suggested. In particular there were suggestions relating to Oatlands ward, with the westernmost section being a long way from the area known as Oatlands and it was suggested that the ward be renamed Oatlands and Pannal Ash, or Oatlands and Rossett to reflect the two distinct geographies. It is not proposed to change the name as the majority of respondents agreed with the name Oatlands.
- 4.18. It is recommended that the 9 larger wards be represented by 2 councillors, with the exception of Saltergate ward, which would have 1 councillor, giving a total council size of 19 councillors.
- 4.19. Comments were received that the larger wards should have more councillors to reflect the fact they had a greater number of electors. Given that the average number of electors per councillor would be 3,113, to add an extra councillor when a

ward was only 500 or 1,000 above the average size would reduce equality of representation across the parish.

- 4.20. The only way to ensure electoral equality across the town would be to implement a different warding pattern to that in place for North Yorkshire Council. However, to do so would be contrary to guidance that parish warding should reflect existing division boundaries. Any electoral inequalities are to the advantage of a small proportion of people in the smaller wards. It is expected that a boundary review of the county will lead to a review of warding patterns in the town before the next elections in 2027.
- 4.21. Generally those who did not support a town council were in favour of fewer councillors on ground of cost. Whilst other comments suggested more councillors would be better to lessen the inequalities caused by the two smaller wards and provide parity with Ripon and Knaresborough.
- 4.22. It is proposed that the first elections take place on 2 May 2024, with the year of ordinary elections being 2027 and every four years after that in line with elections for North Yorkshire Council. Comments were largely supportive of this, though a number of respondents suggested that they would like to have elections more frequently, however the law provides that a parish councillor should ordinarily be elected for a period of 4 years and there is no provision for elections by thirds or halves for parish councils.
- 4.23. A number of comments were made in relation to imposing restrictions on who could stand for election. The law sets out the qualifications for standing for a parish council election and it would not be possible to put in place any sort of process to select candidates to stand for election.

5. Final Assessment and Final Recommendations

- 5.1. The majority of responses (65.0%) indicated support for the creation of a town council for Harrogate, with the majority of responses supporting the proposed warding pattern (62.3% in favour), ward names (65.4% in favour), and council size (56.3% in favour). 65.0% supported the proposal that the first elections to a town council take place on 2 May 2024 for a reduced term of three years, with ordinary elections taking place in 2027 and every four years thereafter.
- 5.2. There were no substantive or justified alternative suggestions put forward in relation to community governance arrangements for the area. No substantive or justified alternative proposals were made in relation to the specific draft recommendations for the name of the proposed council, its warding pattern, names of those wards, or the council size. It is therefore proposed to create a single parish, with a parish council, covering the unparished area of Harrogate and the new parish council be called Harrogate Town Council.
- 5.3. Legislation offers a choice of alternative styles for a parish council: town, community, neighbourhood or village. Given the number of electors it seems most appropriate to propose the name Harrogate Town Council. Styling the parish council as a town council would also allow the use of the designation “Mayor” instead of Chair.
- 5.4. The final recommendations for the creation of a new Harrogate Town Council are detailed as follows:

Recommendation 1 - A new parish be established for the unparished area of Harrogate

Recommendation 2 - The new parish be named Harrogate

Recommendation 3 - The new parish of Harrogate should have a parish council and be called Harrogate Town Council

Recommendation 4 – that the parish comes into effect from 1 April 2024 for administrative purposes, and the first election for the town council be 2 May 2024 for a reduced term of three years, with ordinary elections taking place in 2027 and every four years thereafter

Recommendation 5 -

the parish be divided into wards

the ward names for the parish shall be those which apply for North Yorkshire Council, with the exception of Oatlands and Saltergate wards, which comprise the unparished parts of the Oatlands & Pannal division and the Killinghall, Hampsthwaite & Saltergate division respectively. The ward names are as detailed below:

Bilton & Nidd Gorge
Bilton Grange & New Park
Coppice Valley & Duchy
Fairfax & Starbeck
Harlow & St Georges
High Harrogate & Kingsley
Oatlands
Saltergate
Stray, Woodlands & Hookstone
Valley Gardens & Central Harrogate

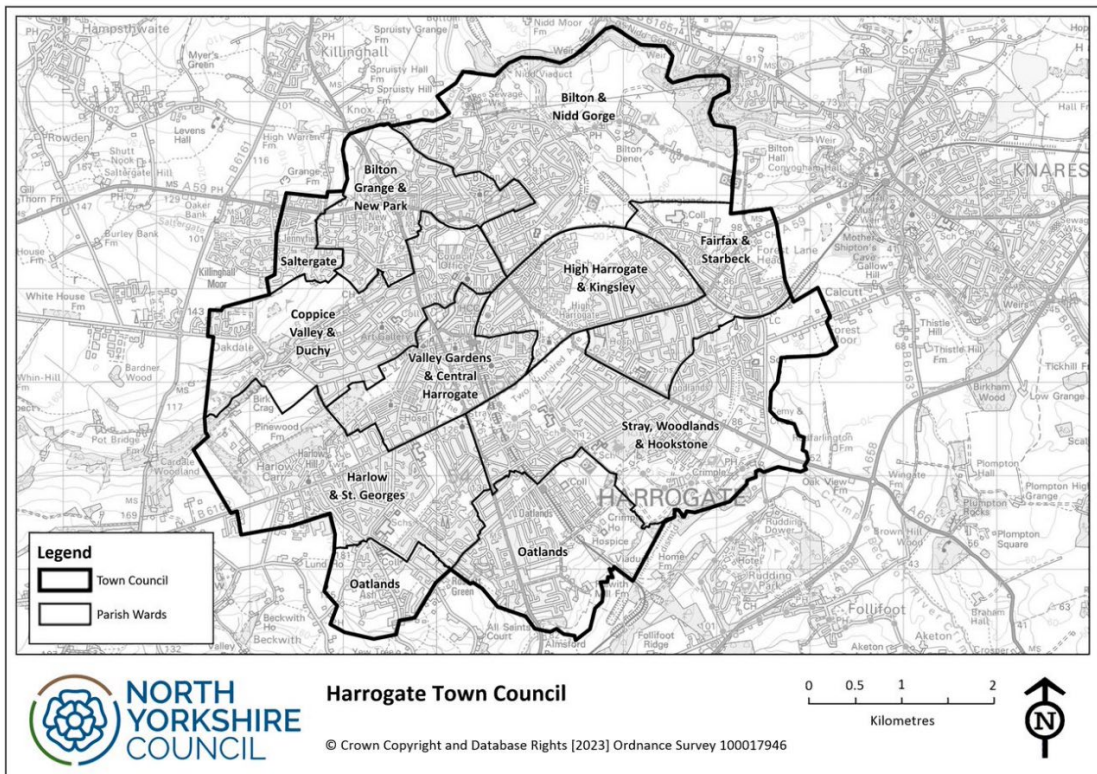
Recommendation 6 – there should be 19 councillors elected to the parish

Recommendation 7 - the number of parish councillors to be elected for each ward shall be:

Bilton & Nidd Gorge	2
Bilton Grange & New Park	2
Coppice Valley & Duchy	2
Fairfax & Starbeck	2
Harlow & St Georges	2
High Harrogate & Kingsley	2
Saltergate	1
Oatlands	2
Stray, Woodlands & Hookstone	2
Valley Gardens & Central Harrogate	2
TOTAL	19

Recommendation 8 – that the change takes effect on 15th October 2023 for electoral purposes (ahead of publication of the revised register planned for 1 December 2023)

5.5 A map of the final recommendations for this area:



6. Consequential Matters and Next Steps

Assets

- 6.1. As part of Local Government Reorganisation all the assets of the former Harrogate Borough Council transferred to the new NYC. Should a new Harrogate Town Council wish to take on responsibility for any assets formerly belonging to HBC, it will need to demonstrate that it has the ability to do so to NYC, whilst delivering value for money.
- 6.2. Under section 9 of The Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 allotments within the unparished area must transfer to the parish council on the date of a reorganisation order. There are 10 allotment sites within Harrogate, only two of which are managed by NYC, the remainder are self-administered and pay an annual lease to NYC. These assets would be transferred to a new parish council as part of the reorganisation order.
- 6.3. Under section 15 of The Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 the only other asset to be transferred is the civic collection, including the civic regalia, which is has been the responsibility of the Charter Trustees for Harrogate since 1 April 2023. Under this regulation the Charter Trustees would be dissolved on the date on which the first parish councillors for the parish come into office. When the civic collection transfers to a town council that council then has the responsibility to pay for storage, insurance, upkeep, repairs and any other costs associated with the collection.
- 6.4. No other assets will be automatically transferred on creation of a town council. Assets will only be transferred to parish councils where they want it.

Precept

- 6.5. Under section 3 of The Local Government Finance (New Parishes) (England) Regulations 2008 the principal council (NYC) is responsible for adopting an initial budget requirement figure for the first year of a new council on behalf of the new parish council. When any newly elected parish council calculates the precept required they would have to do so within the limit of NYC's anticipated precept sum for that first year.
- 6.6. When a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order is made, it must contain a budget requirement figure. The budget requirement is the amount a new town council would require in its first year; dividing this figure by the equivalent number of Band D dwellings would give an indication of the level of precept.

6.7. As parish councils do not receive money from central government, they are reliant on income raised from the precept. The precept would need to reflect the set-up and running costs of a town council including office accommodation, employment costs, office and IT equipment, insurances, professional fees and the costs associated with the civic function and the Mayor. The cost of delivering services in future years will also need to be considered. It is anticipated that there would be a surplus in year 1, which would go to reserves for use in future years and enable the parish to begin on a secure financial footing.

6.8. As part of second phase of consultation on this review, to ensure that residents were as informed as possible enabling views on the draft recommendations, information was provided with indicative precept figures, as follows:

The precept levied by Knaresborough Town Council - £25.27 for a Band D property
The precept levied by Ripon City Council - £70.77 for a band D property
Of the 80 parish councils in the former Borough of Harrogate which levy a precept, 12 have a band D precept of over £40

6.9. A new Harrogate Town Council precept is anticipated to be in the region of £40-£60 per year for a Band D property, which would give a total precept budget of approximately £1m - £1.6m.

Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE)

6.10. The principal council (NYC) must keep the Commission informed of any upcoming changes to parish arrangements within its area to ensure any forthcoming reviews of divisions/wards within its area, take the new parish arrangements into consideration.

6.11. The LGBCE has indicated that a review of NYC divisions will be taking place prior to the elections to NYC in 2027, and have therefore already been informed of this review of a relatively large unparished area, which could see the potential creation of new parish council within North Yorkshire. The LGBCE are aware of the conclusion date of this review, and will be informed of the outcome.

Electoral matters

6.12. As this proposed new parish council is based on existing NYC divisions, with established polling districts, there is no need for a polling district review consequential of the creation of the new parish council, as existing polling districts and polling places should be fit for purpose.

6.13. However, under the Representation of the People Act 1983 and the requirement for principal councils to commence and complete a review of polling districts within 16 months from 1 October 2023, a compulsory review will be taking place which will ensure any changes can be made during that process.

- 6.14. In readiness for the publication of the revised register of electors due on 1 December 2023 NYC will ensure that the new council and its warding pattern is created within register structures, reflective of these final recommendations.
- 6.15. NYC will make preparations for holding elections to the new Harrogate Town Council in May 2024, and ensure information is communicated to prospective candidates about standing as a candidate ahead of the election period.

7. Contact Details

W: www.northyorks.gov.uk/cgr

E: cgr@northyorks.gov.uk

T: 0300 131 2 131

North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton DL7 8AD

Community Governance Review - Consultation Stage 2 Methodology

Harrogate Unparished Area

- The stage 2 consultation began on Thursday 2 March 2023, and ran for a period of just over 9 weeks.
- The Community Governance Review webpage used for the stage 1 consultation was re-instated, and updated with further information for stage 2 including information from the stage 1 consultation, the Executive report and the draft recommendations.
- The consultation webpage contained a link to an online survey allowing residents and other stakeholders to submit views on the draft recommendations.
- An A4 page information pack was also prepared containing the same information as was on the webpage, as well as a copy of the survey in paper format. The information pack contained the outcomes of the first stage of consultation, the specific draft recommendations being made, and the potential impact on residents.
- A letter informing residents of this next stage in the review process and enclosing the information pack was posted to each of the 35,583 households on the electoral register in the unparished area of Harrogate. The letter explained the reasons for the review, and invited residents to have their say via the survey. The letter signposted residents to the consultation area on the council's website. A QR code was included on the letter to enable residents to access the survey directly from their mobile phones.
- An option was provided to request hard copies of the survey via telephone or email for those residents who preferred to complete a paper copy of the survey or who did not have access to the internet.
- Copies of the leaflet, paper survey and pre-paid return envelopes were made available at the Civic Centre in Harrogate, Harrogate Library and Woodfield Community Library.
- In addition to the letter to every household, key stakeholders were also emailed a link to the consultation webpage and invited to give their views. This included the following stakeholders:
 - local MPs, the PFCC and councillors for the relevant area
 - Parish councils adjoining the unparished area
 - Harrogate Borough Council's consultation stakeholder list which included disability groups, business, charities, voluntary groups, local associations, business groups and local public services
 - Any individual residents who had responded to the initial consultation and who had given their contact details so that they could be kept informed and involved in future stages of the review

- The survey which was used for this unparished area invited residents to say whether they agreed or not (or state 'not sure') with each of the specific recommendations, and were able to provide comments against each recommendation.
- In addition to the 'all households' letter, NYCC and HBC social media feeds were used to raise awareness of the review at commencement. This was supplemented by reminder posts during, and close to the end of the review on NYC social media feeds. All social media posts used a consistent approach with messaging, signposting and branding to avoid confusion for residents.
- A press release entitled "New town councils recommended for Harrogate and Scarborough" was issued on 23 December 2022 leading to the review gaining coverage in the local press. A further press release entitled "Have a say on Harrogate and Scarborough town council proposals" was issued week commencing 3 March 2023 to promote the consultation.
- An article titled "Views wanted on a new town council for Harrogate" was also included in the Harrogate Borough Council Residents' newsletter circulated via email on 29 March 2023.
- Council staff were informed of the review during LGR webinars and via the intranet and invited to take part.
- An 'easy read' version of the information leaflet was available on request for residents with learning difficulties and the survey could also be made available in other formats on request.

Community Governance Review - Harrogate

On 1 April 2023 Harrogate Borough Council will be dissolved and replaced by the new North Yorkshire Council. On that date Charter Trustees will be established for the parts of Harrogate Town which are not currently covered by a parish or town council to ensure the continuation of Mayoral and other ceremonial functions. This will be in place until a parish or town council is created, during this period the Charter Trustees would not have powers to deliver any services.

This Community Governance Review is seeking the views of residents and stakeholders. An initial phase of consultation has previously taken place asking if respondents would like a town council to be created in their area. 74.7% of those who responded told us that they were in favour of a town council for the unparished area. From that, draft recommendations have been made. This second consultation is seeking views on the following draft recommendations:

- To create a town council for the unparished area called Harrogate Town Council
- That council will consist of 10 wards (reflecting the existing county divisions in the area)
- Each ward will be represented by 2 elected councillors, with the exception of Saltergate ward which will have 1 councillor, giving a total council size of 19 councillors
- The new town council will commence on 1 April 2024 for administrative purposes
- The new council will have its first election in May 2024, with an initial term of 3 years, with ordinary elections taking place in 2027 and every four years thereafter.

An annual precept would be payable to fund the administration of the town council and any services it chooses to provide.

Using Your Personal information

Any information provided in this survey will be used in the strictest confidence and will only be used for the community governance review.

For further information on how we collect, use, share, secure and retain your personal information, and your legal rights, please see our Privacy Notice at www.northyorks.gov.uk/privacy-notices

Please respond by **5 May 2023**, even if you responded to the initial consultation, to help shape the future of this area.

Where are you from?

1. Please state which of the following best describes you:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I live in Harrogate | <input type="checkbox"/> I am a representative of a community organisation in Harrogate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I work in Harrogate | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I own a business in Harrogate | |

2. Please answer the following:

Your home, work or business postcode:

Your community organisation:

Other:

Your views on the recommendations

New town council

3. It is recommended to create a town council named Harrogate Town Council for the unparished parts of Harrogate.

Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes

No

Not sure

4. Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

Warding pattern

5. It is proposed that the new Harrogate Town Council be divided into 10 wards following the same ward boundaries as the existing county divisions.

Do you agree with the proposed warding arrangement?

Yes

No

Not sure

6. Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

Names of wards

It is proposed that the names of the 10 wards of the new council be the same as the names of the existing county divisions, with the exception of the unparished part of the Oatlands and Pannal division, which will be known as Oatlands ward; and the unparished part of the Killinghall, Hampsthwaite and Saltergate division, which will be known as Saltergate ward. The ward names to be:

Bilton and Nidd Gorge
Bilton Grange and New Park
Coppice Valley and Duchy
Fairfax and Starbeck
Harlow and St Georges

High Harrogate and Kingsley
Oatlands
Saltergate
Stray, Woodlands and Hookstone
Valley Gardens and Central Harrogate

7. Do you agree with the proposed ward names?

Yes

No

Not sure

8. Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

Council size

9. It is recommended that each of the 10 wards be represented by 2 Councillors per ward, with the exception of Saltergate ward which will have 1 councillor, giving a total council size of 19 councillors.

Do you agree with the proposed number of councillors?

Yes

No

Not sure

10. Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

Timescales

11. It is proposed that the elections to the new Harrogate Town Council be held on 2 May 2024 for a reduced term of three years, with ordinary elections taking place in 2027 and every four years thereafter.

Do you agree with the years in which elections will be held?

Yes

No

Not sure

12. Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

About you

Age

13. Which age category are you in?

16-19

20-29

30-39

40-49

50-64

65-74

75-84

85+

prefer not to say

Disability

14. Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person or to have long-term, limiting condition?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Please return this completed form to:

Corporate Director,
Central Services North Yorkshire County Council,
County Hall,
Racecourse Lane,
NORTHALLERTON
DL7 8AL
no later than 5 May 2023.



Community Governance Review – Consultation Responses (Phase 2) – June 2023

Harrogate

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Summary of responses

The second phase of the Community Governance Review started on Thursday 2 March 2023 and ran for a period of just over 9 weeks until Friday 5 May 2023. All households within the community governance review received a letter, information pack, and details of how to participate in the consultation.

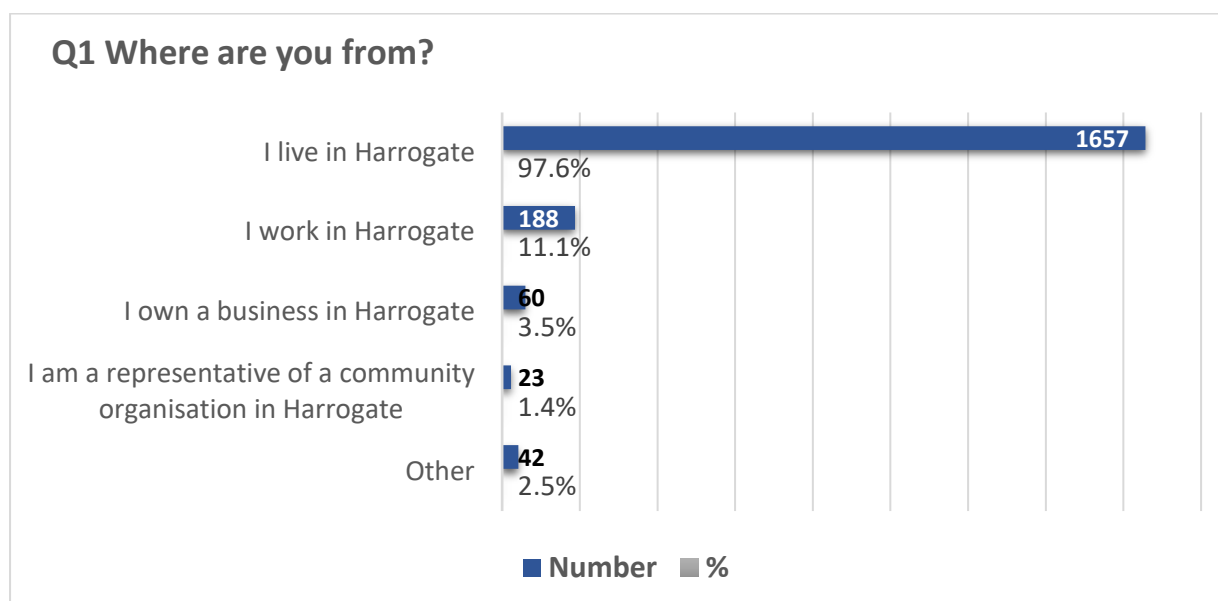
A total of 1698 responses were received during this period, and a summary of the responses can be found along with further details within this report.

Where are you from?

The majority of responses to the Community Governance Review in Harrogate consultation live in Harrogate, with 97.6% of responses.

Please state which one of the following best describes you?	Number	%
I live in Harrogate	1657	97.6%
I work in Harrogate	188	11.1%
I own a business in Harrogate	60	3.5%
I am a representative of a community organisation in Harrogate	23	1.4%
Other	42	2.5%

Respondents could select multiple options.



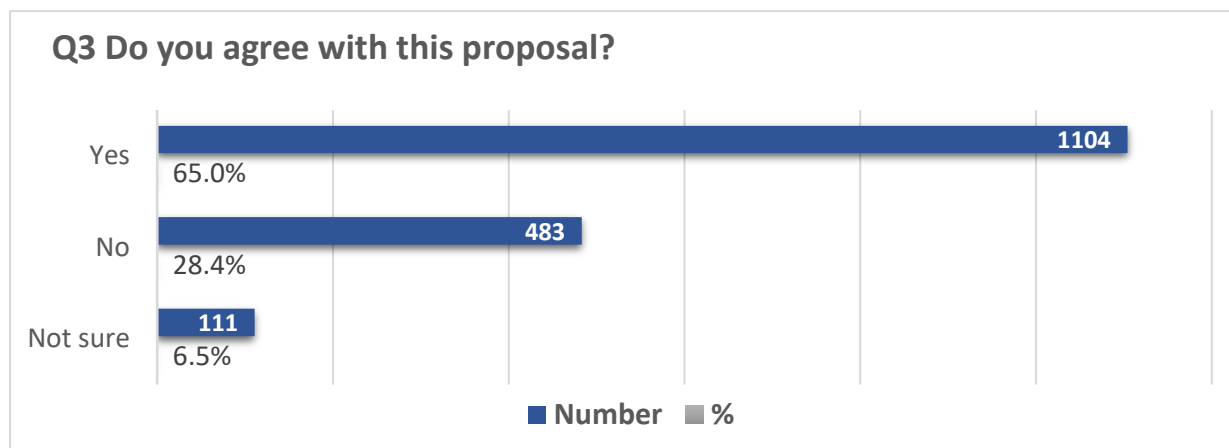
Further details on representatives from community organisations and other types can be found in Appendix A.

Views on the recommendations

New town council

It is recommended to create a town council named Harrogate Town Council for the unparished parts of Harrogate.

The majority of responses (65.0%) agree with the recommendation to create a town council called Harrogate Town Council.



Comments on the new town council recommendation

There were 739 comments on this recommendation. The tables below show a summary of the themes for these comments. Some comments were given more than one theme.

There were 305 comments from people responding yes to the recommendations. The top 3 comments from people who agree with the recommendations are:

1. Local representation/decision making is needed
2. People have concerns about the costs despite agreeing with the recommendation
3. Promote/protect the needs/interests/heritage of Harrogate and tackle local problems and improve local services.

Comment theme (for yes (agree) responses to recommendation)	Number	%
Local representation/decision making needed	196	64.3%
Concerns about costs	44	14.4%
Protect/promote Harrogate's heritage/needs/interests and tackle local problems/improve local services	36	11.8%
General comment in favour of recommendation	26	8.5%
Further information needed	16	5.2%
Responsibilities of new council need to be clear	7	2.3%
Governance and accountability	5	1.6%
Extend powers/services for new council/proper funding required	4	1.3%
Maintain current/previous situation	4	1.3%
Previous town council worked well	2	0.7%
Concern about bureaucracy	1	0.3%
Consultation with community groups	1	0.3%
Communicate with residents	1	0.3%
Prefer an elected Mayor	1	0.3%
Residents would pay for services – not be subsidised	1	0.3%
Other	12	3.9%

There were 363 comments from people responding no to the recommendation.

Comment theme (for no (disagree) responses to recommendation)	Number	%
Waste of money/how much will it cost/reduce cost	215	59.2%
No need for two-tier local government	96	26.4%
LGR supposed to increase efficiency and cut costs	38	10.5%
Added bureaucracy	37	10.2%
Not a good idea/not needed	24	6.6%
Poor response to consultation	21	5.8%
Unclear on benefits/further information needed	18	5.0%
General comment in favour of recommendation	2	0.6%
Delay timetable and review	2	0.6%
Go back to previous arrangements	1	0.3%
Other	18	5.0%

Some comments were given more than one theme

There were 71 comments from people responding not sure to the recommendation.

Comment theme (for not sure responses to recommendation)	Number	%
Unclear on benefits/further information needed	26	36.6%
Waste of money/how much will it cost/reduce cost	17	23.9%
Governance and accountability	8	11.3%
General comment in favour of recommendation	8	11.3%
No need for two-tier local government	6	8.5%
LGR supposed to increase efficiency and cut costs	7	9.9%
Added bureaucracy	1	1.4%
Poor response to consultation	1	1.4%
New representatives needed	1	1.4%
Other	8	11.3%

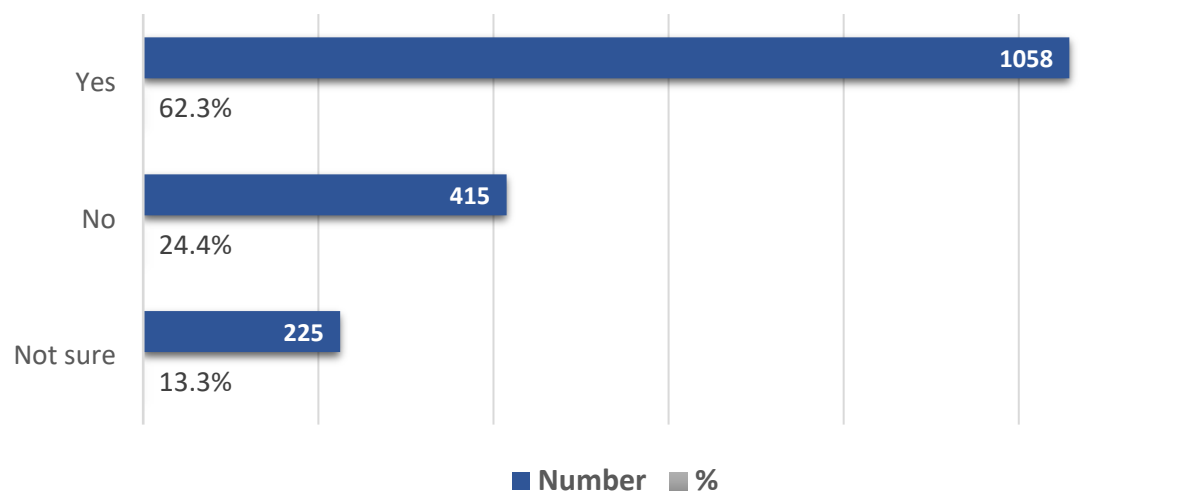
Some comments were given more than one theme

Warding pattern

It is proposed that the new Harrogate Town Council be divided into 10 wards following the same ward boundaries as the existing county divisions.

The majority of responses (62.3%) agree with the proposed warding arrangement.

Q5 Do you agree with the proposed warding arrangement?



Comments on the proposed warding arrangement

There were 304 comments on this recommendation. The tables below show a summary of the themes for these comments. Some comments were given more than one theme.

There were 73 comments from people responding yes to the recommendation.

The top 3 comments from people who agree with the recommendation are:

1. General comment in favour of the warding arrangement
2. Specific comments about a ward or wards
3. Alternative arrangement(s) proposed.

Comment theme (for yes (agree) responses to ward arrangement)	Number	%
General comment in favour of ward arrangement	43	58.9%
Specific comment/query about ward(s)	10	13.7%
Alternative arrangement(s) proposed	7	9.6%
Fewer councillors required	4	5.5%
Concerns about costs	2	2.7%
Other	4	5.5%
Referred to previous comment	3	4.1%

There were 184 comments from people responding no to the proposed ward arrangement.

The top 3 comments why people disagree with the recommendation are:

1. There is no need for a Town Council
2. Fewer wards are needed
3. Alternative or fairer arrangements proposed.

Comment theme (for no (disagree) responses to ward arrangement)	Number	%
No need for the Town Council	59	32.1%
Fewer wards needed	24	13.0%
Alternative/fairer arrangements proposed	22	12.0%
Specific concern about a ward(s)	19	10.3%
Waste of time and money	14	7.6%
Too many councillors	6	3.3%
Concerns about costs	5	2.7%
Opposed to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)	2	1.1%
More wards needed	2	1.1%
More councillors needed	1	0.5%
General comment in support of arrangement	1	0.5%
Other	8	4.3%
Referred to previous comment	21	11.4%

There were 47 comments from people responding not sure to the proposed ward arrangement.

The top 3 comments why people are not sure about the recommendation are:

1. Specific concerns about a specific ward or wards
2. Further information is needed
3. Alternative or fairer arrangements proposed.

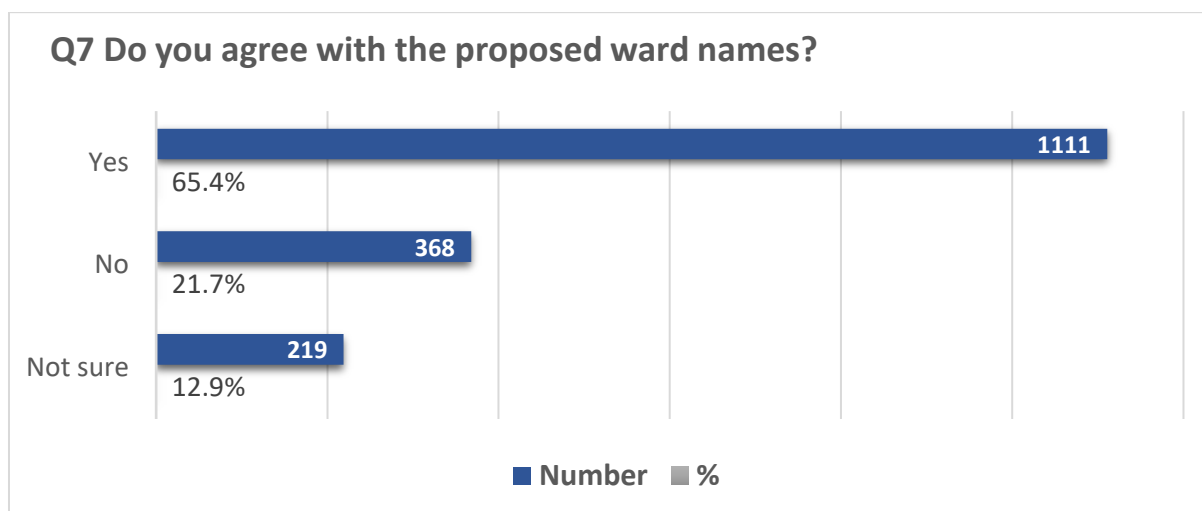
Comment theme (for not sure responses to ward arrangement)	Number	%
Specific concern about a ward(s)	9	19.1%
Further information needed	9	19.1%
Alternative/fairer arrangements proposed	8	17.0%
Fewer wards needed	7	14.9%
Concerns about costs	4	8.5%
No need for the Town Council	2	4.3%
Waste of time and money	2	4.3%
Other	5	10.6%
Referred to previous comment	1	2.1%

Names of wards

It is proposed that the names of the 10 wards of the new council be the same as the names of the existing county divisions, with the exception of the unparished part of the Oatlands and Pannal division, which will be known as Oatlands ward; and the unparished part of the Killinghall, Hampstaite and Saltergate division, which will be known as Saltergate ward. The ward names to be:

- Bilton and Nidd Gorge
- Bilton Grange and New Park
- Coppice Valley and Duchy
- Fairfax and Starbeck
- Harlow and St Georges
- High Harrogate and Kingsley
- Oatlands
- Saltergate
- Stray, Woodlands and Hookstone
- Valley Gardens and Central Harrogate

The majority of responses (65.4%) agree with the proposed ward names.



Comments on the proposed ward names

There were 213 comments on the proposed ward names.

There were 33 comments from people agreeing with the names.

The top 3 comments from people agreeing about the recommendation are:

1. General comment in favour of the ward names
2. Specific concern about ward(s) or ward name(s)
3. Further information is needed.

Comment theme (for yes (agree) responses to ward names)	Number	%
General comment in favour of ward names	13	39.4%
Specific concern about ward(s) or ward name(s)	10	30.3%
Further information needed	2	6.1%
No need for new council	1	3.0%
Concerns about costs	1	3.0%
Other	3	9.1%
Referred to previous comment	3	9.1%

There were 137 comments from people responding no to the proposed ward names.

The top 3 comments from people disagreeing about the recommendation are:

1. There is no need for the new council
2. Specific concern about ward(s) or ward name(s)
3. Fewer wards are needed.
3. Waste of time and money

Comment theme (for no (disagree) responses to ward names)	Number	%
No need for new council	40	29.2%
Specific concern about ward(s) or ward name(s)	27	19.7%
Fewer wards needed	12	8.8%
Waste of time and money	12	8.8%
Alternative arrangements proposed	3	2.2%
New names and ward areas to show new approach	3	2.2%
No view on names	2	1.5%
More wards needed	2	1.5%
Too many councillors	1	0.7%
Other	8	5.8%
Referred to previous comment	27	19.7%

There were 43 comments from people responding not sure to the proposed ward names.

The top 3 comments from people not sure about the recommendation are:

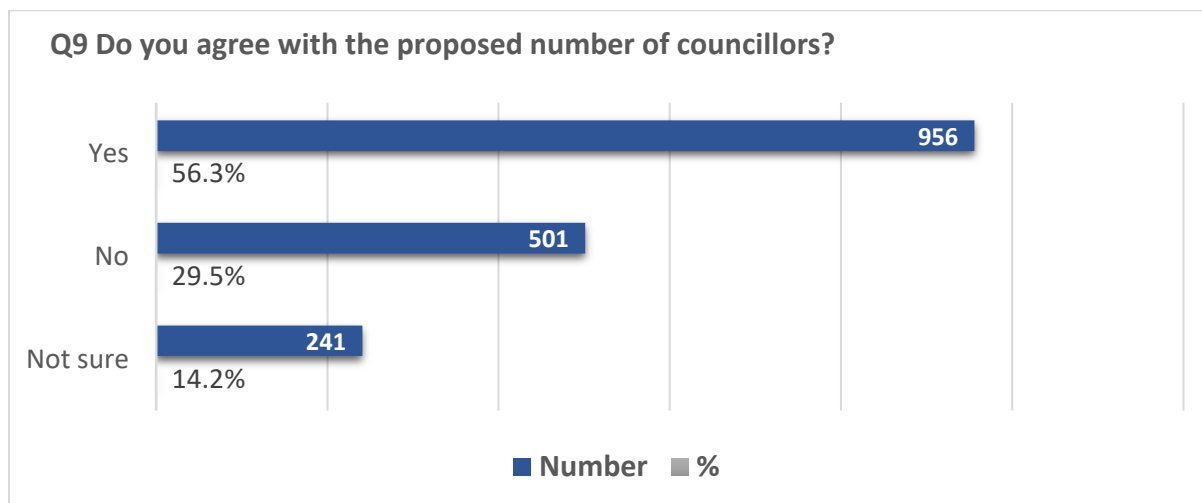
1. Specific concern about ward(s) or ward name(s)
2. No view on names
3. No need for the new council
3. Fewer wards needed.

Comment theme (for not sure responses to ward names)	Number	%
Specific concern about ward(s) or ward name(s)	14	32.6%
No view on names	10	23.3%
No need for new council	3	7.0%
Fewer wards needed	3	7.0%
Waste of time and money	2	4.7%
Further information required	2	4.7%
New names and ward areas to show new approach	1	2.3%
More wards needed	1	2.3%
Concerns about costs	1	2.3%
One word ward names needed	1	2.3%
Other	1	2.3%
Referred to previous comment	4	9.3%

Council size

It is recommended that each of the 10 wards be represented by 2 Councillors per ward, with the exception of Saltergate ward which will have 1 councillor, giving a total council size of 19 councillors.

The majority of responses (56.3%) agree with the proposed number of councillors.



Comments on recommendation for proposed number of councillors

There were 383 comments on the proposed number of councillors.

There were 47 comments from people responding yes to the proposed number.

The top 3 comments from people agreeing with the recommendation are:

1. General comment in favour of the proposed numbers
2. Governance and accountability issues
3. Alternative arrangements proposed.

Comment theme (for yes (agree) response to councillor numbers)	Number	%
General comment in favour of proposed numbers	18	38.3%
Governance and accountability	6	12.8%
Alternative arrangements proposed	5	10.6%
Fewer councillors needed	4	8.5%
More councillors needed	3	6.4%
Specific queries/comments about ward(s)	2	4.3%
Review if housing developments change numbers of residents	2	4.3%
Concerns about costs	2	4.3%
Further information required	1	2.1%
Other	2	4.3%
Referred to previous comment	2	4.3%

There were 269 comments from people responding no to the proposed number.

The top 3 comments from people disagreeing with the recommendation are:

1. The town council/councillors are not needed
2. One councillor per ward
3. There are too many councillors.

Comment theme (for no (disagree) responses to councillor numbers)	Number	%
Town council/councillors not needed	54	20.1%
One councillor per ward	52	19.3%
Too many councillors	47	17.5%
Waste of time and money	26	9.7%
Two councillors needed for Saltergate	20	7.4%
Alternative arrangements proposed	10	3.7%
More councillors needed	9	3.3%
Concerns about cost	8	3.0%
Specific comment/query about ward(s)	3	1.1%
More wards needed	1	0.4%
Fewer wards needed	1	0.4%
Governance and accountability	1	0.4%
New names and wards needed	1	0.4%
Review in future	1	0.4%
Further information needed	2	0.7%
Other	7	2.6%
Referred to previous comment	26	9.7%

There were 67 comments from people responding not sure to the proposed number.

The top 3 comments from people who are not sure about the recommendation are:

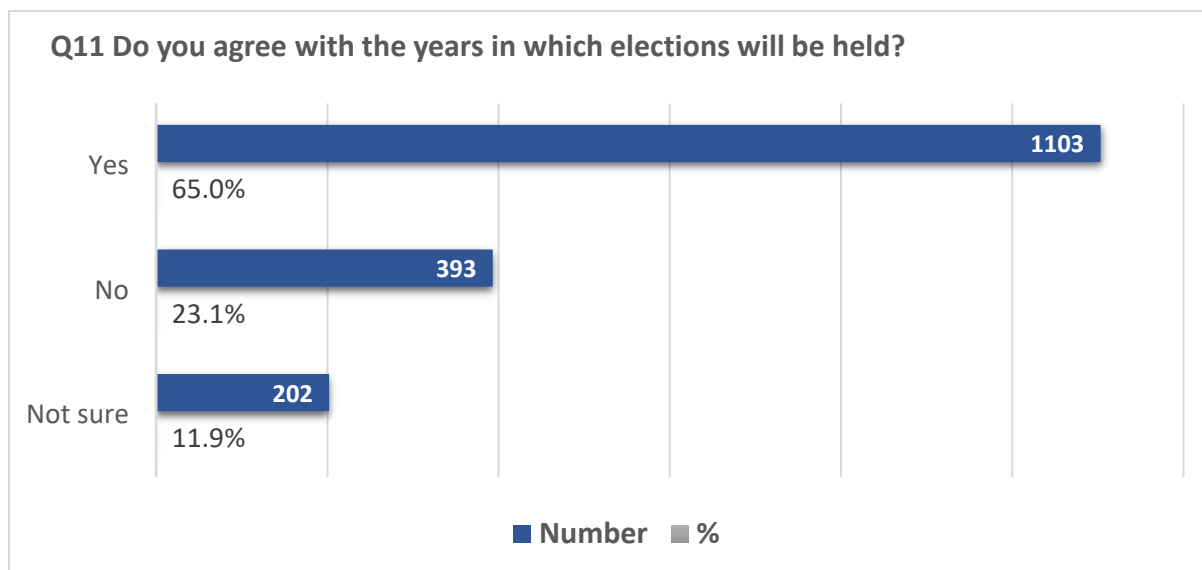
1. There are too many councillors
2. Alternative arrangements proposed
3. Further information is needed.

Comment theme (for not sure responses to councillor numbers)	Number	%
Too many councillors	15	22.4%
Alternative arrangements proposed	9	13.4%
Further information needed	9	13.4%
Concerns about cost	6	9.0%
One councillor per ward	6	9.0%
More councillors needed	3	4.5%
Two councillors needed for Saltergate	2	3.0%
Governance and accountability	2	3.0%
Review in future	2	3.0%
Waste of time and money	1	1.5%
Specific comment/query about ward(s)	1	1.5%
Town Council/councillors not needed	1	1.5%
New councillors required	1	1.5%
Other	3	4.5%
Referred to previous comment	4	6.0%

Timescales

It is proposed that the elections to the new Harrogate Town Council be held on 2 May 2024 for a reduced term of three years, with ordinary elections taking place in 2027 and every four years thereafter.

The majority of responses (65.0%) agree with the proposed years in which elections will be held.



There were 213 comments on the proposed timescales.

There were 43 comments from people responding yes to the proposed timescales.

The top 3 comments from people who agree with the recommendation on timescales are:

1. General comment in favour of timescales
2. Timescale should be as soon as possible or earlier
3. Query about what happens in the interim period before elections are held.

Comment theme (for yes (agree) responses to proposed timescales)	Number	%
General comment in favour of proposed timescales	14	32.6%
As soon as possible/earlier	8	18.6%
Query about interim period	4	9.3%
Governance and accountability	3	7.0%
Further information required	3	7.0%
Alternative arrangements proposed	2	4.7%
Concerns about cost	1	2.3%
Review after time period	1	2.3%
Waste of time and money	1	2.3%
Other	6	14.0%

There were 140 comments from people responding no to the proposed timescales.

The top 3 comments from people who disagree with the recommendations on timescales are:

1. Town council/councillors not needed
2. Waste of money
3. Elections should be more often.

Comment theme (for no (disagree) responses to proposed timescales)	Number	%
Town council/councillors not needed	43	30.7%
Waste of money	16	11.4%
Elections should be more often	10	7.1%
Timetable should be sooner	8	5.7%
Delay for a period/until 2027	8	5.7%
Elections should be every 2 years	8	5.7%
Elections should be every 3 years	7	5.0%
General comment in favour of proposed timetable	4	2.9%
Alternative arrangements proposed including elected Mayor	3	2.1%
Poor response to consultation	2	1.4%
Concerns about costs	1	0.7%
Governance and accountability	1	0.7%
Longer than 3 years initially	1	0.7%
Further information required	1	0.7%
No view	1	0.7%
Other	10	7.1%
Referred to previous comment	16	11.4%

There were 30 comments from people responding not sure to the proposed timescales.

The top 3 comments from people who are not sure on the recommendation on timescales are:

1. Elections should be sooner
2. Further information required
3. Concerns about the cost.

Comment theme (for not sure responses to proposed timescales)	Number	%
Elections should be sooner	6	20.0%
Further information required	5	16.7%
Concerns about costs	4	13.3%
Query about interim period	3	10.0%
Elections should be more often	2	6.7%
Review later	1	3.3%
New council not needed	1	3.3%
Elections should be less often	1	3.3%
Governance and accountability	1	3.3%
General comment in support of timescales	1	3.3%
Align with other elections	1	3.3%
Other	4	13.3%

Appendix A – Representatives from community organisations and other types of respondents

Below are details of community organisations in Harrogate:

- Representations were received from community organisations in Harrogate, including the following listed below. Their representations are included in the comments.
- A2G Accountants Ltd
- Coppice Residents' Action Group
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Girlguiding
- Harlow and Pannal Ash Residents Association
- Harrogate & District Allotment Federation
- Harrogate & Knaresborough Conservatives
- Harrogate Band
- Harrogate Borough Council
- Harrogate Brass Band
- Harrogate Christmas Market
- Harrogate Civic Society
- Harrogate Clothes Bank
- Harrogate Film Society
- Harrogate in Bloom
- Harrogate St Andrews Players
- Harrogate Vineyard Church
- Harrogate, Knaresborough & Ripon Civic Societies
- Hartwith cum Wimsley Parish Council
- HASAG (Hookstone and Stonefall Action Group)
- Henshaws Society
- Knaresborough Church
- Knaresborough Connectors
- MoJo Fitness Harrogate
- Pine Street Allotments
- Reform UK Party
- Resurrected Bites
- Sea Cadets
- St Wilfrid's Church
- Starbeck Community
- Starbeck in Bloom
- Tockwith with Wilstrop Parish Council
- Yorkshire Party

Below are details of other types in response to the question where are you from?

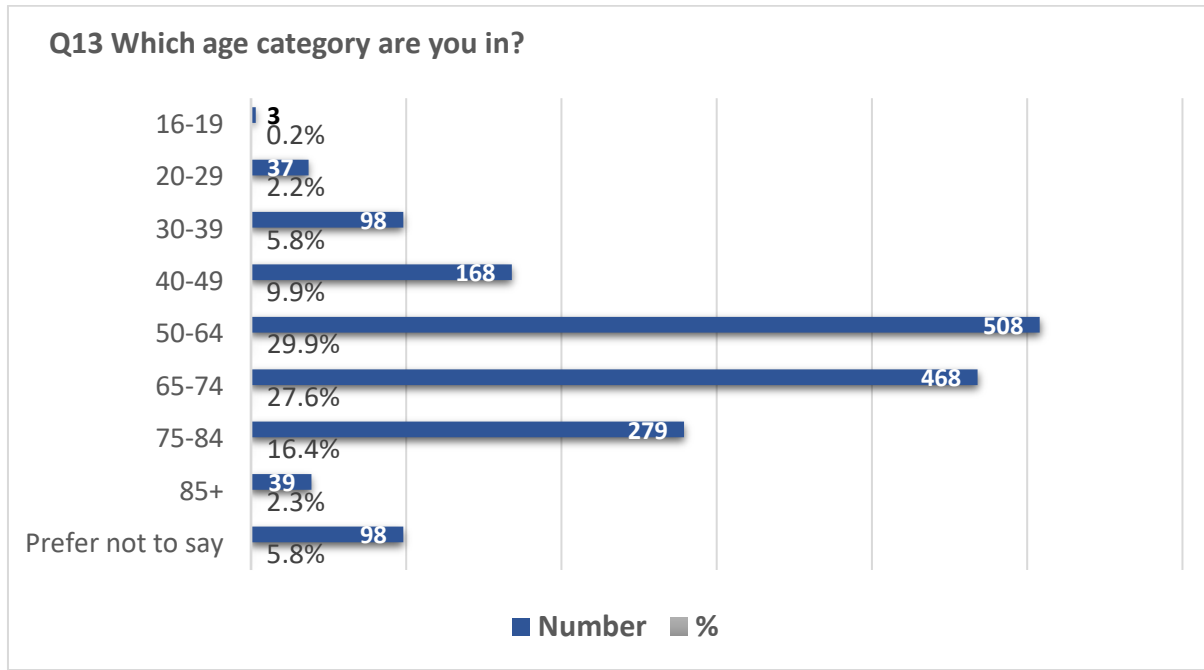
Most respondents confirmed they were residents of Harrogate. Other responses were from Councillors or members of a community organisation.

Appendix B – Equalities monitoring

Age Category

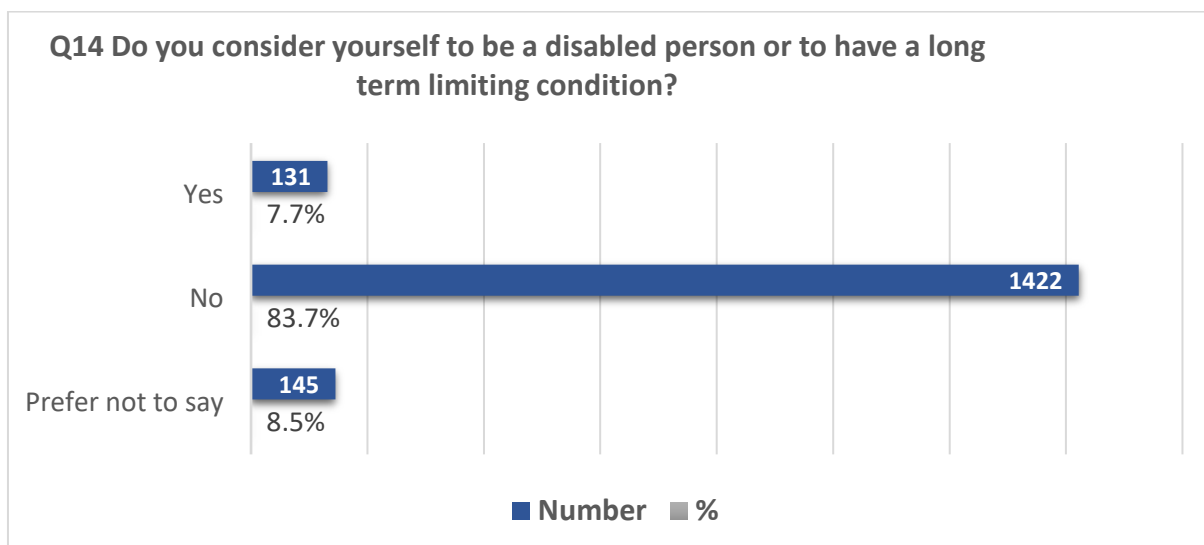
The highest numbers of responses come from people aged 50 to 64 and 65 to 74 years of age.

The chart below shows the distribution of responses by age category.



Disability

Some 7.7% of those people responding consider themselves to be disabled or have a long-term limiting health condition.



Appendix C – Consultation comments in full

The comments received in response to the consultation are provided below.

Q4 Comments on new town council recommendation

Comments for yes (agree) responses

A Harrogate Town Council would provide a voice for local people within the new North Yorkshire Council unitary authority. It may also offer the opportunity for increased resources within the Harrogate town boundary...
A NEW TOWN COUNCIL IS DESIRABLE BECAUSE LOCAL COUNCILORS TO WHOM ONE CAN BRING ANY PROBLEMS IS IMPORTANT. IF NECESSARY THEY CAN BRING THE MATTER UP WITH THE NEW NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL.
A new town council will, I believe, enable greater representation at a local level on issues relevant to the town.
A parish council would be more effective in representing local opinion than an authoritative administration further afield which is an important factor leading to decisions that have been better thought through. "Harrogate Civic Society would wish to work constructively with a new town council to keep the town the jewel in the crown of North Yorkshire". This organisation would be very effective in addressing the concerns of the populace in Harrogate.
A parish councillor is closer to the parish population
A town council is an absolute necessity in order for local people to have any level of control over the areas they live or work in.
A town council is needed to give Harrogate a voice.
A town council seems to be the only way to get some control of local services
A town council will give Harrogate its own voice and provide an opportunity for additional services to be provided
A town the size, beauty and individuality of Harrogate needs some clear input to represent its residents.
Agree overall but think two councillors per ward is too many one would suffice.
All decisions must be made by Harrogate locals.
All roles and their associated costs should be posted online and updated. This way everyone can see how and where their money is being spent; those not pulling their weight will be seen in the cold light of day and can be dealt with in an appropriate manner.
Although I feel that the Harrogate Borough Council has been quite ineffective, and inefficient over the past couple of years, I constantly find myself frustrated that issues affecting Harrogate are not addressed with the town's best interests at heart. Whether it be the town itself, residents, or visitors, the standard and opinion of Harrogate has deteriorated over the 19 years I have lived here. Harrogate needs truly local people to look after it. People that care about the masses, not the classes.
Any Harrogate Town precept should be at a financial level to take proper account of the many benefits enjoyed by Harrogate residents when compared to residents in more rural areas e.g. Leisure facilities, Valley Gardens, The Stray, Harrogate Theatre, Royal Hall, Cinemas, bus and train services etc. Roecliffe residents have historically been denied any financial help towards the cost of tree maintenance on Common Land within the village despite very many approaches to HBC and that cost has to be borne by the residents via the Parish Council. The frequency of the local bus service is minimal and cannot be relied on to access places of employment and leisure facilities hence the need for personal car ownership. Not all of us can now ride a bike. I look forward to a long overdue balancing of the books and Harrogate residents contributing a fair share to the greater good.
As long as the precept does not go up every year
As long as this does not affect level of Council Tax. Finance could be obtained by selling assets such as our numerous properties and Town Halls from the previous Councils around Harrogate and surrounding areas
As requested here are my thoughts on a Town Council for Harrogate. While Harrogate is a large town, mainly connected to Leeds in most logistical ways, we have become a relatively small voice dependent on NYC. It is my understanding that most of the Harrogate councillors are Liberal Democrat and that means that we are currently a

minority party in a Tory council. Given the need to have as strong a voice locally as possible, a Town Council would seem to be essential. Having seen the work of the existing Ripon Town Council, such bodies do seem to have a positive role to play.
As we were a Town Council some years ago I feel it necessary to have one now, to look after the interests of Harrogate re The Stray and Crown Jewels of Harrogate.
Based on the following, yes... "The new North Yorkshire Council plans to equalise council tax payments across the county, meaning residents in Harrogate are in line for a council tax reduction. Cllr Harrison said this move would "soften the blow" should an additional precept be introduced for a town council."
Because I believe that council services should be as local as possible, managed and determined by local people who live in the parish
Because it could continue to provide local services
Because Northallerton is too far away and most councillors have no idea of the local needs of this area - even the present councillor of this ward does not live in Harrogate and has not done for at least 16 years. She is a picture in the Harrogate Advertiser. (1) Any parish councillor should live in the parish council area e.g. not in Knaresborough, Ripon, Pannal etc. (2) No county council should be a member of the parish council - they need to be held to account and they can't possibly do both
Believe that we need local input
Better clarity on the cost over year to each house 40-60 pounds is quite a range. Why can't this be estimated better? Can you provide any examples where other parish councils have done some great work with the money they have received from the precepts? It is of utmost importance that the various wards demonstrate visibility into where the money is going in my opinion. Without this we won't get buy in from the stakeholders.
Broadly in favour
Certain local services need to be administered and controlled on a local basis for the best end result for residents
Civic awareness, tradition, local interest and thus leading to local responsibility
Civic traditions and Harrogate's viewpoint being heard.
Community based decision making
Councillors should not be paid. Clerk and other workers should be paid.
Creation of a town council provides local input/control of matters which can be considered too remote from Northallerton with the new county council being unlikely to represent local views and concerns adequately
Definitely agree with the extra focus on Harrogate that a local council will be able to do.
Definitely needed to have some local knowledge on a town council
Depending on the services to be provided funding arrangements from North Yorkshire Council must be agreed and published before the precept is determined.
Difficult to really know if this is a good idea without knowing the functions that would be delegated to a Town Council.
Disappointing that it has been made necessary following the dissolution of the previous borough council
Don't like the name!
Don't really understand the difference between borough council and town council. I worry we will just end up paying more for an inferior service but feel we should have local representation to the same level as other areas of Yorkshire
Ensure good consultation with Community Groups like ours - voluntary unpaid!
Essential for local democracy as North Yorkshire is a large area
Essential that the town's identity and voice are not drowned out by becoming subsumed into a larger more amorphous organisation.
Essential to have representatives from the town
Everybody should have a say locally with what affects their neighbourhood & immediate areas locally
Excellent idea for local representation
Extra cost is the most important issue but not having representatives in the new council is worrying so we must have a town council.

Firstly I am no advocate of more levels of administration however the loss of representation at a very local level is critical. At present no one responds to requests for road repairs and a more distant administration is likely to be even less likely to reply. Additionally this reply box is the worst I have used as I cannot view the input as you would like to do, on that basis I apologise if my reply is a bit unstructured.

From a resident's perspective I strongly support the proposal for Harrogate to have local representation. I believe that local people are best placed to be aware of the needs of the town. I would also suggest that Harrogate provides a substantial element of attraction and income to the county and it is important for the county as a whole that such representation is taken into account towards sustaining that situation.

Great idea. With all the changes we will need a voice. It's important to have someone who represents us, someone we can appeal to who understands local issues.

Happy with recommendations as published.

Harrogate absolutely needs local voices to stop the slide of antisocial behaviour we have witnessed of late which if not addressed will have marked long-term negative effects on Harrogate life for its residents and Harrogate's ability to continue to attract tourists.

Harrogate badly needs loads of Independent Cllrs to stand up for local residents

Harrogate Civic Society agrees with the recommendation to create a town council named Harrogate Town Council for the unparished parts of Harrogate. We have the following comments to make: Harrogate was one of the original English Spa towns, with the first medicinal waters discovered in 1571. It became one of England's most popular spa towns. Today its fine Victorian and Edwardian public buildings, hotels and private homes, elegant town centre streets, and 200 acres of parkland (known locally as "the Stray") ensure Harrogate's popularity as a place to live, work and visit. Harrogate Civic Society was established in 1971 and is committed to celebrating the town's architectural and social history, contributing to discussions about how the town is developed, and to ensuring that Harrogate both retains the best of its historic character and embraces the future. The Society aims to celebrate our past, enhance our present and shape our future. We believe that this can best be done with a Harrogate Town Council, so key decisions will be made by local councillors who live in the town. We note the possible remit of the new council set out in the consultation document, but would like to see it have more of a role over time. This would enable opportunities to raise income, protect and enhance the key assets of the town, have a greater say in planning and development (through a Neighbourhood Plan), and promote a vision for the town which makes it a premier spa and floral town. Harrogate Civic Society would wish to work constructively with a new town council to keep the town the jewel in the crown of North Yorkshire and we look forward to a positive outcome to this consultation.

Harrogate has a long, distinctive history as a spa town. It needs a town council to protect and preserve that history and ethos, its buildings and businesses the Stray and many other distinguishing aspects. This cannot be adequately and sensitively maintained and developed by a remote much larger authority that is primarily concerned with facilities and connections across the whole region.

Harrogate has a unique demographic and as such has completely different needs to the surrounding rural areas. With tourism and hospitality at the forefront we need to ensure we have sufficient resources for the service needs and requirements such as fire services, police. It is also growing rapidly with new housing springing up everywhere so we need a council you will look into making sure we get the medical and educational resources required to meet the increase in population. Testing for special needs in our community is sadly lacking compared to services in Leeds and Bradford and needs improvement. Also the special needs supports in our schools is way below what is needed. Maybe a new council can bring pressure to bear to ensure Harrogate gets a fair share if any funding for testing and support to improve our educational system and improve the lives of children in the area.

Harrogate is a growing and important part of the North Yorkshire economy with specific pressures, socially, economically and environmentally. It needs strongly lead local government and governance.

Harrogate is a very special place, with unique needs.

Harrogate is the town with the highest population and is an early spa town with the unique qualities and needs. Local representation from councillors who live, work here and are full aware of the town's inhabitants' needs. This town council would be in a good position to feedback to NYC local issues.

Harrogate needs a council that can focus 100% on the needs of the town. Although I am very much in favour of a town council I would like to know more about how it will be funded and the roles it could take on. I understand and agree to a precept but would this have to cover things previously paid for by HBC? I hope NYC would give a

grant to a town council for these things. Precept money should not cover things covered by council tax by HBC, NYC should continue to cover these from the council tax.
Harrogate needs a town council so it can still be represented adequately in the new more remote North Yorkshire Council.
Harrogate needs a Town Council to protect its residents and heritage.
Harrogate needs a voice on the Unitary Council.
Harrogate needs local representation. Many decisions are best made locally by local people with an in-depth knowledge of the town. Higher-tier authorities may often find it difficult to fully appreciate what is required to move Harrogate forward.
Harrogate needs to be able to make decisions at a local level
Harrogate Town Council should not need to raise a precept and instead should be funded using the rent of current HBC properties in the town centre and leisure services within the parish boundary
Harrogate will be severally disadvantaged within the new North Yorkshire Council set up (& going forward to the new regime of Elected Mayor & Combined Authority for York / North Yorkshire) if this doesn't happen.
Harrogate would have no representation within North Yorks county council so it is essential
Have voted in favour but have reservations about possible costs particularly in the current financial climate.
Having been involved in Parish Councils in Co Durham for many years, I think they are an excellent body to represent, listen to and act upon residents' needs in a very particular local manner.
How much will this cost?
However, I am broadly in favour of the seven conditions set out in the documentation posted to me, as I believe that Local Representation is more user friendly than remote governmental offices. I would wonder how much unnecessary "red tape" and expense will be saved by replacing an existing Council with a "new" Parish Council. As a matter of interest, will the old and the expensive new Harrogate Council buildings be utilised by North Yorkshire council or by the Parish Council. I cannot see any chance that these buildings will be sold off, Government never shrinks.
HTC and its councillors should solely represent the interests of Harrogate and residents should be consulted as part of the decision process at all times. HTC should be cost effective as an additional tier of government and seen to be by producing annual reports. HTC should not duplicate the responsibilities of North Yorkshire Council.
I agree fully with the 7 recommendations of the County Council and that these are a sound basis for governance moving forwards. I consider that there is a need for local community representation and for residents to be given a voice. I feel it is important for there to be a local body to champion Harrogate's interests, and that Harrogate would be disadvantaged within the county, should it remain without local representation.
I agree that there should be a new parish of HARROGATE to be called Harrogate Town Council with effect from 1 April 2024.
I am concerned about the long term retention of my allotments at Oatlands, Harrogate. I have rented them since 1995. I feel that a Harrogate town or Parish council would act in the best interest of allotments in Harrogate.
I am concerned that the Parish precept will not cover the 'cost' of providing the high quality parks and planting our local area benefits from. The parks, green space and Stray are a huge draw for visitors to Harrogate and the wider area. Investment and spend needs to continue. Will this be the responsibility of North Yorkshire (for tourism purposes) or the new town council? All 'Parish' responsibilities should replicate (rather than try to invent) the very best of parish services offered in the UK.
I am in favour of a town council to represent the views of the local people of this town.
I am in total support of Harrogate having its own town council as soon as can be arranged.
I am not pleased that the review does not allow me to comment on the range of services performed by the proposed new Council. Specifically I believe the new Council must have the power to allow or refuse planning applications for housing in the area.
I am responding to your request for feedback concerning the formation of a town council for Harrogate. I support such an action with the following observations. a) Were such a town council formed one assumes its delegated tasks would release North Yorkshire from incurring these costs. So are we to expect a commensurate reduction in north Yorkshire's charge to residents to reflect the town council's costs to deliver these services as encompassed in the precept? b) I have no idea of what is meant by neighbourhood planning. Perhaps you could elucidate. c) I

lease a plot on my local allotments which are managed through delegated authority from what was Harrogate Borough Council. Can this arrangement remain under North Yorkshire's governance?
I am unclear about the funding of the council. Is it correct to think that the budget and delivery capability for say Public Conveniences moves to NY from HBC and the parish council brings these back? The precept then covers the additional administration costs of the parish council. Or does the precept raise fund for public conveniences?
I am very much in favour of this local representation and the thoughtful approach being taken to the spread of representatives across the Harrogate area. The precept seems acceptable as a taxpayer and I'm sure has not been arrived at without research and modelling.
I believe a local Town Council with appropriate powers is preferable to a remote council, based in Northallerton, where councillors would largely be from other and often distant parts of the county.
I believe equal representation is important.
I believe Harrogate should have control of what happens in Harrogate
I believe it is important that the people of Harrogate have control over local assets such The Stray, The Royal Hall, Valley Gardens etc. The town should have a proper Mayor with civic functions.
I believe it is important to have representation on the North Yorkshire Council
I believe it will enable people living in Harrogate to contribute to the decision making process affecting us
I believe residents of Harrogate would be disadvantaged without one due to lack of local representation
I believe that it's important to have local representation on what will be a large, county council.
I believe that we should have elected members on a council representing local interests.
I believe the creation of a town council will provide a voice for the local residents
I believe this to be a necessity
I believe very strongly that Harrogate should have a town council. Otherwise, we will be lost in a very big rural county
I do not agree with any additional cost proposed. The purpose of the Unitary Authority was to replace local councils with a more efficient and more centralised council that could perform all the functions being performed by the local councils. When will we see the reduction of our council tax to reflect this efficiency gain?
I do not understand why Harrogate Borough Council was abolished and was replaced by North Yorkshire County Council. Whilst we are now being asked to vote in a democratic way on the re-establishment of a similar authority, I do not remember a democratic vote being asked for to ascertain if we wanted a North Yorkshire County Council! It seems that even though the UK is considered a democracy the central Government pushed through the founding of North Yorkshire County Council in an undemocratic way. Expensive new offices in Harrogate were handed over - and a new seat of government established in the small town of Northallerton. Presumably all Harrogate Borough Council assets were taken over without any resident's mandate. Now we are told we will have to pay to get back what we handed over. I do however support this cost to restore an element of democracy to Harrogate but hope North Yorkshire can contribute having acquired all our assets I do not understand why Harrogate Borough Council was abolished and was replaced by North Yorkshire County Council. Whilst we are now being asked to vote in a democratic way on the re-establishment of a similar authority, I do not remember a democratic vote being asked for to ascertain if we wanted a North Yorkshire County Council! It seems that even though the UK is considered a democracy the central Government pushed through the founding of North Yorkshire County Council in an undemocratic way. Expensive new offices in Harrogate were handed over - and a new seat of government established in the small town of Northallerton. Presumably all Harrogate Borough Council assets were taken over without any resident's mandate. Now we are told we will have to pay to get back what we handed over. I do however support this cost to restore an element of democracy to Harrogate but hope North Yorkshire can contribute having acquired all our assets
I don't but how the Saltergate ward with under 1800 in the electorate gets 1 vote? Yet all the other wards most with three times as many in the electorate only get two councillors?
I don't like the idea of it at all. It is too big an area to go as one large council covering all North Yorkshire
I feel it is important that people have a local councillor to represent them and pass on their views on local issues, otherwise without local representation, these views could get lost in the vastness of the new authority.

I feel strongly that Harrogate should have local representation to fully reflect the views and concerns of those who live in the town. We should have a local voice to ensure that the key issues affecting the community are fully discussed and that the unique character and assets of the town are preserved.
I feel that a parish council would be more effective at supporting Harrogate's local amenities such as the Valley Gardens and Stray and also would be better at supporting tourism and hospitality in the town. I feel that it is very important to protect Harrogate's special character, and that a town/parish council would be the most effective means of achieving this. With a North Yorkshire Council only, there is more of a danger that Harrogate could be neglected and degenerate into a very ordinary town.
I feel that it will be an important voice for Harrogate within the new unitary authority arrangements
I feel this will help to protect the interests of Harrogate residents.
I feel we need a local council to represent us, I was happy with the old system and didn't want it changed.
I feel we need local representation, given the new Unitary Council. We need a local representative, who understands our local needs.
I have concerns that we adding further costs on the town population in pursuit of "greater democratisation".
I have not previously received any notice or information about the dissolution of HBC and the transfer of its powers to a County-wide council. Had I been asked I would have objected to this change. The letter I have recently received suggests that the change will happen regardless. So I think it is ESSENTIAL that Harrogate retains as much power, and local representation, as possible to try and keep its uniqueness, in the whole of the UK, alive. Therefore, YES, I do want to see a Town Council with as much power, and income, as possible to keep alive one of UK's best tourist towns. Harrogate's unique attractions are worth paying for.
I just think it makes sense to have a Harrogate Council, with feet on the ground enabling them to tackle local problems as seen by the public, of which may differ demographically.
I live in the Kingsley area, and as part of Kingsley Ward Action Group, we have been trying to represent the voice of our community in fighting the relentless housing developments in our area for the last 5 years. We were never given a voice on the Local plan for housing, it was simply imposed on us. We arranged a public meetings with residents, Persimmon and local councillors to voice our concerns about the proposed developments. Should a town council have been in place they could have championed residents' voices and opinions. I fully support a new Harrogate parish and Town. Now that Persimmons have been granted permission to build 162 houses on H21, we are keen to establish a parkland for the whole community to use on the H21 site. Our nearest park is Starbeck, which is a considerable distance away and limited public transport available. Our area hasn't benefitted at all from any Section 106 money. We are currently gathering residents' views on a new community parkland on the new Kingsley Drive Persimmon site. Whilst residents like the area of a new community park, there main concerns, relates to who will look after it and prevent it becoming vandalised. We feel that this could be a responsibility of a new town council. In Ginny Greenholes Park in Spofforth, which is an amazing play area and nature reserve, the parish and town council have taken responsibility for looking after it, and it continues to serve the community well today. In conclusion I fully support the recommendations at Phase 2 for a new Harrogate Parish and Town Council.
I only agree with this proposal because of the obvious need for local representation within the new county structure. It disgusts me that this will result in yet a further increase in council tax. How do you expect retirees in particular to come up with more and more money? It is said that the creation of the new unitary authority will reduce overall expenditure but it would seem that that is only to preserve existing services whereas it should BOTH protect existing services AND result in LOWER council tax bills. For it not to do so is a complete and utter disgrace bearing in mind that no precept for a Town Council would have been needed had the Harrogate Borough Council remained in situ. North Yorkshire is far too big a county to be governed by a single authority and officers in Northallerton are likely to have little interest in Harrogate or Scarborough - something which I think has been all too clear for years from the quite appalling condition of some of the roads in Harrogate which were the responsibility of the now defunct North Yorkshire County Council.
I prefer to have people from Harrogate dealing with Harrogate issues
I strongly feel it important to have a Harrogate Town Council
I suppose it will bring positive changes, growths and developments in Harrogate.
I think even though we will be a part of North Yorkshire Council, it would be beneficial to have a town council to keep things more localised.

I think Harrogate needs a council within the town to look after the area with the main council being run from Scarborough
I think Harrogate needs representation at a local level in the same way that parish councils can be contacted and used by the local population. I have represented government at a parish council level in the past and have always felt that individuals who live locally are best suited to decide on local issues rather than a remote far away BIG authority
I think Harrogate needs to keep control and have accountable representatives in the town and NOT in Northallerton!!!
I think Harrogate would be better represented with a parish council
I think it important Harrogate's interests are protected by those who know and live in the town.
I think it important to have a local say in regional matters. Also, precedent is relevant i.e. it would make no sense to have town councils for Knaresborough and Ripon and none for Harrogate.
I think it is excellent for there to be local input
I think it is important that the needs of Harrogate town are represented, for its merits and status as a major service centre for that area.
I think it is important that we have some local involvement in the operation and management of allotments in Harrogate. This has been generally well carried out by the outgoing HBC and I don't feel confident that it would work as successfully if control goes to a distant Northallerton
I think it vital that Harrogate has its own town council to ensure local matters can be dealt with effectively
I think it would be in the best interests of the people of Harrogate
I think that it is the best option as people who live here need to be able to have a say, particularly when it comes to things like neighbourhood planning.
I think that it would be best if the council made local decisions on a ward-by-ward basis, so that individual wards in Harrogate can have more say in their local communities. For example, I think Starbeck should be able to organise services in Starbeck.
I think the new Unitary Authority is a good idea however at the same time I think it would be valuable to have a Town Council to ensure there that local representation doesn't get lost.
I think the number of councillors proposed 1 to 3000 people is quite a large number and will influence the precept.
I think there should be a body to deal with local matters and have Harrogate matters as their priority
I think we need a local voice.
I think we need to keep a local council which represents Harrogate, do not agree with this merger.
I think when Harrogate had a town council previously it worked very well for the people of Harrogate. Hopefully a new town council will do so.
I voted "Yes" as I was very much opposed to the abolition of Harrogate Borough Council (and the other district councils) and I see the formation of a Town Council as the only way of retaining some, though very limited, powers by Harrogate. The takeover of all district council powers and responsibilities by the new North Yorkshire Council I believe to be disastrous.
I want to see Harrogate residents motivated to return their town to a professional standard. Sadly at the moment the state of the roads make it look as though we are in a third world country.
I wish Harrogate Town Council still existed. This is the best option under the circumstances
I would hope that the powers given to a Parish Council will expand sufficiently to enable it
I would like an overall voice for the people to the areas within a Town Council to be based on local people who are aware of the
I would like to register my thoughts on the new organisation for Harrogate and think that a single parish/town council would probably be better in Harrogate. This should enable the councillors to represent the different areas of Harrogate and perhaps minimise the number of elections and persons serving, representing local people.
I would much prefer a system of elected mayors. The mayor elected on a local manifesto entirely relating to local issues. A town council will only partly serve the interests of the residents of Harrogate. I have severe misgivings about the new unitary authority. North Yorkshire County Council struggles to adequately serve this area, especially

regarding the Highways Authority. My view is that any devolution is better than none but this does not go far enough.
I would strongly support the creation of a new parish council to be called Harrogate Town Council with the Wards proposed. I think it is essential that local influence and accountability over local matters should not be lost. I remain unconvinced by the recent Local Government changes and failed to understand the need for them. Before them we had two tiers of local government and, after the creation of Harrogate Town Council, we will have two again - to what demonstrable, real world benefit I wonder? The core problem remains the continuing, and very substantial, funding cuts to local government.
I would support the creation of such a council if it were given sufficient delegated powers, funding & autonomy to manage aspects of the town's unique facilities/services effectively
Ideally it should have a voice in representing its constituents rather than be an administrative hub for local services
If I have understood correctly though this will cost the residents an additional sum of money, which I am not so supportive of!
If those on the parish council live in the area they are better placed to know the benefits or problems which that area has - as long as they take constructive action - not just fine words! or excuses! Not just on an 'ego trip'?
If, as stated in a newsletter dated 31st October 2022, the creation of the new unitary authority will eventually result in savings of up to £70million a year why couldn't the cost of the new Harrogate Town Council be met from these savings rather than an additional precept?
I'm concerned that the town council won't be able to raise enough revenue to maintain the conference centre and to update it to attract the business it needs. Also the Royal Hall both are important assets to maintain the hotels, shops and cafés.
Important each ward is represented.
Important for Harrogate to have meaningful role and input
Important for residents of Harrogate to have a local forum
Important that Harrogate has an independent say on some issues within North Yorks
Important to have local representation & ensure Harrogate's interests are protected
Important to have local representation. Northallerton is remote. North Yorkshire is very large. Other areas will have an advantage if they have parish councils and we do not.
In general I agree with these recommendations. They allow for the involvement of 19 Councillors in the shaping of the local environment. My biggest concern is what would happen if a Town Council were not to be created. All democratic decisions in relation to the Harrogate area would then be taken by an area committee of the North Yorkshire council including at most 10 or 11 Councillors representing the area on that Council. There would thus be only 10 or 11 elected representatives for an area of some 90,000 people, a ratio of 1:8,000 or more which in my opinion would represent a very significant 'democratic deficit' and would result in an amount of work for each individual councillor which would be far greater than would be appropriate for, or sustainable by, councillors expecting to be involved on apart-time basis, especially those with a need to combine public service with earning a living. Even with 19 town councillors making a total of 29 or 30, the ratio of 1 councillor to around 3,000 people would be far from generous.
in response to your consultation, I think a town council for Harrogate, following the dissolving of the district local authority is essential
In truth I find it astonishing that there was a county council and a borough council that were abolished and a unitary authority with a similar name, North Yorkshire council and ohhh wait a minute we need a local council called Harrogate town council. The change will undoubtedly have cost vast sums and I thought the purpose was to make efficiency savings. There doesn't seem to be much evidence of these. Indeed my council tax bill has gone up this year and will continue to increase.
Is the new estate on Beckwithshaw Road half in and half out? Can't really see from the small map, but would think it should be in completely
It is absolutely vital that Harrogate residents have local democratic representation, and that the town council has as much power devolved as is legally possible and a meaningful financial budget and fund raising powers to help sustain the great features and facilities in this lovely town. Beyond their official powers, the Town Council should

be encouraged to debate issues reserved for far-away Northallerton, and the views of the local Town Council should receive substantial weighting when consultations take place on these matters
It is essential that Harrogate has a new town council. With maximum powers awarded to it. Harrogate is a unique town both within North Yorkshire and within the bigger Northern Region. It would be unthinkable for it not to have any powers of local governance. I am completely in favour of the unitary authority. But I do want to see a town council, to bring it into line with other towns in the region.
It is essential that Harrogate has its own Town Council in the same way that Knaresborough has so that people are represented locally. It will also assist with any potential boundary issues for the existing Knaresborough Town Council.
It is essential that Harrogate's identity and assets are preserved. A town council is the best vehicle to achieve these aims.
It is essential that the costs relating to the proposed new council are kept well under control so they do not have a major impact on the council tax. Otherwise I think that we do need a local council to look after Harrogate's interests.
It is essential that the wards are treated the same as villages and retain a certain amount of control where local issues can be raised, and addressed as necessary.
It is essential that we have representation at a local level
It is essential to define the role of the new council before proceeding further with this process.
It is essential, prior to HBC in 1974 the original Town Council did a great job working with West Riding
IT is important for all areas to have proper representation. At the moment, as a resident of the Saints area, I do not feel that I have a way of sharing my views. I would like to be more involved in local issues and a Harrogate Town Council would facilitate this as I could get involved with my parish.
It is important for Harrogate to continue to have a voice and to continue its civic traditions.
It is important that districts of Harrogate have a voice.
It is important that the terms of reference (limits of authority) are clearly drawn.
It is important that the town has representation and control of services at a local level.
It is important that we have local representation and have a voice in matters which particularly concern us
It is important to have people acting for us on very local issues and amenities including allotments, community transport, parks and neighbourhood planning. I am assuming the people on the council will be from our town and thus will have a real appreciation of our needs and wishes.
It is necessary so that the community has a voice.
It is not possible to give a considered view without having outline knowledge of the duties and powers of the proposed Town Council. I am in favour of retaining some local controls but the information released to date is not supported by details of services to be provided and relevant financial budgets. There should also be an assurance that no duplication of services or responsibilities will be in the remit of North Yorkshire Council.
It is unclear which areas are unparished, so it's hard to form a well-informed opinion.
It is very important that Harrogate residents have a strong control of living here. Only locals should have the final control and say. I am not aware of any organisations who are interested in protecting the rights of Harrogate residents
It is vital for the people of Harrogate to have a voice to work closely with North Yorkshire.
It is vital that Harrogate Town Council is established to maintain local democracy for residents.
It makes sense for all towns in the county to be on the same footing. In other words, Harrogate should be represented and managed in the same as say Ripon or Knaresborough.
It needs to be kept as much like it is now
It provides a local gateway for community engagement. One council serving the whole of North Yorkshire is too big
It seems highly anomalous that Harrogate would not have powers similar to other parishes in the County. So I believe Harrogate should be given parish status. How many parishes there would be is not easy for a person not familiar with the practicalities of local government to judge but I believe between two to four parishes should be able to represent the residents. I would think exiting Councillors would be able to recommend a structure - if a

parish is too small it carries a relatively high overhead per capita and has a low collective presence, but if too big it will not represent local interests. The current "Divisions" in Harrogate Borough areas look rather too small to be converted one-for-one into new parishes.
It seems only sensible and hardly prohibitive in cost.
It seems that this is a choice between representation , or no representation - so no choice at all -the proposals will a financial burden to already over-stretched households- there is no mention of how decisions would be made without a Town council- people need that information before they will commit to more expense
It should be done on a minimum cost basis. Meetings can take place in North Yorkshire offices or the hire of other rooms for meetings, as other Parish Councils do. No additional office space should be required.
It will enable local decision making to be more informed.
It will provide a voice for local residents and be able to focus more on local matters and concerns
It will provide closer connections and communication of local issues and concerns
It will support the local community in the delivery of services.
It would be an injustice to retain the Town & Parish Councils that exist in the old Harrogate District (Knaresborough, Ripon City, Boroughbridge etc.) & not create a Town Council for Harrogate. Harrogate has not had & should have had a Town Council since before 1974. I would like to see the residents of Harrogate have some local control of aspects of the town that may not receive as much thought & appreciation from the more remote North Yorkshire Council.
It would be beneficial for Harrogate to have an input towards any decisions made locally
It would be good to have more local and knowledgeable connection to deal with strictly town-based matters
It would be helpful if the local services provided by the present Harrogate Borough Council could be replicated by the new Harrogate Town Council as far as possible. For example I receive pensions from France and have to prove I am still alive once per year by going to the HBC office and getting a "Certificate de Vie" witnessed. Since I have to turn up at the HBC offices to do this it would be very inconvenient and costly to have to go all the way to Northallerton.
It would be useful to have the views of an organisation in touch with the locality and its people
It would mean that residents of Harrogate would pay for their own services rather than be subsidised by other council tax payers.
It's an excellent idea to have our own representatives.
It's a no-brainer
It's vital we have a Parish Council to speak out for local issues
Keep the costs down
Lived in Harrogate for 30 yrs. It needs local representation to get things done
Local assets should be managed and paid for locally - Harrogate residents love The Stray and their floral displays - let them manage and pay for them.
Local decision making
local democracy is important
LOCAL ISSUES NEED TO BE DECIDED AT LOCAL LEVEL AND NOT AT NORTHALLERTON
Local people can address local needs and problems
Local people know best. I chaired a parish council before moving to Harrogate.
Local people should be running local services therefore a Town Council is essential
Local people to deal with local affairs. Big is beautiful failed in a big way. Too big. Too remote. Too expensive
Local representation, democratically elected, is essential now and in the future
Local voices are important in shaping services. As regards cost it might be helpful to remind people of the services that will be retained at County Council level otherwise some may argue that the Town Council is simply a cheap copy of the old District Council
More power to smaller areas

Most important to have a body directly representing the town of Harrogate.
MY CURRENT AREA OF KEIGHLEY HAS A TOWN COUNCIL WHICH IS VERY EFFECTIVE FOR THE DUTIES IT CARRIES OUT.
My home is outside the proposed TC boundary
My only concerns are around additional costs. Will accounts be subject to audit, full disclosure to public, FOI requests, and will the public have the opportunity to challenge spending before it happens in the case of larger scale plans? It's all about accountability if you ask the public for more money.
need local people to decide local issues
No, but have concerns regarding the extra cost of a Town Council and this being levied on the already high rates as would be contained in the new precepts.
Not sure it needs the 19 wards councillors you are suggesting
NYCC's Stage 2 Consultation Document says that NYCC will welcome the devolution of responsibility for local services to the new Harrogate Town Council ("HTC"), subject to its ability to demonstrate the ability to deliver them and value for money; and it also gives examples of the types of services Harrogate Town Council could provide. I would welcome those services being devolved to HTC, but also expanded to include: a conclusive say (i.e. veto or final approval) of any decisions made by NYCC that impact within HTC's geographical boundaries (it being right and proper that HTC has the final say on matters pertaining to its area of responsibility); final determination of all planning decisions passed by NYCC that pertain to property or building developments (to include, roads, railways, sewage/drainage, watercourses) within HTC's geographical boundaries; power to initiate and pursue planning enforcement and environmental enforcement actions/proceedings against individuals/companies/associations who break planning/environmental rules (fly tipping, noise pollution, unauthorised/non-compliant building, watercourse pollution), the effects of which impact within HTC's geographical boundaries; administration of refuse collection within HTC's geographical boundaries; administration of street lighting within HTC's geographical boundaries; public/residents' parking administration within HTC's geographical boundaries; administration of local grants to start-up/business enterprises; a say in local policing, fire/ hospital/ambulance/care home issues and administration; all (to be clear) in addition to the list of services that NYCC's Stage 2 Consultation Document gives as examples of the types of services HTC could provide.
Obviously extra layer of costly bureaucracy is a worry. However a town this size cannot be without our official representatives. I.e. 19 town councillors.
One rep for each area
Only concern is that if this is a good idea, why did we not just continue with Harrogate BC
Our council needs to represent Harrogate and consider needs of Harrogate only
Please keep the cost down, preferably less than what we pay now for council tax
Preferred for representation however I don't want to see my taxes/VAT rise.
Provided council tax precept is kept as low as possible. Council tax rates are already too high
Providing that the new town council is auditable and the new organisation is bringing benefits to the local community and not just another drain on hard earned finances
Regard this as essential for good local representation and community engagement
SEEMS A GOOD IDEA
Seems like we are going back to the old system of two layers of country council and local council.
Seems to me that the only way to connect with people who know our area is for a town council to be set up
Should also control asylum seekers in the town, help with service such schools places, medical facilities and traffic
Should have local e.g. former parish representatives
So someone somewhere may remember Harrogate and what the people here want! No one wants the Gateway Scheme but you'll do it. Other options? Perhaps a sensible local businessperson who has no desire to concrete over our town? Have you considered every way possible you could waste more money!?
Some confusion on your "Harrogate Community Governance Review document between references to Town Council & Parish Council; ambiguous?

Some of the outer boundaries seem arbitrary given the developments taking place on the fringes of town and whose residents would look to Harrogate for their services. This is particularly true in Saltergate (a very small ward historically, but with huge new estates), Coppice Valley etc.
Strongly support
That local representatives live in the ward that they represent and have a good understanding, and knowledge of, that ward, and are prepared to defy party dogma in order to ensure the interests of their voters.
That the overall level of council tax should remain as is; that is any precept added to pay for the parish council should see an equivalent reduction in council tax. Before the Harrogate Borough Council was merged with North Yorks, Harrogate was well-served. It seems ridiculous that maintaining the level of service to Harrogate residents will incur an increase in cost.
The change from HBC to NYCC ("forced" on us by the government) reduced our representation in local politics to fewer councillors in Northallerton. A parish council gives us just a little back locally.
The costs do seem excessive and add a layer of additional administration but it is important that Harrogate Town has a voice along with the other town councils in the area
The costs estimate does not specifically mention use of premises, storage/provision of data under GDPR etc. Could an expanded expected list of costs be published please?
The duties and responsibilities of the town council together with the total costs should be made clear to the public before the proposal is put before the North Yorkshire Council. The benefit to the town should be identified together with the disadvantages if we do not have a town council. As all local services have to be delivered by North Yorkshire why should there be an additional charge to the local ratepayers for the Council? Is all the money from an additional charge spent on additional facilities for the town which North Yorkshire would not otherwise provide? All these aspects should be fully explained prior to any decisions being made.
The funding for the matters transferred to the new council also need to be transferred.
The more local the governance, the better as far as I'm concerned.
The PC accepted that the creation of a Harrogate Town Council would have no effect on the residents of Tockwith with Wilstrop. However, it was recognised that Harrogate residents would benefit from having a local council to act on their behalf given the population size and expanse of the new North Yorkshire Council.
The proposal seems proportionate with the needs of a town like Harrogate.
The recommendations appear to be good - BUT I am extremely concerned at the lack of ability and concern from Harrogate Borough Council to disagree to the rapidly escalating costs dumped on residents i.e. vastly increased rents for properties which in many cases are unsafe if not dangerous to health and wellbeing. I see no improvement to these issues and a change of name is not going to address housing or rent increases. Nor is high priced housing going to help those on the lowest incomes. We need more of a say in local issues and not have an MP who keeps getting re-elected only to deal with issues that reflect London's inflationary costs and to pass them on to us, many who are least able to afford them!
The roads in Harrogate are diabolical full of pot holes.
The town council should make every effort to communicate with all residents. Schemes like the Otley Rd (disastrous) cycle route should be better communicated.
The Town Council would not carry out any new functions therefore the Service costs will remain the same and any administrative costs will be met from the savings promised by NYCC in their LGR submission. So there should be NO overall additional costs to the ratepayers.
The town still needs a local council presence. NYCC, being based in Northallerton, is not a substitute for a local 'on-the-ground' organisation.
There has to be a restriction on the precept
There should be a clearer description of the initial powers/responsibilities of the new council
Think it's a good idea however we already can't afford our council tax and are in debt from the previous tax year
Think it's the best option
This seems to be the most democratic option
To ensure continuation of local interest and involvement

To ensure that all living and working in the unparished districts of the town have a valid point of contact covering all needs.
to ensure that local issues are managed locally - i.e. in Harrogate
To give a voice to the people of Harrogate. To make decisions and act in the town's best interest. Awareness of local issues.
To give Harrogate residents more power to influence North Yorkshire Council and provide local services
To give some level of local accountability / representation / self-determination
To have some say in local matters
To maintain some local democracy. To achieve a consistent structure across North Yorkshire. But in total the administration costs (as opposed to direct costs for services) must be less for Harrogate Town Council plus NYC - otherwise no point charging from HBC plus NYCC. To allow proper democracy voting for councillors should be on a proportional representation basis, which would mean larger wards or no wards at all in order to achieve the correct proportion. Wards are not really necessary as we can all identify as living in Harrogate. Whereabouts in the town a candidate lives should still be known as some people may prefer to vote for very local candidates.
To work on or support the urgent improvement of road surfaces
Town Council essential to represent local interests.
Very good
Vitally important to have a local voice and be able to action local needs, these will not be a priority under the new North Yorkshire council.
We are both pleased to support the proposal for Harrogate to have its own Town Council. (E)
We desperately need improvements to regular street and regular cleaning and cleaning out gullies, which NYCC have neglected totally. A town Council could apply some pressure to the new N Yorks Unitary Council. I hope it would be given delegated responsibility for pavement cleaning, litter collection and parks and gardens as well as Community Centres such as Bilton.
We have read the documents received by mail, including the Stage 2 consultation leaflet. The recommendations do seem sensible. The Frequently asked questions and the answers seem to ensure that provision will be made for informed local decisions, rather than remotely in Northallerton. The documents mention possible cost concerns regarding setting up a new parish under the governance of a town council. Given that the now former Harrogate Borough Council was located in new purpose-built premises near to the conference centre, we assume that the offices, equipment and IT infrastructure, and many of the employees remain in situ. So no new capital investment in that regard would be needed, or expensive recruitment programmes? Insurance costs and so on were applicable during the HBC days, so with a new town council there would be continuity, not new costs attributable to the new set-up. A Mayor of Harrogate would be continuity also, if under a new title. We support the proposal.
We need 19 Independent Cllrs to stand up for residents
We need a town council to help control the local community North Yorkshire Council will be so huge
We need community representation. The new North Yorkshire Council is too large and impersonal for individual area needs.
We need local councillors to fight for our town
We need local representation
We need local representation to control, scrutinise and limit the excessive building which is ruining the quality of our once lovely town
We need local representation to provide checks and balances on the NY council's decisions. There have been past cases of anti-Harrogate bias on the existing NY County council. It would be naive to think this would not happen in future, especially with zero local representation.
We need local representation.
We need representation at a very local level
We need to have a Town Council to represent the views of the Harrogate People.
We need to safeguard Harrogate's assets like the Convention Centre, Royal Hall, etc.

We require local democracy, somewhere where we have a voice.
We support the creation of a Harrogate Parish Council. The Recommendations numbered 1 to 7 are supported.
We support the full proposals as per stage two consultation paper involving Harrogate Town Council and all other related proposals
We want more local involvement in Harrogate issues.
We would like to see any key recommendations for the area of Harrogate made by local councillors who live in the area and know about the local issues in detail.
While I have answered yes to this question, I wonder if North Yorkshire Council had considered establishing, for both Harrogate and Scarborough, committees of the Cabinet comprising the ward members outlined in the consultation with delegated responsibilities for certain functions for the respective areas? This would avoid a local precept, though throw the cost back to the parent body and no doubt prove controversial elsewhere but nevertheless worthy of consideration.
Whilst I agree with the proposals at this point, I would point out that we were NOT consulted on disbanding HBC and that we haven't voted for it. We are being disenfranchised and the new fairly powerless "parish council" is a very poor substitute for where we were under HBC.
Whilst I believe that Harrogate should be represented by a new town council, it does need to be made clear what exactly its responsibilities will be. Given that there will be an additional precept raised, people need to be given some idea as to what they will be getting for their money. Also, the interaction of a new elected mayor and the town council has not been made clear.
Whilst it would be beneficial to have a Harrogate Town Council, I fear the cost would dissuade residents, as many feel that they already pay too high a council tax, & adding another £40 to £60 per year would be 'the straw that breaks the camel's back'.
Whilst North Yorkshire now has one council the individual areas within it are vastly different and should retain their own identity. Proportionately Harrogate homes about one quarter of the population of North Yorkshire. It would be unthinkable that a town of this size would not have a council with the insight, expertise and understanding that this would offer. Harrogate is unique within the county and the country. The town has a wealth of historic buildings – the Royal Hall, The Mercer Gallery, The Pump Room, Turkish Baths to name but a few – management and development of these assets should remain at a local level. Harrogate has long been known as a floral town a Town Council would be able to retain and hopefully enhance and promote that aspect of Harrogate's character. The world-famous Stay is owned by the Duchy of Lancaster but managed locally this should continue. The Mayoral and Civic Collection of silverware, jewellery, trophies and more is of historic significance. As such it should remain in Harrogate and be safeguarded against sale. It is obvious that a new Harrogate Council will need funding. Hopefully, some of the savings that are predicted by One Council can be shared throughout the county. Within the Harrogate area the revenue from car parking could be retained and utilised for town projects. A precept is inevitable, and I feel acceptable if it allows Harrogate to have a level of local authority. A Harrogate Council should take on the role of custodian of the town. The residents should have the opportunity to elect people whom they feel appropriate for that task who live and work within the community they serve. They should use their specialist knowledge of the district to generate cash, spend that efficiently whilst having a long-term plan to benefit and progress the town whilst maintaining its unique character and heritage.
Why isn't some of our council tax being used to set this up?
Will elected representatives be salaried because they are voluntary appointments in villages?
Will Harrogate town be in charge of: Royal Hall, Convention Centre, Stray, Valley Gardens? I hope so
Will understand local needs and issues and most important responsibility for solutions
With a Town Council in place, the views and needs of Harrogate residents, which are quite different from those of residents of rural parts of North Yorkshire, are more likely to be heard.
Without a town council, local concerns of Harrogate residents would have no means of resolution.
Without it, Harrogate could become less represented in the largest county in England. This is a large town which brings income through tourism to all parts of the county. We need local people supporting our area.
Would provide local representation
Yes but no extra costs to residents. Fund could be raised by selling or leasing the town halls used around Harrogate area by previous Council e.g. Harrogate x2 and Knaresborough.

Yes in theory but the cost involved is of concern
Yes is conditional on the exact responsibilities of the council - as we are paying for this it must be for meaningful authority over specific local services
Yes, but bureaucracy should be kept to a minimum whilst retaining a degree of local democracy. If there are efficiency benefits from a single tier administration then we do not want to recreate an unnecessary "second tier".
Yes. Have a Town Council and return all decision making powers and budgets to the town. Decisions should be made locally not in the far flung north of the county. Furthermore the same County Councillors should sit on the town council - that would make the system simpler for the local population and stop arguing between county and town.
Yorkshire being a large county we need a town council to look after our needs

Comments for no (disagree) responses

Council tax is already 1/3 of my state pension I cannot afford to pay for any more civil servants. I though the move to North Yorkshire was to save money by increased efficiency not the exact opposite.
£40 to £60 for a mayor and other "ceremonial" duties is an expensive luxury. Is not the point of creating North Yorkshire Council to reduce layers of bureaucracy?
1) You've already proved there is little support for this 75% of 3.5% is very low. Your statement is misrepresentative & may be legally challenged. 2) The cost is not justified especially during a cost of living crisis 3) We get very poor representation at the moment (not even responses) any less would be completely pointless and these councillors will have less power as you know!.
1. It is contrary to the intent of creating unitary authorities; it introduces an additional and, in my view, unnecessary layer. 2. It implies an additional charge (precept) on tax payers. 3. That precept is unquantified. In effect you are asking commitment to an unquantified liability for an unquantified potential benefit. All the other questions posed in this survey depend upon the presumption that "a town council named Harrogate Town Council" be created; AS IF THE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ALREADY!
75% of 1250 is not an accurate representation of this town. Only people who want one will respond. Please take this into account.
A level of additional government that is unnecessary and adds to household costs
A town council would have extremely limited
A waste of money
A waste of money. Incompetent people looking for a job.
Adding in yet another layer of bureaucracy (after scrapping one) seems a step back.
Additional cost and more bureaucratic govt. I thought the services were all to be provided by the new NYC so should be covered by current council tax. After all one of the benefits of moving to the unitary authority was to be more efficient and reduce costs. The town council will negate this!
Additional costs will be added to an already ridiculously high council tax
Additional unnecessary layer of bureaucracy for no discernible benefit
After the recent extravagant pay-outs for the former HBC employees, I find it remiss that we are already talking about establishing a new council for Harrogate, at expense to the residents. North Yorkshire CC are responsible for Harrogate now and as one of the largest towns in the region I would expect them to do the job. My experience of similar town councils is that they are often out of touch, riddled with political in-fighting and constantly overlooked by their overseeing authorities, consequently providing little or no benefit. A case in point is neighbouring Otley Town Council which over more than a decade hasn't even been able to leverage the use of a civic centre which it owns.
All the other town councils should be scrapped too, they are a waste of council tax
All this should have been decided long before the agreed date start of this new council i.e. with a referendum.
Although I agree that there should be a town council for Harrogate, it would be preferable for this not to include Bilton and Starbeck and for them to each have their own Parish Council.

Although the concept of a Town Council is good in principle, in view of the significant financial constraints we are all currently facing, to impose an additional levy at this time indicates that the Council are already out of touch with the electorate. We are all struggling to pay our bills now - don't add to the burden.
An added talking shop for minority groups, NIMBYs, cycling groups and climate activists at additional taxpayer cost. Do not see any value in the structure. Harrogate had a voice for many years and failed to move forward with realistic practical actions due to continued resistance from vocal self-interest minority groups.
An unnecessary tier of local government smoking up valuable funding.
Another administrative layer adds nothing other than cost.
Another duplication and cost many of us don't need. And just more cost that I cannot afford. I cannot see this Town Council set up being any better than HBC and they are not worth the space
Another lair of governance not really needed.
Another layer of bureaucracy
Another layer of unnecessary bureaucracy and cost
Another tier of local government for which council tax payers will have to subsidise. I pay enough council tax already and feel I get remarkably little from it.
Any proposal that imposes extra financial burden on low to middle earning households and added layers of political bureaucracy at this time is highly misguided and completely out of touch with the mood of the county and country
As indicated by the initial response (1200+ responses) any council at this level will NOT represent the population of Harrogate - any voting will be very low turnout and the result will be a few local busy bodies interfering in trivial matters with no real power, budget, authority or responsibility - just an extra cost no real representation or authority - waste of money.
Because of cost
Being part of NYCC was to save costs to residents as promised not increase
Believe we have councillors for our ward representing us at County Council so not sure why we need to pay more council tax to duplicate the system
Cannot afford any further expense. Don't see any benefit for even more layers of bureaucracy other than for those who will become involved in the administration. Being on the outskirts I see no benefits for me. Virtually no bus service and roads chocked up or closed because of Event Centre.
Cannot agree with the formation of the new town council without understanding of what its remit will be
Carl Les has already stated that all aspects of the former HBC will continue without problems under NYC. Therefore no new council is needed at all. The new NYC have increased domestic rates by the maximum permitted amount to avoid a public vote. Prices of energy, food and clothing increase day by day, interest rates remain high and yet you want more money to install another unnecessary council. HBC wasted millions of public money on self-aggrandisement, vanity projects and its appalling bread and circus style of government. A new council would be no better and is not NEEDED.
Certainly not necessary for Harrogate. The whole point was to close down HBC and transfer to NYCC, Why would anyone think that the residents of Harrogate would be in favour of it?
Complete waste of money and resource. Establishment of North Yorkshire Council was supposed to bring efficiencies, and reduce cost. Not to introduce another unnecessary layer of bureaucracy.
Complete waste of my pension.
Complete waste of resources on minor issues that should be the responsibility of our already elected council representatives
Complete waste of time and money. We only need one overall council
Council tax already high enough
Council tax far too high already. Also what was the point of abolishing Harrogate council to just replace it
Council tax is high enough without another charge on top
Creates unnecessary cost

Creating a new council that would cost council taxpayers additional money defeats the object of having a single unitary authority. That authority should have the means to carry out all functions.
Creating the new unitary authority (North Yorkshire County Council) to replace Harrogate Borough Council was supposed to save the local tax payer money. Now you are trying to increase the amount of tax we will have to pay by introducing a Town Council for Harrogate with 19 Councillors and no doubt council offices for them and their staff. What was the point of the whole exercise if it wasn't to save money and be more efficient at delivering services?
Creation of a Harrogate Town Council would in my opinion result in unnecessary duplication of local government. The additional cost would be unwelcome.
Devolution was supposed to save money. It doesn't make sense to charge taxpayers for a council which would have no influence and which would waste money
Difficult to agree to something when the scope of the council unclear. Why do we need more bureaucracy and another layer managing resources? I thought the idea was to simplify and perhaps reduce council tax bills not increase them.
Disagree with increase to council tax with residents already feeling stretched and not knowing whether a new tier of local government would be money well invested.
Do not need to pay for this as well - not needed
Do not see any benefits for the people of Harrogate
Do not want to pay unnecessary tax! Willing to pay more for care workers - we need them.
Don't do it if it means we will pay more for less
Don't see any benefits of doing it. It will only add unnecessary cost.
Don't see the need for one
Don't see the point if it. Why have two lots of people to do a job one lot can do. Who has final say, North Yorkshire or Harrogate?
Don't want another tier of administration and don't want to pay a precept on top of council tax. What's the point of creating new a new North Yorkshire council of it means recreating effectively recreating Harrogate borough council.
Don't want to spend the money. Not concerned about local representations on bin locations etc.
Due to extra charges
Enough. Bureaucracy. Not needed and for £60 per annum. No
Expensive, bureaucratic and unnecessary. A duplication of local governance when we have local elected councillors.
Extra cost and no indication of what it would do.
Extra cost for no extra benefit. A "unitary authority" should be just that.
Extra cost for residents not justified
Extra cost involved
Extra money for no guarantee of repress
Feels like a complete waste of money
For far too long Harrogate has looked after the few
Get rid of Northallerton council and restore local government. I much preferred the existing setup where real decisions were made locally in Harrogate. Seems like this new arrangement means we pay more and get less. What a farce. People in Harrogate are underrepresented in the Northallerton County Council. Firstly because there are fewer councillors per head of population in Harrogate and secondly because fewer people in Harrogate vote for Tories than people who live in the rural areas (who are overrepresented).
Given the limited areas of responsibility that would accrue for a Town Council I don't see any benefit.
Harrogate council did not listen to the views of the people
Harrogate council should become a unitary authority and split away from North Yorkshire altogether. N Yorks Council will be even worse than NYCC and I don't want it.

<p>Harrogate is sufficiently represented by the new North Yorkshire Council and does not need another level of governance. The proposed Harrogate Town Council would have limited power and authority, but would constitute an additional cost to the local taxpayers. It is suggested that the proposed council would be equivalent to a parish council and these can be very controlling, bureaucratic and secretive organisations if not run correctly. It is better to rely on the existing council structure than to create another layer of local government that lacks public accountability. The responsibilities of the proposed town council are extremely vague and undefined, unlike those of North Yorkshire Council, which have to fit a national council structure. The best use of local council tax is to optimise the running of the existing council, rather than add a service that many people may pay into without receiving anything in return.</p>
<p>Haven't been impressed with Harrogate council for many years and certainly do not want to pay any more money</p>
<p>Having created a unified authority with the promise of efficiency gains and cost savings, it is counterproductive to introduce another level of bureaucracy and cost.</p>
<p>Having promised us the combined authority will save costs and then proceed to not only raise council tax but then float an additional charge is absolutely ridiculous. You should be ashamed of yourselves.</p>
<p>Having witnessed over the last few years how local government operates particularly with respect to the development planning process, I have no faith that yet more 'local government' would, as NYCC's pamphlet says, 'would give residents more control and ownership of local services'. I note that NYCC's pamphlet makes no mention of the party politics component that would obviously be involved in the proposed new Harrogate Parish council. Councillors voting along party lines do not provide true 'representation of local communities'. Witness HBC's planning decision process since the formation of the Local Plan, where it was clearly seen that councillors voted along party lines rather than on the quality of a development application and the effects of that development on the local area. I prefer not having to pay for another level of local government which cannot provide a medium to offer an objective resident representation.</p>
<p>HBC has just been abolished, why do we need A new ineffectual body.</p>
<p>HBC have never done anything positive for disabled people in Harrogate - we are treated as though we are a nuisance. Whatever is decided they MUST start making disabled people a priority and including us in consultations, projects, support groups, providing bus services for all areas where there are vulnerable people.</p>
<p>HBC manages a budget of over 20 million and the proposed town council will have a budget of about 1 to 1.6 million, if the new town council takes over services planned to be provided by NYCC will there be a way of financing them?</p>
<p>Honestly, has anyone ever said, "Thank goodness for the Town Council" no one ever said that ever. It will just be the same people posturing and spending other people's money.</p>
<p>I am not convinced that the costs of running a town council would justify the benefits of creating a new town council. I appreciate that Harrogate is one of only two areas in North Yorkshire without a parish / town council but local decision-making should not suffer by not creating a new town council. I do not agree that Harrogate would lack local representation without a town council because the existing Harrogate Councillors on the new North Yorkshire Council will perform this role. Creating the additional tier of a Town Council would seem a contradictory move when North Yorkshire is moving to a unitary Council with the abolition of the district Councils. Given well-reported financial pressures and the need for savings, the proposal to create a new town council is not justified by any suggested benefits.</p>
<p>I am not willing to pay an additional fee to NYCC for this.</p>
<p>I am opposed to the additional cost that this would incur. I had understood that the proposal for a new unitary authority was to reduce costs and save money. This proposal will increase cost for council tax payers both in the short and long term and negate any possibility of cost savings</p>
<p>I am unprepared to pay an additional levy for a further unnecessary and redundant layer of local government. The creation of a unitary authority has been approved and is appropriate to manage the political and practical aspects of local government in Harrogate. I am unable and unprepared to allocate further funds to support this measure on top of the already excessive costs to live in Harrogate which were already more than double those of my previous higher band property in central London.</p>
<p>I believe an town council will result in totally unnecessary duplication of local government and unacceptable additional cost</p>
<p>I believe it is pyramid building, it would be costly to run. It would be extra jobs for the boys/girls, plus the people of Harrogate would not be heard as normal. It would be another waste of money.</p>

I believe that this organisation should be named The Harrogate Assembly.
I believe there is no requirement for an additional layer of management and the subsequent increase in costs
I did not agree with North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) taking over Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) and the other authorities in North Yorkshire. I thought that the reason was so that there was one authority for the area and to save money etc. Now you say that they maybe town councils etc. What a complete waste of time and money if this is to be the case.
I disagree with the proposal as the funding to create a town council will be another cost levied against households when we are in seemingly uncontrollable cost of living crisis.
I do not agree with further expenditure on the creation of another layer of local government, pushing the cost onto hard pressed taxpayers.
I do not believe the cost of a town council is merited, and it will affect my quality of life. The cost is unaffordable for me and many residents. We already have local councillors who sit on both the county council and its area committee, providing local insight into decision making. We don't need more councils or councillors.
I do not believe to start with that a response of 1250 is indicative of the views of the area as a whole and this should not be going forward on this basis. I also object to the additional funding that would be required for yet another level of pointless bureaucracy, I do not feel the council at the moment offers a reasonable return for the investment collected via council tax and do not wish to fund further pointless divisions. As an alternative if people wish to fund their own system to lobby the central councils which are funded by government then this should come from their own pocket not of the general public.
I do not feel another tier of local government is a necessary extra cost. From experience a parish council develops onto a talking shop achieving little. The responsibilities outlined in the information which could be undertaken by a PC would be undertaken in any event by the new NYCC, why introduce further costs of administration and staff. Out of a possible electorate of 60000 –934 who wanted a PC is a drop in the ocean When I lived in Knaresborough I found that a great deal depends on who leads the PC as Town Clerk, this was evidenced from the commencement of KPC when led effectively by Mr. A. Benton, since he retired we hardly heard anything from them and quite often when approaching members found you were speaking to someone on HBC anyway so had little influence on affecting decisions especially on planning matters. I say NO to the formation of a parish council.
I do not support the forming of "Harrogate Town Council", nor the additional precept charge that it would carry. You have decided to abolish Harrogate Borough Council in your wisdom - where is the money that would have been saved from doing this, if no money was saved, then why do it in the first place? Bringing a new level of local bureaucracy, with the additional costs that will be incurred, during an inflationary cost of living crisis is ridiculous.
I do not want a Town Council
I do not want the extra cost. We do not need another level of hierarchy.
I do not wish to spend any more of my fixed income on local government.
I do think that we need a Town Council and/ or a Parish Council. Especially if we, along with Scarborough are the only parts of North Yorkshire who do not have either of these to represent their residents. Yes, I appreciate that there will be costs involved for either of these. However, there are also benefits from having a local voice representing local interests. The actual amalgamation of North Yorkshire into one Authority is a nonsense in my view. However, it is what it is. Therefore we desperately need to have a local voice to represent us going forward. Given that today, the Labour Party have said they would give local people more power and autonomy over their affairs, I'm sure that it won't be too long before North Yorkshire Council will be disbanded as some bright spark comes up with the idea of giving local Towns etc back control. What goes around, comes around!
I don't understand the need for two Parish councillors in each area as this is an additional cost.
I don't want to pay for this
I don't believe that in the current cost of living crisis that setting up a new fee-paying council for frankly quite limited services would be helpful for people. Adding fees to the current extortionate prices of council tax in North Yorkshire I don't believe is good value for residents given that services are already provided for.
I don't have the money to waste on this stupid idea to appease a load of busy bodies who will make the town worse
I don't it makes economic or organisational sense to have yet another bureaucratic tier. I wasn't in favour of the old Borough Council being subsumed into the new larger regional North Yorkshire Council. But now that it has

<p>been, what is the sense of duplicating the old Council? Either we accept the new arrangements or we don't. Frankly the whole thing is a mess, but another layer of councillors isn't the answer.</p>
<p>I don't think we need another tier of governance</p>
<p>I don't understand what the council's power will be.</p>
<p>I don't want and cannot afford to pay for it</p>
<p>I don't want to pay for it. To get a fair response you should emphasise that there will be an annual charge on the council tax</p>
<p>I find it a scam to ensure that conservative councillors remain in the majority</p>
<p>I have been a resident of Harrogate for 30 years and am proud of our town, but I fear for it under the new unitary authority and have little confidence that NYC will deliver the standard and level of services that the town needs. The demise of HBC town will result in Harrogate losing its voice and its influence (although at least the town centre businesses will hopefully be able to count on Harrogate BID to represent their best interests). Despite my comments above, however, I feel that the creation of a town council will not be a positive move. It will be a toothless organisation, and will only serve to create an unnecessary tier of local government, a talking shop with no powers in any important areas. It will not represent value for money for the town's residents.</p>
<p>I have found both HBC and NYCC to be inefficient and supported the creation of a unitary NYC to avoid further increases in council tax and extra waste. Examples of poor management by HBC are numerous: - the introduction of modal filters on Beech Grove and Lancaster Road. The entire project was poorly thought through and a waste of money. - Rejuvenating the town centre which is a depressing day out now that many stores have closed and are unlikely to reopen. Surely more can be done to encourage businesses to take up empty retail space? - Cleaning up the litter problem in the town centre. I walk our dog through the town and the amount of litter gets worse and worse. - Showing more consideration for local residents by completing jobs which inconvenience thousands of people on a daily basis far more quickly. Two examples are: The 4/5 way traffic light at the top of Pannal Ash Road was in place for months during school term and created huge tail backs. There appeared to be no urgency whatsoever to complete the job. We then had a similar experience on East Parade with temporary traffic lights causing significant tail backs. The works, which finished on the Wednesday, were in place for two more days with no-one doing any work. I called up NYCC and asked why this was the case and the operator said that the traffic lights were still in place because the works were due to finish on the Friday. But the works had clearly finished on the Wednesday! - Finishing the job on Valley Gardens tennis courts. Inexplicably money was spent on putting in new gates with codes and removing a piece of fence between the courts (so that the ball passes from court to court), yet the codes do not work and teenagers are playing football on the courts and damaging the nets. End result: The courts are now worse than they were before all the money had been spent. - Improve the state of Harrogate's roads which are appalling in parts. This would certainly encourage more use of bikes.</p>
<p>I just don't believe that the area needs another layer of expensive government bringing yet another financial burden on an already economically stressed population. The whole idea of creating a North Yorkshire Council is to reduce big government and save money so the new council should run not only Harrogate but all areas and their services.</p>
<p>I object to another layer of bureaucracy</p>
<p>I object to another tier of Governance and possibly one which would need to be funded by local precept. Money allocated to the new council and intended for the provision of local services should be "given" to town/parish councils for them to use effectively and efficiently to provide required local services without NY council immediate oversight. More management/committees are expensive, time consuming and NOT in the best interests of local communities. As a general comment it cannot be correct to draw such important conclusions from such a small responding number of the electorate. You should again at the at the 1966 Redcliffe- Maud report.</p>
<p>I object to being charged an annual precept to pay for a new town council on top of our annual council tax. I'm all for local decision making but not at a cost to the taxpayer.</p>
<p>I pay enough in council tax and don't want to pay any more for a civic role. North Yorkshire Council has promised a local council so they should ensure that this is delivered.</p>
<p>I see little point in abolishing Harrogate town council only to then reinstate yet more councillors at addition cost to the taxpayer. This whole process was supposed to save money.</p>
<p>I see no purpose in paying extra money to a Town council that can be overruled at any time. Why would we want to pay Extra council tax? Why not put our town councillors on the board of the new county wide council???? We</p>

do not want two different councils trying to outdo each other to our cost. It would be impossible to finance a town council to carry out major financial tasks for £40 a year per person.
I think Harrogate Borough Council has always been resistant to any positive change regarding our community and am glad it has been disbanded. I don't want it replacing with a town council that will no doubt have the same people as representatives and the same backward thinking points of view
I think it's crazy to spend all this money and time getting rid of Harrogate Council just to replace it with another form and more layers of bureaucracy and yet more un-elected members. I also could not afford the extra charge.
I think this will result in increased costs to residents
I think we need to have a cost effective council and a fair council tax and I believe we don't get value for money from this council. Asking for more money when there is so much poverty in the town is disgraceful. I think we need less council and more people power. We need less councillors who are not doing a very good job at the moment. They are useless in this area. Halve the councillors and give them a bit of work to do instead.
I thought one of the benefits of the new one council would be to cut down on admin costs. If I have to pay more for anything I don't want it to go to the admin costs on a local council, I'd rather it went to social care. I feel our County Councillors should be able to represent local needs at NYC meetings etc without adding back a layer that has just been taken away.
I thought the idea of creating unitary councils was to save money? This proposal will certainly not save me money. It will cost me extra on my council tax. A very small proportion of residents bothered to respond to the initial survey. Just because a majority of those who did respond were in favour of a town council, this is hardly a mandate for going ahead with this proposal.
I thought the point of LGR was to have less bureaucracy not more and to save money!! Will there be any point to LGR moving forward with a town council potentially being at odds with NYC.
I thought the whole reason for creating North Yorkshire Council was to reduce the tiers & associated expense of local government. The creation of a Harrogate Town Council negates this. The proposal is therefore ludicrous. A Harrogate Town Council is totally unnecessary.
I totally object to the creation of a town council - even your own strap line says one council, one phone number, one website. Why after getting rid of a tier create it again? It will cost us more and rates are high enough. We will have constituency areas and that is our voice to you. I am also horrified at low numbers who took part in consultation - I do not believe it gives you enough of a mandate. More should be done to engage people as they need to understand ramifications. I urge to think again.
I was strongly in favour of establishing a unitary council for North Yorkshire to deal with all local government matters within the county. Consequently I believe it would be a retrograde step to re-establish an additional tier of local government in Harrogate which the creation of the new North Yorkshire Council should have removed any need for.
If all the parish areas are doing well why waste money in a Council for the rest surely it should be one or the other for all areas?
If I am being expected to pay for a town council then why scrap Harrogate Borough Council in the first place?
If this means an increase in more personal expenditure the answer is no. (E)
If we are to have one large council, then let' it do the job
Ill defined, expensive layer of bureaucracy. There are a putative nineteen councillors, plus support staff. The former will attract payment of at least expenses and an allowance for permitted activity within their area. The latter will be salaried and pensionable. As proposed there is no good reason to add this financial burden as there is no clear role for the body - one will be cobbled together and justify the exercise. The best excuse in the literature provided seems to be "everyone is doing it, don't be left out".
I'm unconvinced by this whole reorganisation of local government; I'm not seeing any changes or efficiencies being implemented. No cost cutting just the same old..... At the same time we've lost local representation so that in effect we have reverse devolution, less localism, and a more remote 'regime' in Northallerton who have no empathy for Harrogate. If your track record on highways maintenance is anything to go by, we are in for an immensely frustrating period of local misgovernance. Our Harrogate roads are an absolute disgrace!
In answer to your request for feedback on your recommendations to form a Harrogate Town Council. Please, please do not go ahead with it for one reason and one reason alone - my wife and I will struggle to find the money to pay for it. As pensioners, the cost of living crisis has really hit us. We do not qualify for benefits. We are not

against a town council in itself, but if it means having to find an extra couple of pounds a week, then that will cause us problems. So, we repeat, please do not impose a further financial burden upon us. (E)
Increase bureaucracy
It can't be trusted.
It does not seem appropriate based on the information provided & popular opinion
It is a complete farce to consider the creation of a town council together with the administrative costs involved when we have only just abolished the District Council. Devolution and the County Council is quite sufficient. A separate tier of councillors and the cost involved is just another example of the profligacy of local government and all associated with it.
It is a paradox that we have a new administration that will increase efficiency and reduce costs and now you want to create another administration that will increase bureaucracy and increase costs for council tax payers for no benefit. The only people to benefit would be the parish councillors who would be paid an allowance that would be more than a living wage that most people get and more than pensioners get. Also you would have to pay for a town clerk who would earn an above average wage. The money generated would also find its way into the town's businesses through generous grants. No a town council would only benefit the wealthy and the hanger's on!
It is a return to a two-tier system, is expensive and makes governance too complex
It is a waste of money and a l crease in unnecessary bureaucracy
It is an absolute waste of money. Harrogate Borough Council are already a waste of money and now you are wanting us to pay double to keep them
It is my opinion that HBC did not function in the interest of its constituents, and therefore all existing councillors should be barred from applying for roles in the new town council, if it comes to pass.
It is not clear what responsibilities it would have. Until that is decided it is surely not possible to estimate how much it would cost.
It is not necessary to create another Tier of Government and expense when this has just been transferred to NYCC.
It is not necessary. An additional cost to rate payers
It is ridiculous to disestablish one tier of local government just to replace it with another tier which has less power and responsibility. The additional cost to council tax paying citizens is an unnecessary financial burden which will achieve very little. It would appear that a new, emasculated town council is just an excuse to enable local politicians to continue to ride the gravy train. It is a shameful proposal.
It recreates dual status councils with each blaming and fighting each other. It creates three councillors including the recently elected NYC councillor, leading to in fighting, disagreement and blame for not getting anything done It is costly, generating modest sums that won't make a difference and will be a target for NYC to pass costs down to a lower tier council.
It seems odd that a measure (the wider governance review for the county) enacted largely as a cost-saving and efficiency measure, should have given rise to this proposal which will add cost and further bureaucracy to the mix without, as far as I can see, material benefit to the lives of local residents. The prospect of a new parish authority adding back a degree of local control over certain matters is in effect a spectre, as the records show that extent of participation nationally in elections at this level is modest, bordering on the pitifully low, and in reality merely invokes that of committed self-seekers or party political junkies; whilst the differences in outcome are immeasurable compared to merely letting the elected officials of the higher tier statutory bodies get on with their business. Hence the degree of real additional local autonomy is illusory, but the additional cost, especially in these times of financial and economic constraint, is all too real. And, it goes without saying, that I have no views whatsoever about the further questions posed below
It will add an additional cost on Council tax which many council tax payers can ill afford and will have no powers to do anything. It will be a talking shop for vested interests. This will create another layer of government which will have very few if any powers (unless you want a litter bin emptied or some other minor problem rectifying). There will be a further 19 councillors with very little to do and time on their hands able to sit around discussing trivialities and claiming expenses for doing so.
It will be an added cost to people at a time when we are all struggling financially.
It will become an administrative obstacle. We only need a single level of decision making.
It will cost more and we pay one of the highest council taxes in England

It will create another?? boundary, additional expenses and all decisions will be made in Northallerton.
It would appear 934 people want a town council, what about the other 50,000 people. There should be and must be proper vote as you would do for a local council election not just a few that can bother to reply.
It would be a terrible idea. We have just removed a Council why create another one?
It would be superfluous to need
It would be surplus to requirements & no doubt costly.
It would detract from the aim of reducing costs. We are over governed already make the new arrangements work properly.
It would increase the cost as set out in your consultation document, this is unnecessary. Moving to a unitary council should not need further bureaucracy
It's an unnecessary overhead that can easily be absorbed within the new structure. It is pointless consolidating under the new NYCC banner only to recreate another bureaucratic overhead for which the Council tax payer is expected to make further contribution. It's an absolute nonsense!
It's another costly layer of admin.
It's hard to know where to start. What are the proposed revenue streams for Harrogate Town Council (HTC)? How are they to be dispersed? Responsibilities, vote headings, cost benefit analysis? Why £80 and what is the proposed increase for the next 5 or 10 years? The consultation does not stand up. No representative percentage (30% for validity) Comments by invitation. What - in detail are the disadvantages of not having a second tier, when the whole idea of the new NYC was to streamline? What happens to the current infrastructure assets of HBC?
It's just another way for people at the top to milk the public dry and stick your noses in the gravy tray. Also it wouldn't be listened to anyway by the new morons who have taken over.
Just another expense that isn't required having lived for many years in a parish council any objections raised by the council were hardly ever licensed to and it will be the same under the new authority
Just another political machine that will be a job for the boys
Just another unnecessary tier of management
Just creates another un-necessary level of bureaucracy!
Just don't think it's necessary. Just keep it all under Harrogate Borough
Just doubling up why scrap it in the first place its worked now just reinventing the wheel
Just more jobs for the boys and girls
Just replace one Council with another waste of money we were advised that a Italy Authority would be more efficient and better value so why add another money pit into the equation
Less than 2% of the population voted for this additional tier of costs
Looking at the last survey you only received a very small response, so if this was to become law you need to get a better response from the 59K people that live in the Harrogate District. There must be a reason for Harrogate council to be disbanded and go under North Yorkshire and I for one would be very unhappy to pay another £60 per annum for this council. I wrote to our present councillor about the potholes in our Ward - did I ever get a reply - NO. Perhaps this idea of council should be reviewed once the transition has taken place, I vote NO.
Looking at the predicted running costs for a town council, the number of councillors and services they will be responsible for is a waste of money this can be done with half the number of people
Make sure you use the word "Council" to avoid being muddles with Harrogate Town (Football Cub
More bureaucracy, another level not necessary. The level of response to this doesn't justify action.
more bureaucracy, higher council tax
More cost and red tape
More costs
More costs
More costs on an already expensive council tax bill
More councillors more expensive. More jobs for the boys

More jobs for the boys
More money, Harrogate council failed the local population with poor decisions on infrastructure and planning decisions that have ruined large areas of town
More tax payers money squandered
More Tory waste
My council rates are enormous already. A further £60+ for minor benefits, I do not want to pay - for a further 19 councillors and offices etc. 934 people does not represent a significant proportion of Harrogate population for you to go ahead. we do not need another tier of local government
My council tax is already too high.
New to the area but does look as it's needed
No due to extra charges that will levied
No idea what functions they will have, no idea what it will cost. Danger of it becoming more and more bloated with admin and more expensive
No need for extra charges to residents
No need for yet another layer of bureaucracy, which will in turn lead to increased taxes.
No, no, no, complete waste of money.
North Yorkshire Council can deal with everything, so why would we need a town council - at extra cost
North Yorkshire council created to save money, then set up another level of officials to make decisions.
Not cost effective
Not necessary as there is a new council which is responsible for encompassing this function. Also, it is not sensible as people just can't afford anymore - for no increase in tangible services.
Not needed
Not needed it's just jobs for the lads, total waste of our money.
Not needed, another waste of money and probably useless as its predecessor
Not needed, we have our own councillor for North Yorks so why duplicate and waste money appointing 19 expensive local councillors, it doesn't make sense at all
Not paying for it
Not required
Not sure the cost is worth the very limited powers it would have.
Not sure what value this will bring. It's another layer of bureaucracy
Nothing I have read has altered my opinion that a Harrogate Town Council would be worth the cost of setting it up and of maintaining such a council
NYC is being introduced on the basis of saving money. Already my council tax has increased by 5%. There are councillors already representing Harrogate on the new NYC therefore Harrogate will be represented. I will not pay anymore council tax to pay for a talking shop.
One of the points of reorganisation was to save money and reduce the number of councillors. Why introduce another layer of time wasters.
Our previous council, Harrogate Borough Council dealt with the functions satisfactorily, why create another layer of bureaucracy when NYC can do the same and without a Town Council precept. If the town council wish to pursue option 1 it should be put to the vote, it is called democracy, this is how it was dealt with in Pannal a few years ago. The present arrangement lacks transparency.
pay enough already for poor services and have to travel for basic shops like Wilko's and B&M looking around the town it's depressing looks like Rotherham so No to paying more we pay enough .
Pay enough already, need lass red tape not more!!!
Paying a sufficient amount of council tax at the moment so an additional layer of government isn't needed.
People cannot afford it
Pointless, powerless, ego trip

Prefer the name 'Harrogate Council' for simplicity
Purely based on cost-it is not needed
Reading the leaflet it seems like a way to milk more money from residents for the exact same crumbling services. A total joke.
Reorganisation should not result in residents having to pay even more. In fact, assuming synergies from fewer overpaid "executives" and their guilt-edged pension arrangements, we should be paying much less. This proposal is utterly cloth eared and has no mandate whatever. It is therefore entirely anti-democratic
Rising costs of living do not need another layer of government to heap yet more costs onto the average person
Seems an unnecessary layer of authority and cost
Seems stupid making another layer after losing a layer
Single tier NYC is required
So far the County Council have given no comment on what the Town Council would provide. Until you tell us what function it will fulfil I can't support it. Parish Councils don't generally deliver services, they're ignored by the planning authority when it suits them and this won't change with the new Authority. It's another layer of government that we don't seem to need. Tell me what it is my taxes are paying for BEFORE you set it up, not as an afterthought.
So having got rid of Harrogate Borough Council you immediately propose to bring it back? And to charge extra money for the privilege! So..tell me again what was all the kerfuffle about having a Unitary level of government? You are presumably now requiring me to have 2 councillors but one with much less powers). This is just increasing the bureaucracy that a unitary authority was supposed to reduce. And the parish council? Zero useful powers. I give you 0 stars. (E)
Sounds like political types wanting to interfere and destroys the whole rationale behind the change
Surely the abolition of HBC and merging of all the other council's into one was to save money not create more expense
Thank you for sending me the CGR document for Scarborough instead of Harrogate. I have read the recommendations for Harrogate online. I believe that NYC are capable of adequately providing the services described in the recommendation without the extra cost and bureaucracy associated with the restoration of an additional layer of local government.
The continued desire to spend money on politicians' pet projects. They talk in millions of cost as though it is minimal whilst the taxpayers talk in pennies.
The cost a lot money
The cost is too high
The cost of it
The council we have is useless why would we go through devolution just to have another useless council demanding hard earned money from us
The extra cost is not worth doing premises ,heating, lighting, telephones, IT etc could not be justified
The first response was so low it does not show a true representation of the areas wishes. I believed the new County Council is conceived to cover and administer all areas surely that was the point of devolution. We do not need more red tape and another body to administer us. Certainly not more Councillors to pay.
The increase are an absolute disgrace! The services in Harrogate are an embarrassment and all should be ashamed of your ineptitude.
The interests of Harrogate can be served from North Yorkshire Council. A town council only benefits the interests of those seeking local status. As Harrogate grows, increasing parts of the town will be outside of the proposed town council area. Also, what control is there over future increases in the charge?
The new council will be a unitary authority - this says it all. The new council is being paid to provide all the services which, by law, it is required to supply. We do not need any more councillors, which we will have to pay for, as the "work" they will do is being done by the new unitary authority. The cost of this extravagance is not needed and it is not wanted by the majority of people in Harrogate. Most of these people will be afraid to say so. The new council is already short of millions to cover its budget and if the accounts are kept honestly it will show that this pantomime will cost more rather than less - just like the last reorganisation!!

The new North Yorkshire Council was supposed to be a cost efficient move and not cost us more to have worse representation.
The new unitary authority will have Harrogate councillors to represent the interests of Harrogate and the new authority will deliver all services and is committed to keeping services local. So a new Harrogate town council is an unnecessary duplication and will add expense to local council tax payers
The number of votes received in response to the 2022 consultation is minuscule compared to the number of eligible voters and represents a lack of interest in forming a Parish for Harrogate except by a very tiny and unrepresentative minority. The operating cost of running a Parish would be better spent by the new NYC to deliver essential services. The cost of running a parish would place an additional financial burden on Harrogate residents. There will be adequate elected representation from Harrogate on the new NYC to ensure the views of residents are heard. The powers of a parish council would be peripheral to the core services delivered by the new NYC
The Parish Council will have no power and no representation in North Yorkshire Council, just a body of people meeting up and discussing what they cannot do! Costing the local residence an extra £60.00 a year.
The potential benefits of a town council do not outweigh the additional cost
The proposal seems to have been based on responses from a very small proportion of the Harrogate electorate made last year when very little publicity was given to the consultation. I consider that the suggested services which a town council will be responsible for will already have been paid for under the new unitary authority to be known as North Yorkshire Council with inputs from the elected North Yorkshire Council councillors.
The recommendation is based on responses from a very small % of the Harrogate population who already pay a large amount in council tax for the services which would be the responsibility of the proposed town council. Electing 19 councillors to look after the proposed services together with the associated costs of maintaining a council is not proportionate and does not offer any meaningful value to residents.
The reorganisation of local government in North Yorkshire was predicated on establishing a unitary authority-a one tier structure but now we are told that a second low level tier with no statutory duties is proposed with an indeterminate cost
The services which a parish council could provide are already provided by the unitary authority. Any service from the parish will be subject to the "expert" guidance of council officers. Due to the geographical area of the parish the commercial interests will be favoured over the wishes of the residents. Whilst it is accepted that for a town to flourish it needs thriving businesses. I would not wish to fund a level of what is probably irrelevant local government with its accompanying expenses. With such an underwhelming response to the initial consultation it is clear that the majority of the residents did not engage with the process. Is this because we feel that there is no point based on past experience of "local democracy"?
The whole idea of merging the councils was to lower costs - not increase them for the tax payer. Unless there is proper accountability these types of councils can be a law to themselves.
The whole notion of a unified NYCC was to increase efficiency and save money. Whilst the proposals may do that for NYCC, the precept for Harrogate council will INCREASE cost for taxpayers. This is not acceptable in the current climate. The proposals also do not include any detail on alternatives. Why can this not be covered by NYCC? Creating another level of bureaucracy goes against the principles of unification.
The whole point of unitary authorities was to save costs, a town council would increase costs and would basically be a "talking shop". Our elected councillors for Harrogate are there to look after our interests.
The whole purpose of the unitary authority is to get rid of these layers of bureaucracy
There is a cost of living crisis & no truthful justification. NYC has mis-represented the figures of previous survey making it look like 74.7% when in fact this was of a low actual response of 3%. Manipulative & dishonest. NYC will be legally held to account.
There is a huge paradox: the current council tax for Harrogate Borough Council is able to support the current slate of services and is already the highest rate (Band D) of the districts and will remain the highest. Adding a "parish" with an additional precept will have an additional administrative cost to support the parish councillors and support staff, and the "powers" that the parish could exercise are those already provided by Harrogate Borough Council, which should be continued by NYC. North Yorkshire Council should absorb all the cost of Harrogate Town Council, since NYC now has the Harrogate money already. Adding £40 per household to general £1.4 million to spend will bring precious little opportunity to make any difference in Harrogate that should not be provided by NYC anyway. I am very wary of a "consultation" which seeks to make conclusions on a very small response rate (and moreover a response which appears to put no restrictions on multiple replies).

There is already a cost of living crisis, the local food banks are crying out for donations. This added cost of the proposition will only add to the demands of the food banks and will increase poverty. The cost might not seem large to some but to others it can be the price between eating and heating.
There is no need for another layer of public sector costs. The new North Yorkshire Council should be focused on creating efficiency savings and reduce Council tax.
There is no need for this additional layer of governance
They would be a talking shop and never finish anything of value
This change was about cutting costs, we are now told we will be charged more for a town council to be formed?! This makes no sense when people have lost their jobs on this cost saving operation.
This consultation gives no information about what a town council does and what would happen if did t have one
This is a waste of my already expensive council tax. Services were centralised to the new NY Council to streamline & save costs, so why abolish a local council then set another one up at more expense. Does not make sense.
This is just another bureaucratic layer and an extra expense on the already expensive council tax.
This level of local Government goes against the whole concept of the coming changes, replacing the present outdated Borough Council with a new Town Council. That would appear to have less authority than the present and we are supposed to pay more for this toothless agency. What we were told was an exercise to simplify an outdated system and reduce costs, looks suspiciously like a reinvention of the wheel, all changed but staying the same. I need convincing but suspect the decisions have already been made! The responses from previous consultations have been ignored, or disregarded due to low returns, this I fear is the Local Population showing their response to The Borough Councils inability to produce worth noting, apart from ridiculous cycle ways, expensive parking systems(That disappeared from the triumph headlines very quickly)to schemes that seem to be change for changes sake. Not a great track record. The less levels of bureaucracy the better.
This survey is a total waste of time and money , questions not relevant, relevant questions not asked e.g. do you agree with the extra cost , kinds of services could be more appropriate for our area , you say about the setting up costs so what about the equipment from the old Harrogate district? POT HOLES, The state of Harrogate Town Centre its self ??? Not a nice place to live anymore so bother.
This will create additional bureaucracy and cost.
This will create another layer of civil servants duplicating what could be done by the new council, at extra expense to the council tax payer.
This would completely negate the point of merging the borough and county councils. The additional council tax would be a complete waste.
Thought this new authority was to save money & this Town Council will cost ratepayer more!
To expensive (council tax is already too much without paying more for a parish council with very little powers)
To reduce costs and reduce bureaucracy only one council is required
Too costly
Too expensive. Too many councillors. Would be happy with a parish council if it were at a similar cost to Knaresborough, but anticipated cost for our property could be up to £100 per year. It seems crazy that we are moving to a unitary council to reduce costs, but then adding extra costs by creating a Town Council with 19 councillors. We had previously had Harrogate Borough Council and this seems to be replicating what we previously had, but with extra costs.
Too many levels of bureaucracy
Too much for the little powers it will have
Too much new bureaucracy - so why did we have the new Council in the first place.
Too much unnecessary levels of bureaucracy. Waste of money. No faith in the potential councillors.
Total waste of time and monies as Harrogate will. Have no input in future nycc decisions
Totally unnecessary and add an unwanted cost to the council tax which will not be value for money
Totally waste of money and incompetent hob ,hence new NYC if hbc were any good why replacement. Have experienced hbc over 74 years.

Unclear what the council would be responsible for. Additional cost unpalatable. Adding back additional, layers of bureaucracy. We should wait and give North Yorkshire opportunity to deliver. Perhaps the challenge should be to the areas that have parish councils, are they delivering value??
Unnecessary
Unnecessary level of unaffordable bureaucracy. Tell the voters it will probably be another £1 a week when asking opinions.
Unnecessary additional layer of bureaucracy which the taxpayer will be charged for. The new body will have virtually no powers. A waste of time and money.
Unnecessary bureaucracy ,duplication, complete waste of money which would be better given to the new north Yorkshire council
Unnecessary bureaucracy and cost for absolutely no additional benefit to anyone except to those appointed as councillors or staff!
Unnecessary cost for little gain
Unnecessary duplication and needless additional cost with questionable upside benefit.
Unnecessary extra tier
Unnecessary waste of more taxpayers' money. Town Council will be as ineffective as the North Yorkshire council and the HBC it replaced. I'd much rather only have to pay once for Councillors playing party politics rather than public interests, an additional levy for a "local council who won't listen or be listened too" is just another stealth tax.
Unnecessary waste of public money, particularly at the present time due to excessive rise in cost of living
Unnecessary waste of taxpayers' money.
Waste of money
Waste of money
Waste of money
Waste of money
Waste of money
Waste of money
Waste of money
Waste of money
Waste of money
Waste of money and more tax for residents
Waste of money for very little benefit
Waste of money they will have no powers
Waste of money, Councillors are just wasting more taxpayer money on stupid schemes
Waste of money, waste of time.
Waste of money, you have no idea what it will do, other than spend money
Waste of money.
Waste of public money comes to mind
We already had a Harrogate council
We already pay enough for local government this just adds another layer
WE ARE ALREADY PAYING £200 MORE THAN LEEDS BAND E AND DONT WANT ANY MORE COSTS
We are getting rid of 1 tier of government. Why create another?
We are in a cost of living crisis, how do you expect us to find money for another bill?
We are just getting rid of one tier of council, we do not need to replace it
We do not know what powers Harrogate Town Council would have. Will the new councillors receive financial remuneration? How can we vote on something so nebulous?

We do not know what powers it will have.
We do not need another layer of government. And it is a waste of money.
We do not need another tier of "government" which would involve more councillors. We pay enough council tax without having an additional precept.
We do not need more councillors.
We don't require a parish council that's more expense people can't afford
We don't need another layer of governance
We finally got rid of the expense of Harrogate County Council. There should not be any more bureaucracy, expense and influence in terms of operating a separate Town Council
We have been let down so much in the past by Harrogate Council. There is an urgency to spend a huge amount on infrastructure. The road we live on needs completely rebuilding, it is full of potholes and the pavements are dangerous. What on earth would a town council do to rectify this ,it just means our council tax will increase again
We have enough councillors, having more I presume would be an increase in council tax? We already pay more than enough of this!!
We have just got rid of the borough council so we would we need a parish council aren't they the same thing?
We have managed without a town council in the past, why add additional layers of cost to our already ever increasing bills.
We have NYC that is enough no need for additional costs, bureaucracy and 'red tape' for Harrogate. I am very happy with the unparished status.
We have one in Wetherby and the cost has more than doubled for the current year to cover councillors' wages. It is not worth the money as we do not see any benefit from it. I have family who live in Harrogate and will be recommending that they object to this as we see no benefit from it.
We just abolished one layer of government, there is no need for a powerless layer to be created
We need to keep Council tax as low as possible & this has not been justified
We pay enough in Council Tax as it is.
We pay far too much out to councils do not add another on. when your lot are getting payments of a 120 k in payoffs then starting back employment with the council again so we are dead against this
We should try without a parish council until the new county council has had at least 24 months to become established.
We want less interference, not more!
We will already have an elected representatives for each future" parish" on the NY council. This will be a duplication of work effort and aims for which we will have to pay extra. Councillors representing Harrogate town parishes should form a Town sub committee for dealing with related town issues.
What a waste of money when people are struggling financially
What will it do? The consultation documents don't say. I can't vote for something when I don't know what it will do.
When the idea is to reduce bureaucracy in order to increase efficiency, there is no point in replicating the past system giving rise to increased costs to the residents of the town.
While I did not subscribe to the formation of the new council and the dissolution of the Harrogate Borough Council, that is now a fait accompli, and I acknowledge that there are certain benefits in the new arrangement. The formation of a new Harrogate Town Council would confuse the issue and lead to uncertainty among the public as to where responsibility for future decisions lay. For many years the public perception has been that Harrogate Borough Council was responsible for virtually everything, and the public was unaware that actually the County Council was responsible for the spending of the greatest part of our local taxes. This was reflected in poor turnout of voters in most County Council elections. The formation of a new watered down Harrogate Town Council would perhaps satisfy those who fancy wielding local power, but would be a completely unnecessary expense.
Whilst in principle I believe that local authority decisions should be taken as locally as possible (and so would tend to support the idea of a Town Council), I don't feel that I can have a view on this proposal which only gives an idea of what such a council could do rather than what it will do. Similarly, how can I form a judgement without knowing what this is going to cost? In any event, the whole things seems counter intuitive in that the reorganisation is

aimed at eliminating a tier of administration, supposedly in the interests of economy and efficiency, and then immediately introducing a new layer of administration.
Whilst this local government takeover may be good for Northallerton it's an absolute mess for the rest of us. We still end up in a position where there are 2 councils, but most of the important decisions are made miles away right at the far northern edge of the county by a leading group of Tories, none of which represent our town (the biggest in North Yorks). It is an absolute mess and leaves us with no real local government. We're now thrown a few scraps whereby we can have a local town council with no meaningful power and pay extra council tax for it. This is an absolute joke. Does anyone honestly think this is what the people of Harrogate want? Can anyone really argue that this is better for the people of Harrogate? A County Council focussed on the rural economy. Harrogate town needs closer links to the Leeds City region, Northallerton just view Harrogate as a cash cow. This whole thing stinks. We never got any input into the bits of the reorganisation that mattered and now we're been asked to pay more for less control. Excuse my language, but this is honestly an absolute piss take.
Why create another council!! We had one. Useless but acceptable.
Why do we need people to be in charge as well as NYCC when they couldn't do what they were supposed to?
Why do we need yet another level of government and bureaucracy?
Why don't we see how the much heralded unitary authority performs.
Why get rid of Harrogate Borough Council only to replace it with more of the same. The last lot did not exactly cover themselves with glory.
Why help to create another tier of bureaucracy especially
Why pay twice, let North Yorkshire Council cover everything, we don't need another layer of bureaucracy.
Why pay twice??
Why remove one level of local government and then create another AT EXTRA COST. NYCC will be getting more than enough money to reduce their Council Tax by the same amount as the precept that Harrogate will charge. That would be a much fairer solution.
Why re-organise into a Unitary Authority then almost replicate the previous model? I think residents want a clear idea of who is responsible for what in order to stop passing the buck which happens now.
Why would I want to pay even more council tax, why do we need another tier on local government
Why would we need one surely the new council will take over everything.
Will cost extra Council Tax. The area I'm in has a Parish precept but I have no idea what they do. Nothing is ever improved in our area, it seems a complete waste of money. I would abolish all the Parish Councils. No point in going through all these changes to become one Authority which appears to have put us in debt already then forming yet more Town Councils to put it back to almost how it was. I also don't see the need for funding a Mayor. Concentrate on working together within the NY authority now it's been done rather than throwing more money away and costing residents yet more money during a cost of living crisis.
Yes the cost is too much for some home owners
Yes. There appears to be an assumption in the first paragraph of 'Community Governance Review - Harrogate' that a parish or town council WILL be created. I very strongly feel that neither should be created. Parish Councils do absolutely nothing for the community. They are simply yet another drag on local people's finances which can barely sustain any more. It is bad enough that Council Tax has been increased so much by a Council who don't listen and just carry on in their own little bubble making a mess of everything. Oh! I see the assumption continues below! Why are you wasting everyone's time
Yes. The initial response was not statistically significant, so the views are invalid. There is no need for a Town Council made up of self-important busy bodies, telling me what I want at a cost. You want 19 of these self-important people all of whom will want some form of reward for their self-promotion, usually in a form of a Councillors Allowance. This will cost me as a ratepayer money. The Harrogate Council was inept, there was no one Councillor who had any real ability. My Tory Councillor was just dross. Town Councils elsewhere are poor, have poor quality representation and achieve little.
Yet another unnecessary level of administration that will cost council tax payers
You are asking us to agree a precept which is an unknown amount. What activities are to be transferred to HPC?
You cannot get rid of one council, give no reduction in bills then create another and put more costs on people

You want our thoughts about an additional Town Council for Harrogate.... A waste of money
You've asked for feedback. Here is how I feel after reading the leaflet that came through my door yesterday: I live in a rented home in council tax band D, which I have lived in since June 2003. Since 2008, when the economy tanked and this government began imposing 15 years of austerity upon us, followed by Brexit, Covid, the cost of living crisis and one bad news story after another, life has become more and more miserable with each passing week. The last decade, my family and I have simply not been able to keep up. We've got behind with our council tax and it has been a financially crippling and soul crushing experience trying to catch up. We can take no more. I know we are not alone. What this leaflet seems to be proposing is a potential further increase in our council tax bill of £40-60 a year. Nobody I know can carry on like this and let's be honest here, it will be much more than that won't it? No doubt once introduced it will also increase rapidly every year. And for what exactly? As far as I can see reading the leaflet, nothing more than we already have. The council tax in this town has risen enough in recent times and yet services have completely crumbled. Its rubbish frankly. Let's not even get on to the state of our roads. The impact on motoring costs and repairs has been significant to myself and is one of the reasons why I first got behind with our council tax payments. Now you are saying we will have to pay even more. I really cannot use the words I want to say here. I note in the leaflet that objections to the creation of a town council are based on fears over increases to council tax and a belief that it would be a waste of money. Let's be brutally honest here, these are well founded fears and beliefs because that's exactly what it will be. It's a disgrace. If an increase in our bills meant things were going to improve then I'm sure that there would be less resistance but it's clear that services are getting worse year on year despite all of the increases. It feels like we are all getting bled dry simply because you can. I am sickened, appalled and defeated by how things are going. It's little wonder that suicide rates are increasing. Shame on you all.

Comments for not sure responses

Agree in principle but why two councillors per parish, surely one should be sufficient therefore reducing unnecessary costs especially expenses.
Although the initial budget and powers will be tiny I think in the long run Harrogate needs local governance and this will be a beginning.
Another layer of cost. If there are such huge savings to be made by becoming North Yorkshire County Council why do we have to pay a Parish Precept? I pay a lot of council tax, even with the 25% single person reduction, and feel it is just another way to raise more income.
Any change which will hasten the repairs to the dreadful roads in Harrogate has my vote.
As long as it is not creating a two tier authority by stealth and introducing more bureaucracy I am in favour of it
At the moment there is not enough information to give an informed view and the proposal seems to be being rushed through before even the new Council can have a clear understanding about how this would work, what it would cost and what responsibilities would be taken on. Would it be better for the new Council to have a period of time with responsibility for all the services covering Harrogate and gain a better understanding of what could/should be delegated to a town council?
call me paranoid but the map of Harrogate divided is not /never going to be low traffic neighbourhood and never introduce a ULEZ to Harrogate
Confusing references to Town Council and Parish Council in your correspondence. Letter dated Feb23 states 75% of respondents preferred a town council while the leaflet says ~75% preferred a parish council. Are these terms one and the same? Very confusing that the proposal is for a parish council called Harrogate Town Council. More clarity on this would be helpful please.
Could the allotment arrangements remain with the Harrogate council? Oatlands has always found them efficient and would prefer to continue.(E)
Council tax is already higher in Harrogate than in many other parts of North Yorkshire and many people could be reluctant to support an option which comes at a cost to the householder without seeing any tangible benefit.
Do we need yet another layer of governance?
Don't feel I have a clear understanding of what powers a town council would have, thus what benefits it would bring for an ever increasing charges.
EXTRA COST TO MY ALREADY INCREASED COUNCIL TAX

Harrogate councillors are represented on NYCC - what are they doing that is different from their HBC roles? Will we be paying more for the same services as previously?
Harrogate is extending westwards from Saltergate. Surely your new devolved units should recognise reality, and not hark back to Killinghall's feudal grazing rights.
Harrogate was perfectly well represented before, but the council is being merged into North Yorks - we do still need representation, but a new Town Council simply feels like an extra layer of expensive bureaucracy.
Harrogate with its history, commercial value, population and visitor input deserves a town council
How much will it cost me? What powers will it have?
How will this be paid for?
I agree that Harrogate's representations on any matter affecting it should always be fully made known and considered. However cannot our councillors on the North Yorkshire County Council do this as part of their function? Is an extra layer of council and its cost really necessary? The main purpose of the reorganisation was to reduce bureaucracy and cost.
I am 86 years old and have seen all of this stuff before, and it never gets any better. 1974 did not improve on things before that, and I am sure that this new structure will be found to be unworkable in due course. You cannot govern, as a Unitary Authority (used to be called a County Borough in my youth), areas that stretch from Skipton to Scarborough and Richmond to Selby all from Northallerton. The future will prove this to be true, probably after I am gone. To leave us with a Town Council with a budget of a mere £1.6m, enough to choose Fairy lights, is an insult. It is not worthy of the cost. I give you one example of the stupidity of things. We have, in Harrogate, one of the largest hospitals in the area, but when it needs dialogue about freeing up beds, it has to negotiate with Northallerton. I also believe that all Health Care should be part of Local Government. We should break up the NHS. Roads and footpaths are another issue that need very local control. So:- There should be a County Borough of Harrogate and Knaresborough. We have our own MP so why not our own local government? Everything governed from HERE. Mark my words! You will see!
I am apprehensive regarding the additional costs of a town council and whether having a town council will actually result in the voice of Harrogate being heard amongst all the others and what benefits Harrogate residents will actually see.
I am not that jazzed about paying more council tax for this - I thought the point of uniting the councils was to save money....
I am unsure if there will be any real benefit for local residents as we are not currently listened to with regards to the horrific increase in volumes of traffic on our local roads or the incredible number of new homes being built in our town without proper infrastructure being put in place before new homes are built e.g., schools, nhs services, roads, air quality, traffic congestion at school times etc. How much would this add onto the council tax? In order for a new town council to be effective it would actually need to listen and act upon the concerns of local residents.
I am writing in response to your letter of February 2023. I am writing as a concerned and engaged citizen of Harrogate, and specifically, as a resident of the area that would be covered by Harrogate Town Council. I am actively involved in a number of local organisations, but I am not representing their views. I have responded to an earlier survey on this matter and made clear that it was impossible for a rational person to come to a view about the proposed Council with the information made available. In my view, that continues to be the case. Why on earth would I want to vote for a further layer of bureaucracy - the leaflet alludes to this on the back page - and then pay it to provide the services I already receive from NYC? This is quite simply inviting me to pay twice. Also on the back page there is a rather vague statement: "The new council would support local councils to take control of local services and facilities and would be open to funding the arrangements." But what does this mean? Are "the arrangements" merely the costs of setting up the governance processes, or are they the full costs of delivering those services? What does "open to funding" mean? Either NYC proposes to fully fund, fund some elements, or not to fund? Which is it? This appears to be an enormous waste of money consulting on a most ill-defined project. There is no way for me to form a coherent view. Have I missed some important information that has been published elsewhere? If so, please point me to it. May I suggest this exercise be paused until a clearly costed proposition can be put to the people of Harrogate, so that we can make a balanced judgement.
I believe we do need a NON-POLITICAL Town Council, having members chosen for their ability to do the job allocated to them. They need the correct knowledge, training and experience to be non-prejudiced, but able to do that job correctly and efficiently. In no way must they bend to any political persuasion during the course of that work.

I did agree but if it's going to increase council tax then I change my mind to no!
I don't see why we will be paying extra for something that was previously included in council tax
I had thought that the new unitary authority would produce a more streamlined organisation and less bureaucracy. I had assumed that the councillors we elected to the unitary authority would fight our corner as part of their job. So I was surprised at the perceived necessity to create a new Harrogate Town Council in addition to the unitary authority will. I do not want Harrogate to be at a disadvantage with respect to the rest of North Yorkshire, so if this is necessary, so be it. However, I am stunned that this proposal will mean that I am expected to pay MORE for the privilege of having an extra tier of government, which will in the end simply be administering the same things as the old council. I am struggling to understand how a change which is supposed to have made things more streamlined is now going to result in me getting the same service but at a higher price.
I have already completed the on line survey. I have the following further comment. Local democracy issue. No double hatters. In the interest of local democracy, a Harrogate Councillor should not be allowed to represent a ward both on the County Council and the Parish council. Separation of powers and centre of decision making. Unless the Crime and Police Commissioner has a regular consultation process with Parish Councils, then Harrogate PC should have a. Police Liaison Committee as a forum to discuss/ recommend Police strategy and crime issues in Harrogate. Parish Council consultation in influencing / advising on Community Transport schemes / Community Centres.
I have no idea what the implications would be.
I hope that any Harrogate Council would retain responsibility for managing allotment associations and parks and open spaces as the present system works well.
I supported the idea of the new bigger North Yorkshire County Council to supposedly provide a more efficient service with cost savings. As this looks increasingly unlikely and now having the additional cost to provide a Harrogate Town Council I am very dismayed and feel we may have been better staying with the old system.
I think I agree but not if it will end up costing me - can't afford anything more
I was not in favour of having two layers of administration because of the complexity and cost but I see that the majority want a Town Council so have to go along with it. My concern now relates to the proposed councillors. I have lived in Harrogate for 46 years and seen councillors come and go. Overwhelmingly they seem to be tarred with the same brush, 'all talk and no action' when it comes to responding to residents needs and comments about local affairs and problems. No wonder there is a poor opinion of politicians in general. Is there not some way of vetting/ electing our new councillors to ensure that they are of quality and satisfactorily proactive and reactive? Reaching for the stars I guess!!
I would have little confidence in a new Council if it is made up of the same people that have served Harrogate so poorly in recent years. I would be more supportive if I knew that the majority of elected officials were new to the Council without all the current \historic baggage that has seen much infighting and poor decisions made that have not been in the best interests of Harrogate
I would like a parish council, but feel that the proposed cost is too high. If it cost the same as Knaresborough pays, that would be acceptable but it is several times that. I don't see why, being only a couple of miles away, Harrogate would be so expensive. Perhaps the number of councillors could be halved as the expenses they get is at an hourly rate of more than many people earn. Alternatively, halve their expenses. Harrogate Borough Council was very good. I am very sorry we have to go to a unitary authority as previously North Yorkshire has been very inefficient.
If it means paying even more on our council tax bill as well as harmonisation and having a mayor and anything else that might crop up in the future then I am not in favour. It seems to me, and having read the headlines regarding your salaries and confidence that you are entitled to them at the top, that you believe we are all made of money though very few have the gold-plated, index-linked pension to look forward to. I have just had a seven percent rise in my rent bill and yet it doesn't stop there. You are telling us that savings will be made but it is obvious that we are not going to be due any reductions - and I am not sure what the government is thinking of and "out of touch" does seem appropriate (though I agree with many of their policies) - and in fact the reverse seems to be true and you all seem to believe that that is ok. The word 'con' comes to mind.
If the parish council can raise revenue from things such as rental from leases and off street parking, can this revenue not be used to fund this venture rather than residents paying extra for the privilege? Surely if the parish council was cost neutral to residents that would be more attractive
In practicality I agree but imagine it will be another additional cost on the council tax bill.

In principal I'm in favour of having some form of local, democratically elected system to represent residents' views. But to justify paying an extra £60 to £70 a year on top of Council Tax (Band C), I would be much more reassured if this local council had some real teeth and wasn't just a consultative body that could be fobbed off by Northallerton. And what is Neighbourhood Planning?? Would residents, through their representatives, really have any influence or power over planning applications for instance?? And as for implying that because 75% of those who responded to the first Consultation gives the green light to go-ahead is disingenuous. 1250 of respondents is, by my calculation, only 2.29% of the current electorate of 54,496. (your figures, P3 of the Review doc.) Barely over 2% is hardly a resounding endorsement. You need to explore much more imaginatively, ways of reaching people to determine their true feelings about a new local council, and crucially, whether they're willing to pay for it.

Is it going to help the council be more proactive? As we need better communication and not going in circles with no action be taken

It depends on cost and scope of the council

It has to be run very fairly for each area and costs should not rise disproportionately in doing so! I am not sure about the value in doing so (making these changes) unless of course there is a 'sound' council who can do this. This I think, is an issue, that many people think will come unstuck, as there is always going to be competition for finances throughout the various wards. It will take more than diplomacy to achieve this! What you might propose as being 'fair' others will not see this in the same way. Infighting between wards will become a poor sight to behold!

Lacking information. No one explained to the voters why the whole change will be any benefit to them

More evidence needed that this money could not be used more equitably. Those that need it most get some benefit. As far as I can see there are no priority areas for the services, has to be aimed at benefiting the least well off in our community

Need more information on the powers and responsibilities of the town council. Could any decisions be over ridden by the unitary authority? Basically would the council have any teeth.

No idea what this is. First I have really heard of it

Not sure what you mean by unparished parts of Harrogate also why should there be an extra precept for administration purposes there isn't a separate precept for administration at the moment I don't see the difference.

Only interested if it really represents our views and does not waste money

Otherwise 77,000 people without a voice and not equal with Knaresborough, Ripon, Pateley Bridge and all the other villages in North Yorkshire

Seem sensible.

Seems extra cost that will only ever get more expensive

Thank you for your communication on this subject and I can well understand why a majority of respondents were in favour of having local input into specifically local issues. However, my opinion is that I was looking forward to the establishment of a unitary authority in Northallerton to replace the current Harrogate Council largely because in the recent past there have been some disastrous decisions made locally which have cost local tax payers a lot of money as well as massive inconvenience so I was hoping that the authority in Northallerton would be more sensible and less amateur. Specifically I am referring to the building of a cycle way on Otley Road which is the steepest road in Harrogate and which has shown to be useless to cyclists with little or no cycle traffic. Further back there was also the decision to have bicycle races in the town - the effect being that several residents were actually kept in their houses against their will until later in the day and on top of that there was no agreement that these visitors should restore West Park Stray which meant that this area had to be closed for quite a long time and it cost many thousands of pounds to repair the damage which had been made. I do not wish to bore you with the list of idiotic decisions made by the Harrogate Council and if a Town Council was formed as has been suggested I am concerned that similar decisions could be made in future. I almost do not wish to contemplate a recent plan to greatly increase the area of pedestrian only roads in Harrogate. Because I am somewhat disabled and find it difficult to walk I would no longer be able to visit the town centre. I am particularly pleased that Ripon will no longer be under control from Harrogate Council as we visit there frequently because shopping is much easier and pleasant and parking arrangements are "a dream" compared to Harrogate. I should also add that Northallerton is also better for a disabled shopper! Perhaps the best way of expressing my views on this issue is to hope that the Council in Northallerton will be more professional and less amateur. We feel that "anything is better than Harrogate Council!" so we look forward 1st April!

That people are all read facing council tax rises and cost of living without more going out.

<p>The Harrogate CGR Stage 2 document sent out says that the proposal is to create a new _parish_ and to establish a new _parish_ council and to call this Harrogate _Town_ Council. What's the difference between a parish council and a town council? Why would you establish one of a certain type then call it the other type? The whole thing is confused, especially as in question 3 above you say this new thing will be a _town_ council. The information given to us so far is messy.</p>
<p>The new North Yorkshire Council will rip all the money from Harrogate Borough Council, so any Town Council should be funded from NY funds. I haven't heard that the council tax in Harrogate will go down with the formation of the new county council; now the proponents want the council tax to go up to pay for things that we presumably have now. or haven't needed with our present budget. A proposed budget of 35,000 times £50 is £1.75 million has been suggested without knowing what it would pay for (except of course a secretariat, office space and office expenses to support the election and business dealings of 19 councillors considering who-knows-what).</p>
<p>The whole point of restructuring was to reduce costs for everyone. For both Scarborough and Harrogate residents this is clearly not the case. At no point previously was the increased cost of a town/parish council mentioned. We were not given all the facts that led us to this.</p>
<p>There is not enough information provided to decide between options 1 and 2 or what other options are available. Just to emphasise that we can't have an opinion without the information. I thought that this form would provide this.</p>
<p>Unfortunately the very things I despair of locally will not be under the remit of a town council. And I fear funding to our new authority will not reach us in Harrogate as the area is vast and Harrogate is considered "rich"</p>
<p>Unsure if this is too many wards - lack of centrality, from my experience, has led to slow and inconsistent decision making</p>
<p>Until information on the responsibilities and powers of this new council have been made clear, it is impossible to make an informed decision on whether a new town council is a good idea.</p>
<p>Until the responsibilities of the proposed council are defined, it is impossible to decide if I want one. The leaflet gives a list of possibilities, yet does not define what a Harrogate Town Council would actually do. And nowhere is the mention of responsibility for The Harrogate Stray that is currently governed by The Stray Act. Neither does the leaflet indicate that if a Harrogate Town Council is created to take the responsibilities for some or all of the list, whether there would be any reduction in the North Yorkshire Council charges (NYC will be doing those things starting 1 April 2023, so must have budgeted for them). This survey is asking residents to vote for an elected body who will then decide what it wants to do, assuming that NY will allow it to do those things - this is not devolution! Proposed devolved powers MUST be defined BEFORE residents decide whether or not they want them.</p>
<p>Until we know precisely what the new Harrogate town council will be responsible for, we cannot comment on whether it will be worth the money</p>
<p>What would be their purpose? Don't understand why we now have a unitary county council and are expected to pay extra for a parish council. What am I voting for? How would it benefit Harrogate residents and what powers would they have?</p>
<p>Why get rid of HBC and replace it with HTC?</p>
<p>Why should we now pay for something that is being taken away from us? The decision to abolish HBC to gain better economies of scale should have taken into account the financial cost of re-establishing a local decision making authority for the Harrogate area. It shows how badly thought out the original proposition to take over HBC was - it's completely flawed logic. North Yorkshire's most economically important town is again let down.</p>
<p>Will there be a representative for each 'ward' within the Town Council?</p>
<p>Yes, but worries over lack of budget/income and will it take on too many liabilities, e.g. who is responsible for the Royal Hall or the Royal Baths complex, Valley Gardens, The Stray?? Might be better to have smaller Parish Councils such as those for Killinghall, Calcutt etc.</p>
<p>Yes, I'm furious you are consulting us on this but didn't consult us on whether we wished to become North Yorkshire Council area in the first place. I don't understand why you have given us so little information about what this actually means for Harrogate and why as a town we have handed over so much of our local decision-making to North Yorkshire when I understood the principle nationally is that decision-making should be made more relevant locally. If the state of Harrogate roads since Harrogate lost control of their maintenance is indicative of how life will be under North Yorkshire I have no confidence in our future as Harrogate residents.</p>
<p>You mention that a Parish Council could be responsible for Parks and Open Spaces. To date this has been the case with NYCC responsible for highways and weed clearing and it has always been pretty chaotic. Also there is currently</p>

a lack of qualified horticultural leadership in Harrogate Parks and Environmental Services Dept. and we were hoping that the current team might benefit from leadership from a higher level of expertise. In fact the entire proposal seems like an intention to recreate what we are supposed to be getting rid of plus it will cost money to sustain.

Q6 Comments on warding arrangements recommendations

Comments for yes (agree) responses

19 councillors are excessive and will be expensive- one per ward is enough.
Against the proposal but if it does go ahead would not want different boundaries.
Agree.
All looks fine
Allocation proportion is relatively in line with population.
Already exist and understood.
Alternatively you cud have used the old Harrogate Borough Council wards
But should also include the parished areas not already covered by a town council and civic mayor.
But there are too many councillors in your proposal - suggest one per ward
Consistency makes sense
Cost effective keeping to the same boundaries
Decide local issues locally
Good idea - having separate wards will cause confusion.
Happy with Oatlands
I agree in principle, however, according to the map of the proposed town council, it appears my property falls just outside the Saltergate ward and outer boundary of the town council (even though my address is "Saltergate Drive"!) I am therefore unclear as to what this would mean for me? The information on the CGR page is quite confusing with regards to exactly what constitutes a parished/unparished/charter trustee area.
I am supportive of the new town council having 10 wards, I value local representation
I don't recognise the wards shown, I think I am currently in Bilton and Woodfield or something like that? It doesn't really matter to me one way or another though!
I hope the representatives have sufficient powers to protect and enhance the Art within the town.
I live on the Saltergate area and wonder why we only have one representative and will we be told who this councillor will be and how to contact them?
I see this as a fair way to ensure ALL Harrogate residents have a voice
I think it is the most sensible arrangement.
If a new town council is established, then it is logical to follow the existing boundaries.
If is to go ahead I would agree
If necessary, this would mean less expenditure on changes.
If there is to be a town council this warding would make sense
IT IS A VERY GOOD WARD DIVISION.
It looks the sensible way to do it.
It makes sense to have the same wards
It seems a fair way of representing people across all the different parts of Harrogate
It seems logical to follow the same ward boundaries that are already in existence.
Just 2 areas called Oatlands?
Keeping existing boundaries has the benefit of simplicity
Keeps it aligned with the current council wards.

LIKE NOW, IF YOU HAD A PROBLEM, YOU WOULD BRING IT UP WITH YOUR LOCAL WARD REPRESENTATIVE. THIS MAKES IT IMPORTANT SO THAT ONE PERSON DOES NOT GET OVERWHELMED WITH WHOLE AREA QUERIES.
Maintains identity of different areas with different needs
Makes sense
Makes sense, when boundaries are already set up.
Maybe, keep the precept low for O.A.Ps in low banded properties.
Not sure why High Harrogate is put with the Kingsley area, They are totally different areas dissected by the cu-de-sac of Claro Road.
Note comments previously feel two per ward too many
Only because to do something different adds complication.
Only comment is that it seems odd that there are two very small boundary areas and wonder why it isn't better balanced.
Only to reassure residents and businesses that they have a voice where local issues are concerned
Please if it is going to be divided, it means that the council will be more active and would listen to our issues? We are tired of calling , emailing the council and going on circles with no action , no one interested in solving anything
Saltergate seems to be connected to Killinghall Moor. It makes less sense than the other wards as has such a small population.
Saltergate should include the whole area accessed off Jennyfield drive and be represented by 2 councillors
Satisfied with the proposals.
Saves unnecessary complications I suppose
Seem reasonably sensible to me
Seems a reasonable proposal
Seems fair
Seems important to have the same boundaries so the representatives can talk to each other about local issues in the same patches
Seems that this is the way to go. However in Knaresborough they still use the old "Wards" which each have~ 3K electorate. Each of these Wards also gave 3 councillors making approximately 1 Councillor per 1K. The proposal for Harrogate Town Council has only 2 (on the whole) per 6K of the electorate. This is therefore 3k per councillor. This is grossly unfair and needs to be sorted ASAP.
SENSIBLE
Should include e.g. Knaresborough as a staffed local branch offices also.
Some more densely populated wards such as High Harrogate and Valley Gardens may require a greater voice and additional councillors given the projected electorate and the crucial nature of these wards as an engine for sustaining Harrogate as a tourist destination.
The proposed ward names are misleading and subjective. More relevant names would be suitable. E.g. Pannal Ash Road is a long way from Oatlands area. So why is it classed as Oatlands.
There is no point in changing the existing ward structure.
These wards are established and manageable.
This seems to be the most sensible option to establish the new Town Council quickly and effectively
This will bring ease on how the council is managed...and also bringing governance close to the reach of the residents of Harrogate.
Unitary council said would save money but my council tax has gone up - why?
Unnecessary bureaucracy and cost to make any change to existing boundaries
We do not need two councillors per ward for the Harrogate Council
Why do we need this if we are now one?
Why have 2 sets of division - silly.

With the large population of Harrogate could have 3 councillors in each ward
Yes and they should be the very same people. We don't want two sets of councillors.
Yes, although how accurate the forecast for an increase in the population (electorate) is, will be worth noting as the uncontrolled building spree across the Harrogate district continues. It is becoming more obvious that little or no provision has been made for the supporting infrastructure of schools, doctors, sewage & other facilities. It seems that Harrogate Council is happy to take developers money, allow building on 'green-site land' & have little regard for the local inhabitants or the area around the town or its wildlife.
Yes, each area needs at least one representative, as each area has its own unique needs.

Comments for no (disagree) responses

Again this should have been decided.
Again too many people are involved taking up more costs to fund their accommodation, insurance etc etc. As there is unlikely to be any change as those involved in deciding are feathering their own nests, reduce the number of councillors to 4 - north, south, east and west.
Again waste of money .need to eradicate HBC errors and wasteful spending
Almost £2000! Other residents and I are seeking legal action.
Although I am in principle opposed to the idea of a new Town Council, I do feel that if it were to come to fruition, the wards should be much smaller to better reflect variations in the needs of different communities within the town.
Although I would be happy for the existing divisions to be used within a new Harrogate parish, it would be preferable for this not to include Bilton and Starbeck and for them to each have their own Parish Council.
An opportunity has been missed to reduce numbers of both wards and representatives. 21 councillors seems excessive unless the degree of local devolvement is appreciable. A smaller number of both would be much more appropriate. If it is really necessary to retain matching boundaries, then the effectively half ward of Saltergate needs to be absorbed into either of its adjacent neighbours or the boundaries redrawn to apply part to the adjoining areas. A total redrawing of boundaries to create maybe 6 wards in total with just single representation would reflect the considerable reduction in likely workload for the new councillors.
Arbitrary, out of date limits and cuts neighbours in and of what is already a potty scheme
As above this is NOT needed
As above. I object - we do not need a town council. Unitary is enough.
As above. I don't want a new town council
As answered in Q4 I do not believe another council is necessary.
As I do not agree that a Town Council is necessary, the number of wards is irrelevant.
As I don't approve of a Town Council, this question is redundant.
As it stands, the electorate of the Oatlands ward has proportionally more influence on the council. I recommend redrawing the ward boundaries such that the Oatlands ward is contiguous, and there as close to an even number of residents in each ward. Ideally Saltergate would also have two councillors as well.
As previous comments. I object to the move therefore ward boundaries are irrelevant
As the cllrs will be unpaid the wards should be smaller and based on the HBC ward boundaries
At our expense
Bilton and Nidd Gorge should be split given the proposed growth of that area
Bilton is huge Saltergate is tiny
Cost, cost and more cost for poor residents already paying over the odds!!!
Costs
Creating wards will only create divisions on the council, why not have a single parish?
Do away with wards which are meaningless to almost every voter / council tax payer and just maintain unnecessary complication.

Don't need as many wards. Harrogate is not a big place.
Don't want any
don't agree a town council is needed
Don't agree with the council so wards are not relevant.
DON'T DO IT AND SAVE THE MONEY
Don't need them at all
Don't want a council
Don't want so many small bodies
Duplicity...new councillors for NYC already elected.
For historic reasons, parts of Jennyfield are in the Parish of Beckwithshaw, but for practical purposes they are part of Harrogate town. The town council boundary should include all residential and commercial premises which are part of the town. The same is true for the new King Edwin's development adjacent to Queen Ethelburga's. The town boundary should extend W to the B6161.
Get rid of Parish Councils. Save residents money.
Harrogate residents do not want this.
I agree with the government to have one North Yorkshire Council for everyone
I am happy with the NYC no need for additional administration in Harrogate and certainly not at an extra cost on my council tax NO NO NO.
I am totally against the proposal in any form.
I cannot agree as I do not agree with the establishment of a Harrogate Town Council
I do not agree with the creation of the town council
I do not believe it is appropriate to form a Town Council for Harrogate.
I do not think there should be a new Harrogate Town Council so there would be no need for any wards.
I do not understand why you need to split it into so many wards. It seems pointless.
I do not want a Town Council
I don't feel well represented in my current ward
I has ONE councillor (HBC & NYCC) who before and after April 1st deals with absolutely everything and since April fool's day has even more folk under his single care/control to deal with EVERYTHING, I have no lower level feeder council/councillor to act for me or my very disabled wife, and yet metres away in Killinghall parish these folk enjoy this lower level democratic layer, why should these 'lucky' parishioners and other adjacent 'rural' parishioners ONLY have this advantage? PARISH AND OR TOWN Council now please!
I have been a taxi driver in Harrogate for over 30 years and we don't zone the town into 10 zones some of the smaller zones can be incorporated into the others
I imagine the elected members for North Yorkshire Council should already be representing constituents in these areas. Will this cause as much confusion as two tier local government! I worry that an additional layer may simply act to cause more confusion and conflict.
I object to another layer of bureaucracy
I prefer the wards to be based on the old Harrogate Borough Council ward boundaries
I think there are too many proposed wards. As a unified town I'd expect we become more integrated across communities and incorporate them into larger wards. Perhaps counsellors should also be mandated to be residents of those wards too.
I understand that using existing boundaries would be administratively simpler, but this creates an anomaly in electorate size for the 2 proposed wards that are only part of the existing county council divisions as they are not roughly equal in size to the other wards. It would be representatively fairer to have wards of roughly equal size.
If Killinghall Moor is to be administered by Killinghall, then so should Saltergate. Killinghall Moor is Killinghall by name only, so merge it with Saltergate to create a ward with similar electorate size to the other 9 proposed wards.
If there is to be a town council there only needs to be a n,s,e,w

If this ridiculous parish council scheme is to go ahead then the area should be divided up more equitably to ensure equal representation for all constituents. The current areas give much greater representation to some areas, consequently the scheme is undemocratic.
If we are forced into going ahead it seems unnecessary to retain these wards when the representation may be much smaller.
If we had to have a town council I'm sure it could be run by a lot less people
If you are going to force this through then I really think the boundaries should be reduced in number to reflect any appropriate representation
I'm in favour of warding but the ward boundaries should be more equal in population size
IT IS NOT NECESSARY OR WANTED!
It looks and sounds like a gravy train
It needs to take into account all the recent new properties in order to give representative consultation.
Just more division to allow right of reply to be taken away from the public.
Keep flood plain in mind
Killing hall and other areas that are part of Harrogate are excluded they should be included. Seem to be doing something new but keeping the old where obviously it should be sorted out.
Killinghall moor area should be included in the Saltergate one
Larger wards
likely to cost more to administer
Merge Saltergate - see Q10 below.
More cost, red tape and delays
Moving to a unitary council shouldn't require reinstating a further level of local government. This would increase council tax as set out in your consultation document. The running of an office and Mayoral function etc is an additional cost that isn't necessary. The new unitary council should be able to meet the needs of all towns and areas in North Yorkshire.
My main concerns looking at the proposed map, concern the outer boundary of the town council, which fails to include a number of contiguous residential developments. I appreciate that these may not be amendable in the first instance, but it would make sense to amend them as soon as possible. The map does not give the boundaries of the parish of Killinghall but: a) The remainder of Jennyfields and the new properties on the other side of the A59 as far as the Otley road (B6161) are clearly centred on Harrogate rather than Killinghall, and should become part of the Saltergate (not sure about the name) ward. b) The new properties on Penny Pot Lane as far as Oaker Bank are also centred on Harrogate and should become part of the Coppice, Valley & Duchy ward. c) If the new properties on the Otley road (B6162) near Horticap, are not included within the Harlow & St Georges ward, then they also should be included. I appreciate that the above expands Harrogate town boundaries into previous rural parishes, but the boundaries need to keep pace with the development of the town, whether or not the local councillors have local plans in place or otherwise. The internal ward boundaries in several places seem a bit strange and appear to cut across several communities. Harlow & St Georges could possibly give some more to Oatlands. Bilton Grange and New Park could give more to Saltergate. The whole of Cornwall Road, Crown and Conference centre are probably closer to Coppice Valley & Duchy, than Valley Gardens & Central. (E)
New house builds have resulted in some excessive over populated regions that were not previously the case
No answer to this as I don't agree with the principle.
No council means no need for town council wards
No council, no warding is necessary
No need for HBC anymore
No need whatsoever to have another elected group. The last lot were supposed to be looking out for the people of Harrogate, yet the people of Harrogate were and have been saddled with vast numbers of unnecessary houses and constant road works. There has been little or no extra infrastructure to go with the unwanted planning free for all.
No town council

No town council. Our councillor for Coppice never did anything.
No, the wards should cover the old Harrogate Borough Council areas not the County Divisions. i.e. Granby, Starbeck , Wedderburn etc, to give more "local" voices, I don't really think 10 wards are enough as the county ward layout is too "generic".
Not necessary
Not necessary
Not necessary.
Not needed
Not needed
Not needed
Not needed just another job for the boys
Not needed, if no Town Council.
Not required as we already have Harrogate representation through County council members
Our ward will be very large, too large for just two councillors.
Please see my previous comments on the number in the electorate. It seems unfairly divided with Saltergate having under a third compared to most of the other wards.
Pointless
Pointless
Reason as above
Saltergate is too small and should be amalgamated with one of the adjacent wards.
Save our money. This is not needed
Save the tax payer money, we don't need them.
Scrap it - what are the ACC's for?
Should Oatlands be split into 2 due to the geography and treat each part like Saltergate as there is likely to be different focuses from both sections? I also think that all the wards should be split into 2 or so each section has one town council representative as the forms at town level is tighter. i.e. Saltergate take on the edge of New Park. Split Bilton Grange and New park and all existing areas and start again from scratch. Possibly then merge Ashville, Rossett with St Georges. The current approach looks lazy and not appropriate for the new organisation. Aim for approx. 3000 voters per councillor area.
Should the ward size be increased to improve alignment
Shouldn't be a council, they are corrupt
single ward representatives are essential for clarity
Some wards appear disconnected or badly arranged and others are too small and should be merged with a larger area. Saltergate should be added to Bilton Grange & New Park, part of Harlow & St Georges should be added to Oatlands.
St. Georges should be within the larger of the two Oatlands section with the smaller Oatlands (area around the top of Pannal Ash Road and Rossett Green Lane etc. being included within the Harlow Ward.
Starbeck should not be part of Harrogate
Stop all meddling - please fill in the pot holes, empty the bins and lie down.
Stop trying to change things that aren't needed.
Ten wards is too great a division if the Town Council will have no powers except those that it can support from a precept that will be additional to the North Yorkshire County Council tax.
The arbitrary nature of the boundaries is extraordinary, presumably only meeting the criterion of population size. This is hardly likely to produce a 'local' councillor, for example in the ward including diehard detached house Tory Duchy and the small terraced housing off Skipton Road, 2 areas with absolutely nothing in common. Why 2 councillors for this mess (both of whom will be Tory) rather than 2 separate wards with one councillor? Oh, sorry,

the reason is obvious since it is a Tory council gerrymandering the boundaries for their own benefit. I should have realised that.
The costs will be too high.
The County Divisions are bigger than those used by HBC. Use those instead. They make more sense.
The map shows wards of different sizes and, therefore, varying number of Electorate (most of whom do not vote!).
The new Unified Council (NYC) is supposed to represent us covering all wards. Are you saying you cannot deliver on this?
The proposal has too many wards which will reduce the effectiveness of the council and increase costs. The Saltergate and Bilton Grange & New Park wards should be combined. The Fairfax & Starbeck ward north of the railway line should be combined with the Bilton & Nidd Gorge ward and the Fairfax & Starbeck ward south of the railway line combined with the Stray, Woodlands & Hookstone Ward. This would reduce the number of councillors by three.
The proposal is an unnecessary expensive duplication of existing arrangements
The proposed town council will by its own admission have limited powers...so why create another tier of bureaucracy especially when having to pay for it
The Saltergate ward is now smaller. This should include the WHOLE of the Saltergate estate. Why does the boundary stop half way through? Why should I be penalised and have to pay additional money for something that they will "benefit" from too? I barely go into town yet I will be expected to subsidise people who live there
The Town Council is an unnecessary complication and cost.
The whole purpose of amalgamation was to reduce bureaucracy it's not necessary to have so many wards
The whole reorganisation of local government is awful. Nobody wanted this, apart from the people in Northallerton (which lucky for them is represented by Rishi Sunak who made sure jobs stayed in his constituency). NYCC is far too big and has a terrible record of delivery for urban areas (like Harrogate). They are continually focussed on rural matters and the north of the county. This suggestion is ridiculous. Take all the powers away and then charge us more to have an elected council with no significant ability to do anything. Why not allow us to input into the real decision that was made i.e. whether we want to pay all our tax to Northallerton and be ruled by a bunch of country bumpkin Tories.
There does not seem to be a balance in the 2017 forecast electorate in the areas. Since there are proposed 2 Councillors per Ward (except for Saltergate) this will not give a balanced representation for each Ward. I appreciate the difficulties in getting a balance in all Wards, and do not want there to be any more councillors however Saltergate will end up with 1 vote for each 2080 electorate (forecast) and Oatlands 1 for each 2416 electorate (forecast); High Harrogate and Kingsley 1 vote for each 3858 electorate (forecast).
There is some logic to this proposal if a town council is created to be consistent with the county ward boundaries, which there is some familiarity with. However, even accounting for some of the proposed differences in councillors per ward, there are some significant differences between representation per head (e.g. 2 Councillors in Oatlands with 4,277 and 2 Councillors in Harlow & St Georges with 6,495), which does not seem equitable. The proposal to use existing county ward boundaries and balance out differences in population with different numbers of Councillors per ward results in 19 Councillors, which is a surprising number because this is more than necessary and will increase costs.
There should be half the amount of wards with two Parish councillors in each. It seems like a lot of councils when there was only one two council before. It seems excessive and costly to have 10 at a time when the council should be looking at ways to reduce costs and increase efficiency. This seems like the wrong things to do at this time.
There should be less wards & councillors I don't think we need 19 councillors for the Harrogate area
They're cleverly mixed to ensure that richer areas are a majority and poorer areas like mine are a minority to a Tory area. Total scam
This is irrelevant given my previous answer.
This is irrelevant speculation and will not occur in a unitary authority.
This is irrelevant. I don't agree with the abolition of the existing authority.
This is pure speculation and premature other than indicative when the proposal is accepted
This makes no sense how can Harrogate be split into county divisions?

This only reinforces the lunacy of having a Harrogate Town Council. The proposed ward of Saltergate with 1,777 electors would have 1 councillor while other proposed wards with electorates of +6,000 get 2 councillors. So over 3 times the electorate number but only 1 times more councillors. Another example of the wasteful expense of such an unbalanced body.
This question presumes acquiescence to imposition of "a parish" council; see my response to item 3.
This whole thing is a joke. A decision is forced on us that means we pay more tax for less local government and then you reach out to create an illusion that you jokers in far off Northallerton are interested in what we think.
This will create additional bureaucracy and cost and will not add value.
Too many of them.
Too many wards - fewer is simpler and reduces duplication, cost inefficiencies etc
Too many wards leading to higher costs
Too many wards too much bureaucracy
Too many wards, causing more cost for a town council which is already too expensive.
Too many, could be larger
Too much for the little powers
Total waste of time and monies
Two councillor per ward systems create lack of transparency, competitive representation and confusion. A single councillor per original HBC wards would be better as smaller wards have more in common within it. However, we have only just appointed our NYC councillor...shouldn't they be our representative?
Unnecessary
Wards are not necessary
Wards should be based on the old HBC Wards, one Town Councillor for each Ward. On that basis Oatlands should only have 1 Councillor not 2. That would be 18 Town Councillors as opposed to the 19 proposed.
Waste of money
We already have ward councillors
We do not need 19 Harrogate town [parish] councillors to argue over very small amounts of money and have trivial influence over the new county council. The city where I lived in the USA had 9 councillors for a budget of 120 million dollars and a population of 101,000. Meetings were well attended by the public and the councillors were accessible - also they had to canvas and listen to the views of the voters. Hearing the proponents of the Harrogate unparished council say that 74.7% were in favour sounds good, except that it was only 74.7% of 3.5% of those affected. I would much rather agitate with one county council representative than one nineteenth of the council that had very little influence over anything. It is significant that this "consultation" asks if we want a town council but does not say what the one council would be responsible for - or what would happen if we do not have a town council. We seem to have endless consultations on topics like traffic until those who respond finally give some sort of endorsement to what the planners want, and victory is claimed.
We don't need divisive ward divisions but fairly elected councillors who will represent the whole of Harrogate
We don't need a town council, the current lot have made a right mess of it
We have a county council in North Yorkshire and this is enough
We have just got rid of the borough council
We just abolished one layer of government
What I pay now in council taxes is a significant part of my income and further charges is frightening.
Why is my address not in the Harlow and St Georges ward with which we are much more aligned
Why is there a need for so many wards and so many parish councillors? Some proposed wards are massive and others tiny - even out and reduce numbers.
Why this pattern? Based on old thinking. Make more efficient.

Why we already have representation no one seems to wake up the town is dead it's not just for visitors it's about providing local shops for local people as they keep the town alive and filling empty spaces with entertainment for all .The Jewel of North Yorks think the crown needs a polish.
World populations are not equal So some areas get greater representation others less on the council
Would prefer to be part of Knaresborough whose boundary is only 0.5 km away.
Yes. If the Council has to go ahead there should be no more than 5 representatives for the whole of the Council votes for across the Council in one Ward by proportional representation.

Comments for not sure responses

A town council will result in additional charges being aimed at residents. If a town council is formed (& I doubt this should be so) any councillor should be well qualified & capable. Residents must be kept involved.
Again why get rid of HBC wards to replace with HTC wards.
as comments already added
Because house sizes and densities vary so much in different parts of Harrogate, different areas could end up having unfair representation. Thus it should always be a case of one person (as on the electoral role) always has one vote.
Boundaries are always difficult when they involve areas of development, but unless the Saltergate area is part of Killinghall Parish Council, the new housing on Killinghall Moor area should probably be included with Saltergate
Can anything be done to reduce costs? 10 seems a lot of areas for one town
Could you take this opportunity to change the ward boundaries to even up the number of electors per ward?
Don't agree so can't answer
Generally ok with Wards - see above. Perhaps best to have Parish Councils even closer to communities rather than one huge one for Harrogate.
How will this arrangement differ from previous arrangements? Should the number of wards be reduced?
I guess we'll be stuck with however you choose to divide us. I personally don't feel I have sufficient information on the pros and cons to comment.
I have concerns that the area has been gerrymandered to disadvantage those on lower incomes
I think that there are either too many wards or too many representatives proposed, particularly as the whole change around for councils is about being more efficient and saving money. Either merge the wards into half the number or reduce by half the number of representatives.
I think there are too many.
I'm not clear about the reason to exclude areas of new housing to the Northwest of Harrogate, e.g. King Edwin Park. I think that there may be too many councillors.
I'm not sure of the pros and cons, I do care about the whole town not just my own ward and hope the council will reflect whole town issues
If councillors are elected by FPTP, I don't know how multi-member wards will work. In such a small area (where local representation is arguably not as important), it seems a shame to not use STV (with four wards, three with five councillors and four with four councillors) or MMPR.
If it worked well then keep it the way it was. If not change it
In some small way I would like Harrogate recognised by the Council in Northallerton, who probably know nothing about my town.
Irrelevant since I do not support the proposed council
It is going to be very difficult to 'finance' fairly, each ward and there will always be grumbling complaints as each ward tries to make their budgets meet the necessary targets. How do you begin to even 'cost' each area?
I've always thought St Marks Avenue as being in Oatlands, so surprised it's not, especially as fewer residents in Oatlands.
More information is required regarding the numbers and distribution of council wards viz a viz population numbers etc
My house does not appear to be in a ward? We live on the Stonebridge homes development on Whinney Lane which is not in any of the wards on the map?

Need to know more about the role of the council before commenting.
No difference so waste off a question
No information on costs. More layers of bureaucracy. What function or purpose?
Not all services are applied equally in Harrogate, such as street cleaning - maybe changing the wards would benefit the less affluent parts of Harrogate
Not been fully explained to us as residents so unable to comment intelligently.
Pannal Ash does not feel linked to Oatlands
See below - reduce the number of wards by amalgamating the smallest with its neighbour, thereby also reducing the number of councillors
Some of the wards seem arbitrary - they should reflect local communities with similar issues and interests .Don't understand why some areas are omitted e.g. Killinghall Moor
The existing county division ward boundaries will inevitably be reviewed/changed in due course.
The map of the proposed boundaries appears to be out of date. E.g. King Edwin Park is not shown.
The minimum number of civil servants required should be employed, we already fund over 500,000 of these individuals. More checks should be made on these people and what they are costing the rest of us.
The projected figures on the electorate forecast show that some wards (especially my own ward of High Harrogate & Kingsley) will have widely differing electoral numbers. If this is the case then it seems that bigger wards should either be subdivided into 2 smaller wards or the number of councillors should be increased from 2 to 3.
There is a great deal of housing development proposed for the west of Harrogate and some of the large sites will straddle a number of wards. So there may be a need for a realignment of the boundaries in relation to Harlow & St Georges, Pannal and Washburn & Birstwith. The latter two of which are not in Harrogate.
To keep costs down I would welcome a smaller number of wards but only if they actually respond to requests.....I have yet to receive an active response to any requests I have made in my 37 years of paying council tax.
We don't receive any help or support as it is already so how will this change for the better?
We live on Killinghall Moor (currently in Killinghall Parish) and I am not clear if we will move into the Saltergate ward as I can't find a map. I just completed the consultation on the Harrogate Town Council proposal and subsequently found the ward boundaries and population size which I'd not found before starting. Could this comment be added please: I now see that the Saltergate ward will cover only one half of the Jennyfields estate, with the remainder remaining in the Killinghall Parish (+ newer housing at Queen Ethelburgas and off the A59). This seems like a missed opportunity as we receive little or no benefit from the Killinghall Parish Precept and the new town council would be similarly disadvantaged if it goes ahead, with a significant area of housing/population not being represented whilst considering themselves as Harrogate town residents and using services. Also a financial impact with the town council precept not applying. I would be grateful if this comment could be added please.
What are deciding factors
Whatever is the most cost effective way is the best
What's changing and why is it costing tax payers to do this?
Why not combine Saltergate with Bolton Grange & New Park?
WILL IT IMPROVE THE TERRIBLE ROADS AND SERVICES AT NO EXTRA COSTS
Would less wards reduce the cost? If it would I would recommend that. Perhaps reducing to 5 or 6 wards.
Would prefer to see a more streamlined organisation - less wards - less councillors But optimum solution would depend on complexity/range of services to be devolved.

Q8 Comments on the proposed ward names

Comments for yes (agree) responses

Again what are the factors governing changes in this area
Already exist and understood
Although I would be happy for the existing names to be used within a new Harrogate parish, it would be preferable for this not to include Bilton and Starbeck and for them to each have their own Parish Council.

Cost effective arrangement keeping the same boundaries and names
Generally agree but Saltergate could be misleading as not everyone would associate it with Killinghall and Hampsthwaite. Similar comments on the inclusion of Pannal in Oatlands.
I believe I am in High Harrogate but the additional name "Kingsley" means nothing to me.
I would have a named council rep to go to with any issues
Is any of this really necessary when North Yorkshire is taking over the full duties and responsibilities of Harrogate Borough Council?
It keeps things simple.
It should be Bilton with Harrogate and Nidd Gorge.
It would be useful to have an easily available map showing the exact roads/streets which these ward names encompass.
Keep things simple!
Killinghall moor area is clearly part of Harrogate. Why has it been excluded?
Logical - keeping things simple
Needs to correspond with county divisions to avoid confusion
Newby crescent
Not sure why my address is in New Park when Saltergate seems more appropriate
Please don't do it if it's going to cost more on council tax
Saltergate alternatively could be called Jennyfields
Saltergate should be renamed Jennyfields
See above - continuity and familiarity will be important
Sorry to see the final extinction of Rossett
THE NAMES GIVEN FOR THE WARDS ARE APPROPRIATE.
THIS SET UP OF WARDS IS EXACTLY WHAT IS NEEDED.
This simplicity and clarity is important for appropriate allocations and management for the benefit of the residents.
To keep the same names provides continuity
We hope to have more proactivity and less ticking boxes
We would need to elect representatives
Why change what works well.
Yes but areas should be merged into bigger parish councils. Such as Harlow, St George's and Oatlands Coppice Valley, Duchy, valley Gardens and central Harrogate and so on.

Comments for no (disagree) responses

A further was and another load of bureaucracy we don't need
A meaningless development.
Add Oakdale to Coppice Valley and Duchy Ward
Again this is premature until the structure is agreed
Agree with all but as the relevant ward to us, I would suggest Oatlands and Yew Tree (or Oatlands and Rossett), as the left hand area of the Oatlands Ward is actually a fair way from Oatlands.
As above - fewer boundaries if this goes through please
As above - not required.
As above - reduce number of wards/councillors.
As above. Stop loading question's assuming it had been agreed

As answered in Q4 I do not believe another council is necessary.
As I disagree with the principle I disagree with this
As stated above wards are not required
As these Town Councillors should be NON-POLITICAL, their number should represent the number of necessary jobs which it is required to have covered within this town. Prospective council members would then apply for those posts, and if necessary there could be a proper general ballot to appoint them.
Because I do not agree with the overall proposal
Can't think of a better example of wasted overreach than this question!
Do not need so many wards.
Do not want a council
Doesn't fully reflect all the areas people live in.
Don't agree with the policy
Don't break into wards – what's the point?
Don't care what you call them - I don't want a new town council!
Don't need a corrupt council
Drop the name Duchy it's not needed
Each of the old HBC Wards should have 1 Councillor. This would distinguish specific areas and who is responsible to which set of electors / residents. 2 Councillors for joined up geography's doesn't work. Coppice Valley is distinctive to Duchy, Fairfax is distinctive to Starbeck.
Fairfax and st
Fairfax is nothing to do with Starbeck
Far too many, madness
For the reason stated above
I am against the creation of a Harrogate Council so ward names are irrelevant
I am against the formation of any wards I like an unparished area.
I am not sure that Starbeck thinks of itself as associated with Fairfax, lovely as it is. As there are two councillors why not separate wards for Starbeck and Fairfax?
I cannot agree as I do not agree with the establishment of a Harrogate Town Council
I do not believe it is appropriate to form a Town Council for Harrogate.
I do not think that Oatlands is representative of the ward it encompasses. There is a wide variety of property and land included, of which Oatlands is only a small part. This includes Hornbeam Park, the Mallinsons, Almsfords and Fulwith areas, Hornbeam Park and Crimple Valley. In view of the inclusion of Crimple Beck, Valley and Viaduct, together with the commercial history of Hornbeam Park, I suggest the ward name be Crimple.
I do not think there should be a new Harrogate Town Council so there would be no need for any ward names.
I do not think there should be new wards. The existing wards for the current NYCC are satisfactory.
I don't agree with the changes
I don't think of the area where I live as Oatlands
I feel you should create less wards as you appear to be repeating the previous structure which won't apply
I have no trust in the people, regardless of the adopted format.
I recommend condensing the amount of wards and naming accordingly.
I think it could just be called Starbeck, as aside from there being a Fairfax Avenue, I wasn't aware that there was an area called Fairfax within Harrogate.
I think the creation of the wards is unnecessary for the reasons stated above.
I think Valley Gardens is wrong and the Ward should be called Central Harrogate

If this unnecessary council is to be formed then it should be started with new wards and names that reflect the size and demographic of the current Harrogate
Irrelevant as it is too much for the little powers it will have
IT IS NOT NECESSARY OR WANTED!
just a con by another name
Killinghall should be named considering all the new houses being built.
Larger wards
Listen to the people of Harrogate, there is no interest in having a town council.
much smaller number of councillors should be electable "at large"
No answer to this as I don't agree with the principle.
No council means no need for wards
No strong view
No town council
No, as per previous statement, the names should Mirror the old Borough Council Wards, i.e. Granby, Wedderburn, Starbeck, Bilton etc.
No. Name them after the members of 1970s disco bands.
None needed
North Yorkshire Council can govern it all
Not necessary
Not necessary
Not necessary ,see my comments above
Not necessary.
Not needed
Not needed
Not needed. Wasting time and money
Not required
Oatlands and Pannal. It needs to be clear that Pannal and Pannal Ash are included in some way
Oatlands should be called Oatlands with Pannal Ash
Oatlands should be split and the name retained for only the hornbeam Park side. The other side should be renamed either Rossett or Ashville perhaps. Definitely NOT OATLANDS. All the others should be redrawn from scratch and separated where appropriate with individual titles.
Please see comments in q 6 above, too many wards , need to reduce
Propose that Saltergate be renamed
Really don't care about the names. Not needed!
Reduce the number to 4 to save additional costs - see above.
Saltergate means nothing to most of the recent new residents.
Saltergate should be combined with an adjacent ward as it is too small.
Save our money. None of this is needed
See above. And there you saw substantially the same as the previous Harrogate borough council.
See above. Yet another layer of bureaucracy to satisfy the perceived need of those that feel they need to be 'elected' is not required
See response above - not necessary to choose ward names if no wards wanted.
Should be Oatlands

Should not be two wards with similar names. No need for reference to Valley Gardens (Central Harrogate will do).
Some of the names don't really represent the areas included like Saltergate. A lot of the streets round about would never describe themselves as Saltergate. Saltergate is just one road.
Sounds like you have already decided to proceed.
Starbeck & Fairfax
Starbeck has its own
The 10 wards should be combined into 8 as stated in my response to the previous question. This would mean renaming the Saltergate, Bilton Grange & New Park, Bilton & Nidd Gorge and Fairfax & Starbeck wards.
The new Unified Council (NYC) is supposed to represent us covering all wards.
The proposed ward names are misleading and subjective. More relevant names would be suitable. E.g. Pannal Ash Road is a long way from Oatlands area. So why is it classed as Oatlands.
The system of Wards is old fashioned. If we must have this dreadful new Council of busy bodies it should be one Ward and election by PR
There is no need for such an arrangement when the Unitary Authority has taken responsibility for providing for local needs we do not need another layer of costly organisation
These wards are far too large.
This is irrelevant given my previous answer.
This question too is presumptive; see my response to item 3.
This speculation is irrelevant.
This totally reflects the current situation and needs major revision - see comments above
Too large an area - Duchy and Coppice (as an example) are very different environments as are other neighbours
Too many wards
Total waste
Total waste of time and monies
Unnecessary extra cost
Ward names need changing, or some amalgamated. Certain area have 'bad press' due to excess ill-educated, benefit claimants. This may/does affect the views of that entire area
Waste of money
Waste of money, and another layer of unnecessary government
Waste of time and money
We already have councillors for these wards. One would hope that they will effectively reflect the views of Harrogate residents.
We have just got rid of the borough council
We just abolished one layer of government,
Why could the above not be named Oatlands & Pannal and Killinghall, Hampstwaite & Saltergate (given that all of the other wards name at least two areas)? It would then be clear on the face of it the areas which these two wards cover.
Why no name them after all your favourite rural tory councillors up there in Northallerton. At least then there will be some degree of honesty over what has really happened to local government and who makes all the decisions for us.
Would prefer Starbeck and Fairfax, as I feel Starbeck is the bigger, better known area

Comments for not sure responses

Again why the changes? In a time of national cost of living issues why are you doing this?
Apologies but I found it difficult to read the map provided. And as a new resident am unable to tell which ward Spring Grove will be a part of.

As above: we live on Killinghall Moor (currently in Killinghall Parish) and I am not clear if we will move into the Saltergate ward as I can't find a map.
As I feel that the ward boundaries need some adjustment to make the electorates more equal in size, some of the names of the wards may need to be changed to reflect any changed boundaries. For example, the 2 proposed parts of Oatlands could be joined, making the ward a more equal in size to the others, by combining (part of) the St Georges area of Harlow and St Georges with Oatlands instead (switching perhaps 15% of the electorate between the wards), in which case it may be clearer to call the wards 'Harlow' and 'Oatlands and St Georges'.
As Oatlands extends into Pannal Ash area it should be called Oakland's and Pannal Ash. Or Pannal Ash with Oakland's. At present Oatlands is around the Leeds rd and Hornbeam areas not further west.
Council tax would have to rise disproportionately in order to cover what you are proposing as there would be no government help. You will have people fleeing to move to rural areas to get away from the infighting that will occur :(
Do not forget Knaresborough like the banks have
Don't agree so can't answer
Feel Starbeck that has been enlarged considerably by the Kingsley developments should have its own Ward
Fewer areas. Reduce costs
I don't care what they are called I simply want a good service.
I don't care what they are called, it's irrelevant.
I don't think I have sufficient knowledge of the situation to make a firm assessment
I have no opinion on this
I live in Jennyfields area which is not actually Killinghall and we are over looked by the Parish now so I don't see any change with this. We do not feel part Killinghall.
I live in Wedderburn not Fairfax.
I wish the road I live in was not in Harlow & St Georges. I don't like where I have to go to vote. It's very inaccessible - totally inaccessible by public transport - hard to find & unpleasant to go to.
I'm unsure what the difference is in the ward names if it costs extra money then it's a no from me
I've no opinion on the names
If the proposal proceeds on the basis of the proposed wards then of course it makes sense to use these names. However, as per earlier answer, I do not agree with the ward boundaries or the proposal to create a town council.
If this is a new organisation then the opportunity should be taken to name the wards in a modern and transparent way which identifies them to the electorate not simply adopt pre-existing titles which may have a historical claim but only serve to distance the electorate from the process, muddy the waters and lead to the perception that this is the way the "poets that be" prefer it.
I'm happy to follow whatever someone who feels strongly wants for the name. I think it's pretty unimportant TBH
It doesn't matter what they are called. The most important thing to decide is whether their creation is the most effective way of running the areas
Jennyfields and Knox aren't mentioned - I don't know where Jennyfields falls, based on this list, but I appreciate Knox falls under Bilton Grange and New Park. As they are well-recognised areas (nobody to my knowledge talks of 'Bilton Grange'), should the divisions not be updated to reflect what places are known as?
Names are completely immaterial, but the ward boundaries aren't.
Names really don't matter. Are they necessary, that's the question?
Need to know more about the role of the council before commenting.
No strong opinion on ward names!
Not needed, if no Town Council.
one word titles would be less cumbersome
Prefer smaller wards so Cllr is connected to a local area
Saltergate is often viewed as simply the worst part of Jennyfields. Many of us are actually extremely well qualified!

See above - amalgamate proposed Saltergate Ward with Bilton Grange & New Park Ward to give total of 9 x wards
The names are unimportant
There may be good reasons to alter boundaries to reduce total number of councillors and include new estates.
Think maybe it should be Harlow, St George & Pannal. Merge the small Oatlands into this group.
This ward contains a very different demographic and this should be taken into account when making decisions
We don't need ten wards. That smacks of "divide and conquer", where nothing will be achieved until ad hoc coalitions of councillors agree to support each other's needs.
Where does Fulwith fit in?

Q10 Comments about proposed number of councillors

Comments for yes (agree) responses

19 seems fine, however it seems a shame not to use a form of PR for such a small area as just Harrogate
An absolute maximum of 19 councillors seems about the right number
Any more would only add to costs.
As comment above, could alter the boundaries slightly.
As long as these representatives live in or are local to the ward they represent.
Could be considered to have just 10 - easier to manage
Could be less, why not one per ward?
Councillors should be of different political persuasions
Curious as to how many areas of interest these 19 members will have to take on, and how many hours a week/month they will be expected to work.....
Does the number of Councillors suggested take into account the increases in population from new housing estates
Happy with 19 councillors but prefer smaller wards so Councillor is connected to a local area
Hopefully this will be sufficient. If this proves not to be the case I would hope that this could be corrected in future.
I BELIEVE THAT THE NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS IS APPROPRIATE.
I think 19 is enough Councillors.
I would prefer 3 councillors per ward, with 2 for Saltergate
If paying for this is from our already paid council tax yes. If extra no
If the number of houses continue to be built then the number of councillors should be proportionally increased.in that ward.
In agreement.
It is appropriate to align councillor numbers with electorate size.
IT IS EXCELLENT THAT NINE OF THE WARDS WILL HAVE TWO COUNCILLORS EACH.
It seems to be sufficient to have a range of expertise without being unwieldy.
Limit the size to no more than 19 we don't want to be inundated with councillors as we have been in the past
May need revision in due course with housing development.
No this makes sense.
Not sure why Saltergate has less?
Not too expensive
Number is good but for a single council not individual wards
One councillor should live in one area of the ward (e.g. Valley gardens should be represented by someone living in that immediate area.) And the other councillor living in the other part of that ward (e.g. Central Harrogate councillor living in Central Harrogate.).
Please keep costs down
Providing these councillors are easily contactable to those they represent
Representation level needs to be adequate for purpose having regard for democracy
Seems appropriate.
Seems to be near enough given that the population figures are never going to allow for neat maths
Small is good.
That's fair enough...why 1 for Saltergate though?....is it the geographical size of the area?

The councillors should be elected using a system of proportional representation to ensure all residents are fairly represented
The fewer councillors the better
The total estimated annual cost of operating the town council should be made clear before the proposal is put forward to North Yorkshire. This should also identify the funds to be made available for additional services and facilities for the town arising from the additional rates. If no funds are available for the town from the additional rates then I do not agree with the formation of a town council.
This seems a fair representation given respective populations
Though if wards could be merged perhaps the number could be reduced slightly to save money as much as possible?
To justify a town council of this size they must have more responsibility to supply services and town management than the current planned budget seems to allow.
Why only 1 for Saltergate?
Will the councillors be politically biased or independent?
With electorates of 6,410 and 6,495, I believe that High Harrogate and Harlow should each have 3 councillors, given that Oatlands with an electorate of 4,277 (or roughly 2/3) has 2
You could have 4 councillors in each ward

Comments for no (disagree) responses

Too many cooks! But optimum solution would depend on complexity/range of services to be devolved. To set in stone a structure to deal with a nebulous future is nonsense. Should there not be some built in review process in say 5 years to achieve a structure which will deal with reality?
1 councillor per ward would be sufficient
1 councillor should be sufficient if you create a council
1 each should be enough
1 is enough
1 per ward
1 per ward - shared responsibility is no responsibility.
1 per ward is enough. Cost should be minimised.
1 per ward max.
1 ward = 1 councillor
1 x councillor for each ward if this system is supposed to work! The cost of employing two councillors for each 'ward' will cost us, the tax payer, disproportionate amounts of money just to live in the Harrogate district. There will be a movement of people (exodus) as finances start to bite. Ghost 'towns' and 'wards' will exist for a short time before they expire! We should not be governed by N Yorkshire County Council, as again needs would not be met and local people would not be served. The latter may still take place, regardless of perceived intentions, this is so sad!
18 Councillors, 1 for each of the old HBC Wards. Oatlands only having one not 2 (like Saltergate).
19 councillors for a town this size represents a waste of tax money.
19 is too many and would be too costly.
19 is too many. If there were less it would cost less.
19th many
2 Councillors per ward is fine, but need more than 10 Wards to represent the views of Local Harrogate people
2 councillors to be included for the salter gate ward due to the massive expansion of housing.
4 councillors is sufficient. Stop the waste of council tax
A total of 2 per ward seems excessive.

Again this question is presumptive; see my response to item 3.
Again, this is an absolute waste of money
All the above reasons as stated
An additional 19 elected representatives will bring a cost for the election, settling of procedures and amendments to procedures, providing information to the councillors and giving time to consider their representations in meetings or to a secretariat. It will also generate an excessive need for understanding the points of view of 19 councillors, finding common ground and establishing coalitions or even parties. 19 is way too many - a city in the USA in which I lived needed only 7 councillors at large and a full time mayor for a population of 100,000 and a budget of \$150 million. Seven councillors for 100,000 population was way more effective than 19 councillors for a prospective budget of £1.5 million
Anything that costs more money should be avoided
As above - far too many.
As above - waste of money.
As above Saltergate is a rapidly changing, expanding ward, which should in future have 2 councillors
As above, no need for Saltergate.
As above. Want rid of corrupt council
As answered in Q4 I do not believe another council is necessary or more councillors. However, as this proposal will happen despite any lack public support (only 3% taking part in the 1st consultation) why does it need 2 councillors per ward why not 1? 2 will only increase the tax burden on the public due to councillor costs and expenses.
As I have said there should only be 1 councillor on all wards.
As stated above, the council size should represent the jobs which we need to have cover for: ideally at least two people for each important, independent function, and for some it may even be three, depending on how many real, important administrative tasks we have identified. (These tasks will NOT be the kind which are already covered by paid Council workers!)
As we had one representative for our area on the old council I do not see the need for two representatives on the new wards.
Bigger group bigger waste
Bilton already has 2 councillors who are too busy saying that the other will deal. One councillor is enough and I don't see the need for two.
Bureaucracy doesn't mean improvement in services. Not sure what value this will bring. Harrogate will have to be looked after anyway as it does more than its fair share to attract people, visitors to North Yorkshire.
Cost
Costly to run.
Councillors have not represented the people in Harrogate for years. They are not needed
County councillors will represent the wards
Devolution is intended to simplify bureaucracy, this is reverting to the previous muddled arrangement.
Do not think there should be a council.
Do we need quite so many councillors, why not 10?
Do we need so many Councillors now considering the expanded role of North Yorkshire Council? This all adds to bureaucracy and cost. It also gets more difficult to seek people to fulfil these roles. We are all busy people! Surely if Councillors require more help with certain functions, they can ask for volunteers.
Do we really need 19 councillors? Wouldn't 10 do with the same person covering both Saltergate and Oatlands?
Do you think that public money is for you to waste? This is not required
Don't bother with the town council so no extra councillors needed
Don't need it
Don't want any councillors
Don't see why Saltergate only gets 1!!! That doesn't seem fair. What's that about?

Due to housing developments and expansion of the Saltergate area, this should also be served by 2 councillors.
Duplicity, lack of clarity, in fighting blame. HBC moved to single ward representation a long time ago as it promotes genuine democracy and representation. However, we only recently elected a NYC councillor who I expect to represent me. I don't need two more
Each ward needs two councillors so there is always cover for when one is away on holiday or off work ill. Frankly I should have thought that to be obvious.
Each Ward should have a single councillor
Employing more councillors when you just got rid of Harrogate council.
Excessive bureaucracy and expense.
Far too many self-important people. The last Council was dreadful. A maximum of 5 is all that is needed for effective Government.
Far too many can be done with half the number
Far too many councillors
Far too many councillors, just a talking shop, if this has to go ahead one councillor per ward is enough
Far too many for a town that is supposed to be unified.
Far too many for the range of responsibilities
Far too many, 1 per ward would be adequate given the limited responsibility they would be taking on.
Fewer councillors for fewer wards. Reduce costs.
Given the large size and population of the proposed wards, I think communities would be better represented by 3 councillors per ward (this is what has been proposed for Scarborough). This number could be reduced for the smaller wards of Oatlands and Saltergate to give a more even representation across the town.
Gravy train. Let us see how the new council works before we add to it
Harrogate is not a large place. I do not see why on earth we need 19 councillors
Have one only who can work for the electorate
higher council tax
How can this number be assessed while the duties and scope of the proposed organisation are not known?
How would Saltergate be represented if the councillor was off sick or on holiday?
I do not see why you need 2 councillors per a ward boundary, Harrogate is not that big and seems ridiculous to pay 19 people a job that 1 person could do.
I am happy with NYC structure no additional bureaucracy is needed and I am certainly NOT willing to pay the additional cost of these wards.
I am not clear why Oatlands would have 2 councillors
I believe that the Saltergate ward requires 2 councillors. As someone that lives within it, I feel 1 has not been enough.
I cannot agree as I do not agree with the establishment of a Harrogate Town Council
I consider 3 councillors would be better 19 is too small and grants too much power to a relatively small number.
I do not believe it is appropriate to form a Town Council for Harrogate.
I do not think there should be a new Harrogate Town Council so there would be no need for any councillors or wards.
I don't believe you need that many people for only 59k electorates
I don't believe you've thought this through - it doesn't appear to benefit or represent the local population
I don't think we need 2 per ward and would rather see none at all. What authority and budgets are these people to have? This could easily turn into a talking shop.
I don't want the wards at all.
I have selected Not Sure, as I believe we currently only have 1 councillor per ward and I am unsure what benefit we would receive from having 2 per ward in future.

I see little point in abolishing Harrogate town council only to then reinstate yet more councillors at addition cost to the taxpayer. This whole process was supposed to save money.
I see no need for any councillors
I think 19 councillors for the population of the unparished areas is too low. There are approx. 77,000 in these 10 wards to be represented by only 19 councillors. KTC and RCC represent approx. 15,000 people with 12 councillors. If worked out as a proportion, there should be at least twice as many councillors.
I think it should be 1 councillor per ward!
I think it sounds like a lot of people. Particularly for Oaklands. Maybe 1 would be enough for that area
I think that every ward should have 2 councillors. It's important that Saltergate should fall in line with other wards. To protect the residents regarding services are represented by local people. Who would have their say in any councillors making unwise waste of money being spent on unnecessary expenditure? So my opinion 2 councillors would be better than 1.
I think there should be more than two councillors per ward for better representation and so councillors have a more manageable workload and can be more responsive to constituents
I think there should be only one counsellor per ward, this may reduce the cost of the Harrogate Parish Council overall
I would argue that the majority of the funds needed would be used to pay the salaries of these councillors. Therefore the less councillors there are, this would be better, preferably none
I would prefer 1 councillor per ward - with Saltergate merged with Bilton Grange & New Park, and a few streets in the Oakdale Avenue area transferred from Bilton Grange to Coppice Valley 7 Duchy to even out the electorates.
I would prefer a larger councillor representation with the proposed 2-councillor wards increased to at least 3 councillors and Saltergate to be increased to 2
I would prefer one per ward
I would prefer only 1 councillor per ward bearing in mind the relatively minor decisions to be taken. I would not be bothered if Saltergate is thereby over-represented. We do not want this council to be too much off a talking shop.
I would propose 1 Councillor per ward.
IDEALLY KEEP THINGS SIMPLE
If a town council is created then it is right that this should reflect a broad spectrum of different people and views and avoid concentrating power in the hands of a small number of individuals / individual. However, I still find the proposed number of 19 Councillors to be extraordinary, more than necessary and difficult to justify at a time when it is widely reported that savings need to be made.
If most areas have just two councillors is it enough for the number of residents in each ward. I would doubt it if new residents are being moved into the Harrogate area with no provision for schooling etc The workload on those two will increase to a level where it will be unsustainable. I suspect that in say, ten years' time the Harrogate area will have increased in residential numbers to necessitate a review of the 2 Councillor suggestion which is being recommended now.
If required 1 councillor would be sufficient
If this unnecessary council is to be formed then it must be - Revised, resized and the areas renamed, so that each councillor represents the same number of constituents (+/-5%).
If you ARE going to go ahead and do, Which you obviously are so this is just a farce, Saltergate should have 2 Councillors like everyone else.
If you decide not to reduce the number of areas to 4 then reduce the number of councillors to one for each area.
In my view there should be three councillors per ward. This would be more democratic.
Irrelevant as it is too much for the little powers it will have
Irrelevant speculation.
IT IS NOT NECESSARY OR WANTED!
It seems strange for one ward to have only one councillor, evenly sized wards with the same number of councillors makes more sense I think
It stinks. This whole thing stinks.

It would be ridiculous to have so many councillors
It would give too many layers of Government.
I've voted no to a council so no need for councillors
Jobs for the boys and girls! Unnecessary and self-serving Snouts still in the trough.
Jobs for the boys/girls
Just more people to pay expenses for not needed
Many councillors revel in the glory of the role, rather than having a useful impact.
More cost
More expenses and hike in council taxes to cover the salaries and expenses of the councillors
Nineteen councillors seems rather excessive
No. 2 people representing one area of anywhere will never agree
No answer to this as I don't agree with the principle.
No council = no councillors
No councillors required. Save money.
No I think 18 would suffice if the Saltergate ward was split up and divided into the Bilton Grange ward and the Coppice Valley wards.
No it's a waste of tax payers money just so a few can have a well-paid cushy job
No more than 1 councillor per ward if it is really necessary
No need
No one has any credibility.
None are needed, as we were led to believe that So Called Devolution would streamline things and cost less. We now here that charges will go up.!!!
Not necessary
Not necessary
Not necessary, see above
Not needed
Not needed
Not needed
Not needed, if no Town Council.
Not needed. More expense.
Not needed
Number of councillors on the "Parish"/town council would be greater than the number on the higher level NY council.
Oatlands is considerably smaller than all other areas except for Saltergate. Difficult to justify having the same representation as wards with almost 50% more electors.
Oatlands should be split into two areas with one each. All the other areas should be redrawn with one for each area going forward.
One councillor per ward is enough.
One councillor per ward is sufficient
One councillor per ward is sufficient.
One councillor per ward should be enough
One Councillor per ward should suffice
One Councillor per ward would be sufficient and less expensive
Only needs 1 per ward

Only one councillor per ward is necessary
Our County Councillors should do all this work
Please save the money and avoid us having to deal with their decisions
Reason as above
Recommend 3 councillors per ward for Harrogate, as already agreed for Scarborough
Reduce the number of wards to eight and the number of councillors to 16.
Refer above. It is difficult to see why councillors are necessary.
Ridiculous this is where the costs are mounting up
Saltergate covers a wide area, still think we should have 2 councillors the same as the other areas
Saltergate should have 2 as well
Saltergate should have 2 like other areas if you're going to do it. Also I think it more sensible to get rid of Parish Councils altogether. Most are not elected members unless seats are contested and do nothing for the areas unless it benefits them personally.
Saltergate should have 2 like the other wards
Saltergate should have two just like all other wards
Saltergate should have two otherwise it becomes as fiefdom
See above comment: there is unequal representation from ward to ward
See above. This is a good example of Parkinson's law.
See comments on Saltergate (above). Merge Saltergate with Killinghall Moor and give it 2 Councillors.
Should be 0 ward councillors, County council already wastes enough of our money.
Should be 3
Some areas need more attention, for example Saltergate Ward
Suggest one for each area should be sufficient
Taking in to account the demographics of each ward and in view of the extensive housing development (with probably more to come!) my view is that there should be:- 1 ward with 3 councillors, 9 wards with 2 councillors. This makes a total of 21 councillors, the odd number being essential for any contentious decisions to be made. Saltergate is a massive housing site now
That is too many councillors and just increases the cost of the council
That seems an excessive number of councillors. Remove the ward structure and elect a total of 10 councillors for the whole council.
The area is diverse, 3 separate entities, with different lifestyles and concerns
The areas are relatively small. I can't see why 2 councillors would be needed for Oatlands for example.
The cost of financing these councillors will fall on the local taxpayers, many of whom are already struggling with the rising cost of living. The councillors would probably make minimal impact on the lives of most local residents.
The difference in size of the 2 proposed wards that are only part of the existing county council divisions would lead to over-representation on the town council for those 2 wards. High Harrogate and Kingsley has an electorate that is about 50% larger than Oatlands, yet it is proposed to give them the same representation on the council. Similarly, High Harrogate and Kingsley has almost 4 times the electorate of Saltergate, yet has only double the number of proposed councillors.
The larger 2 and 1 on the mid-size
The number of councillors per Ward does not reflect the size of the population in said ward. A Ward of 4K has the same representation of one at close to 8K. This does not seem democratic.
The number seems excessive. Why not 1 per ward.
The only people that will benefit will be the councillors
There are enough on the new council we don't need any more lining their own pockets

There is too many useless councillors as it is we don't need more.
There should be a single voting constituency.
There should be an odd number of reps for each ward
There should be none. We already have a county council.
They must be easily contactable
They will be the type of person you would cross the road to get away from and your heart would sink if you walked in to a pub and saw them. The fewer there are the better
They won't be listened to no matter how many there are.
Think one each would be sufficient.
This is an unnecessary layer of government.
This is political nonsense - there are no services they can provide that are needed or wanted as you've already proved with your previous survey despite your manipulated claim! We need less politicians (councillors) as existing have consistently proved they can't deliver. This is just paying for the sake of having unneeded councillors - during a cost of living crisis - what don't you understand?
This means, as above, that residents in Harrogate Town will be grossly underrepresented compared with ALL the other Parish and Town Councils in North Yorkshire. As mentioned above Knaresborough has 3 Councillors per old ward that is 6 per new Division. In other rural areas, Parish Councils have minute numbers of electorate per councillor. For example, Well near Bedale has 5 Councillors with a population of around only 300 in total!!!
This method of awarding representation for each of the wards is too simplistic and leaves those wards with a far greater population grossly under represented. I would suggest that the number of councillors be increased by two to accommodate those wards with future populations above seven thousand.
This s a clear example of electing a 19 councillors who can contribute nothing to the local area, that is assuming that the North Yorkshire Council actually does its job and completes its function
Thought that's why is going to be all North Yorkshire
Too many layers of bureaucracy
Too bureaucratic and overly complicated
Too expensive
Too many
Too many
Too many
Too many
Too many - one per ward.
Too many and too much cost. One could run more than one area.
Too many councillors
Too many councillors - too costly
Too many councillors. Each ward needs only one councillor. I realise Saltergate will seem over represented, but that is better than the excessive cost and "jobs for the boys" of 2 per ward. In any case, a working group of 10 is better for communication and collaborative working. 19 is too many for good collaborative working.
Too many councillors in your proposal - suggest one per ward.
Too many powered up old busybodies
too many, too much cost
Too many. One is enough
Unnecessary
Waste of money
Waste of money for very little benefit

Waste of time and money
Waste of time and money
We do not need any lazy councillors, they are a waste of time and money
We do not need any more layers of government.
We do not need any town councillors.
We don't need a Harrogate at all
We don't need these extra people.
We don't need another cabal of councillors, one person per ward not two
We have just got rid of the borough council
We just abolished one layer of government,
We might as well just have 1 councillor, because they won't have any meaningful decisions to make anyway. Harrogate is just seen as a big purse for Northallerton to steal money from to pay for the lovely town centre they have.
We never hear or see the Councillors we already have they aren't fit for purpose. What is going to change and how will things improve for disabled people?
Wedderburn residents seem to be overlooked!!
What a waste of money
Who votes anymore- democracy is lost to apathy
Why 2 councillors the wards are not that big, too many chiefs and not enough Indians
Why 2 per ward - unnecessary additional cost for no benefit
Why 2 per ward?
Why 2? Not at all in favour of extra politicians or bureaucrats
Why 2? Surely 1 is sufficient
Why are two councillors needed for each ward? I see this as an unnecessary additional expense and cost to the tax payers. One councillor can represent each ward effectively if the community is consulted and informed about what is going on.
Why do we need 2 councillors per ward? There only needs to be one point of contact for a ward.
Why do we need two councillors per ward
Why is Saltergate only getting one? If the boundary actually included the whole estate then 2 should be provided. It is one of the biggest estates in the region.
Why only one for Saltergate?
Why only one for Saltergate?
Why would I think this proposal is a good idea if these new elected representative have less budget and decision making power than the council that has just been abolished? And that I now need to pay for this privilege!
Will a Town Council cost residents an additional premium in council tax on top of the maximum 5% increase already being applied from April?
Yes feel one per ward is sufficient.

Comments for not sure responses

19 seems like a lot, 1 councillor per ward seems reasonable, and cheaper?
Again, in the absence of firm proposals about what this new body will actually do, it is not possible to say whether or not the number of councillors is correct. However, my gut feeling is that 2 councillors per ward may be a bit top heavy for limited responsibilities.
Again...what would be the purpose of 2 councillors per ward?
Are the councillors going to be proactive? Or only numbers to tick a box? It is very frustrating to call / email the council and receive polite answers but no action

AS ABOVE ADDING MORE COSTS BRING ALL CHARGES INLINE WITH LEEDS AND STOP CHARGING FOR THINGS LIKE BROWN BIN COLLECTIONS
As long as the personnel change, it will be an improvement
As previously mentioned I simply want a responsive local service which has not been the case previously.
Clarification needed on exactly what are the responsibilities of each councillor on a day-to-day basis and whether each ward could be effectively represented by one councillor
Consider 3
Could have 3 councillors per ward
Difficult to know how many are required when it's not really clear what they will be doing.
Do we need that extra cost?
Does Fairfax and Starbeck need 2 councillors as it's a much smaller ward than most?
Don't agree so can't answer
I am not convinced that we need 19 councillors!
I am unsure why we need 2 per ward. I would have thought 1 would be enough.
I cannot see the rationale for Saltergate being only 1 councillor - presumably population size
I do question if it is proportionate to have one Saltergate Councillor for 1,777 residents
I think that there are either too many wards or too many representatives proposed, particularly as the whole change around for councils is about being more efficient and saving money. Either merge the wards into half the number or reduce by half the number of representatives.
I would be interested in the pros and cons of having a single councillor in each ward. As long as the local people have someone to whom we can turn for help 1 may be enough.
I would like the number of councillors to be as low as possible to reduce costs
I would like to know more about the responsibilities & costs for these roles
I would not know what the correct ratio of electorate to councillor is, it seems quite high to have 2 councillors per ward but I would assume this is the correct ratio?
If it means our having to pay even more money whereas with last year's bill council tax, apart from the fire, police etc was divided between yourselves and Harrogate, North Yorks taking the larger share but now you are indicating, having taken the whole of the larger sum plus this year's increase, that we are going to have to pay more instead of North Yorks council reducing their amount (as previously) if Harrogate is to continue providing various services, but you are making it sound as if it's something new which requires yet more expense on our part.
If Saltergate ward increases to include other roads nearby (i.e. New Homes development on Skipton Road, then Saltergate will need more than 1 councillor
If Saltergate ward is enlarged as suggested above it may need two councillors rather than one.
If the council budget is to be limited to around £1m annually it seems unnecessary to have such a large number of councillors.
I'm not sure if two Councillors are required for every ward (excluding Saltergate). For example, Harlow & St Georges ward contains 6,495 Electorate whilst Oatlands only contains 4,277, a difference of 2,218 which is more than Saltergate (1,777) which is only proposing one Councillor.
Is this the most cost effective way of doing things?
It's an arbitrary number whether I agree with it or not the County Council has a track record of not listening to these consultations so what difference does it really make?
It's ridiculous to have 19 councillors, what a waste of money.
Looking at the 2027 forecast size of the electorate, I'm not sure it's fair that the two very largest wards have only 2 councillors.
maybe too many cooks spoil the broth
Need to know more about the role of the council before commenting.
Not sure because I don't know exactly what they will be doing and if 1 councillor would be sufficient.

One councillor per ward may be sufficient
Perhaps have a larger number of councillors for the larger wards?
Please see response to Q6 above. My ward of High Harrogate & Kingsley is forecast to have an enormous increase in population over the next few years, presumably as a result of the giant ongoing house building project in the Kingsley area. I feel it would be inequitable for our ward to have the same number of representatives (2) on the council as, say, Oatlands ward, which already has, and is projected still to have, likely to have not much more than half the number of residents.
Rather a lot, perhaps just one per ward
Refer to my previous answers.
Remain to be convinced that 2 are needed per ward
Salary of Councillors?
Saltergate seems disproportionately represented. Other wards should typically have 3 councillors if the proportion is 1 councillor per 2000 people in each ward.
Saltergate Ward appears to be significantly over-represented, and Oatlands slightly less so. Between them they have 3 seats for a total electorate broadly comparable to other Wards which have only 2. It may not prove significant, but are there provisions for amending the ward boundaries if it does? Otherwise, broadly in agreement.
See above - remove proposed Saltergate councillor to give total of 18 x councillors
See above. Smaller wards with one councillor each is preferable.
Shouldn't there be equalish numbers per ward and so councillors. Saltergate get one councillor and so depend on one vote of someone who could be an idiot
Sounds like a lot
The council size may be too large for its limited budget and powers, perhaps a mixture of elected councillors and representatives from local organisations would work better.
The councillors should be elected on a non-political standing. We have experienced how Harrogate has declined over the last 10 years + under the Conservatives. I will vote for the person not the Party who represents the interests of our ward and the town as a whole.
The question to ask is, what's the minimum amount of bureaucracy to get the job done well and efficiently
The very same councillors should represent us in the town council as the county council.
These should be elected from community groups not usual people of privilege who go up for councillor. Community groups and people who stand out as giving exceptional contribution to the community should be approached and asked to run and paid sufficiently. Should be electing those that are going out and doing things in the community and for the community not those just wanting to take a position of leadership.
This can be reconsidered later
This entirely depends on whether we can choose councillors who are of different political parties. Seems a bit odd to be represented by two people. Will the wards be subdivided into halves then? Or will one councillor know that they are number one as they got the most votes and the other councillor will be the second most popular? Or does number one councillor choose their deputy? We've simply not been given sufficient information on which to base a sensible decision for these answers. I thought so for the first consultation too and despite going to the local library to see what information was held there in case what we'd received through the door was just a summary. Turned out it wasn't. It just feels as if this whole process is purely to keep Harrogate residents in the dark about what they might be agreeing to (by their silence)
We already pay high council tax. Why should we pay extra? Previously this was included
We need the minimum number of civil servants required and the ability to watch what they do and how our money is spent. Those swinging the lead can be seen and dealt with appropriately.
What, other than lobbying, will they realistically be able to do
Why do we need so many councillors & why the expense to council tax payer who already pay far too much in Harrogate for what is, quite frankly, poor service/value for money
Why does each ward (except Saltergate) need 2 councillors? Why not 1 councillor per ward?

Wondered if we really need as many If it is in line with the number of residents / ward in other town councils in North Yorkshire then that would be ok
You have not explained why Saltergate ward would only have one. Whilst I do not live in that area I am not sure if the proposal is in the best interests of those residents

Q12 Comments on proposed timescales

Comments for yes (agree) responses

Ability to start at pace is important
ASAP.
Background checks on ALL our elected candidates
Conservatives & Lib Dems should not be allowed to stand They only serve their parties instead of residents
Except we should have been doing this a year ago
Fairfax and Starbeck should be separately distinguished
How the council is going to reduce problems as keep the British culture? Parking big trucks / caravans in residential areas and making people less stressed? As it is causing several issues at the neighbourhood
How will Harrogate be represented until this date?
I feel this survey is seeking public endorsement for something which has not been clearly defined - as such it offers little insight. Asking people to give their views on names, boundaries and number of councillors feels fairly meaningless until it is clear what the new council would represent and the powers/responsibilities it would have.
I have only answered questions 6 - 12 on the premise that a Town council is created.
I presume that the proposed dates align with those for the new North Yorkshire Council, which seems sensible and as we will then be voting for two sets of representatives at the same time will be more cost efficient.
I think this is consistent with the timing of elections to the North Yorkshire Council - this is sensible, in order to encourage higher turnout, rather than having a separate election date.
I would like a system of proportional representation rather than first past the post to be implemented
I would prefer the election to take place earlier if possible
I would say that everything very much depends on how things work out i.e. the success or not of the new arrangements and whether people will follow France - much as they did with the Poll Tax - and get on the streets and protest.
If it is found not to be serving any real purpose can we vote to close it down
Is someone going to look after Harrogate's interests in the year to that date, I already feel we have to fight for resources and don't want us to suffer through bureaucracy
It is disappointing that elections cannot be held until mid-2024
It is unfortunate the elections can't be held sooner, but I accept that period of time is necessary.
It seems like a waste of money
It seems the obvious thing to do.
It would be useful to know what powers an incoming town council would like to take on from North Yorkshire Council from the outlet. Also, who would the Stray and public parks fall under going forward - BEFORE ANY ELECTION TAKES PLACE.
It's alright, as long as the law is constantly serving as a watch dog and appraising the elected on short term basis to ensure they are doing the assignment for which they are elected. Otherwise, it will be fair to dethrone underperforming electorates. We need diligence and integrity from the elected.
Look at other areas where a Town Council has been set up and learn from their experience. I gather Falmouth TC is a particularly good example. Having said that, a Harrogate Town Council should learn to walk before it runs. Show the community that a Town Council is good value for money.
Makes sense to tie in with NYC elections thereafter.....and would cost less to organise. I understand there will be a Boundary review of the NYCC wards / divisions prior to 2017 and the new Harrogate Town Council may wish to

propose new boundaries based on whatever those recommendations are. However, the important thing for now is to establish a Harrogate Town Council.....fiddling with boundaries etc is for the future.
Only because to do it more frequently adds costs the population would have to bear
Or for the implementation of smaller Parish Council covering the Harrogate area.
Please keep costs down
Prior to the elections, I would hope that specific officers and North Yorkshire councillors will be responsible for managing and reviewing the services that will ultimately become the responsibility of the new Town Council. Please can the management and handover be very clearly communicated to residents?
Restrict the number of times someone can be a candidate.
Seems about right
Seems appropriate
Seems logical
Sensible to fit with NYC elections.
Sooner would be even better
The initial election really should be held sooner.
The sooner the better. We need a local voice.
THIS IS THE EARLIEST THAT VOTING CAN TAKE PLACE LEGALLY.
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ANY NEW POLITICAL AREA IS FORMED. THE ELECTION DATES MENTIONED ARE CORRECT.
Two councillors would be more representative.
Until you tell us what powers will be devolved down to it none of it matters.
What happens in the next 15 months?
Why wait until 2024?

Comments for no (disagree) responses

2 years max to ensure fair representation of all interests
2 years should be length of term
2024 seems a rush - spend more time understanding the pros and cons of a town council and getting the right solution in place rather than rushing it.
3 years is a long time if they do a crap job.
4 years feels too long. Representatives need to be held to account for their performance more frequently, preferably 2 years, possibly 3 if cost of elections is a principle factor in the decision of the term period.
4 Years is too long a gap and believe that 3 gives chance for change and stops councillors resting on their laurels.
A four year term of office is too long if the councillor is ineffective
Again this question is presumptive; see my response to item 3.
agree with a four year term but half of the councillors should be replaced every two years, to be phased in
All not necessary
Already made a total mess of Harrogate
An unjustified additional level of bureaucracy
As answered in Q4 I do not believe another council is necessary.
Costs too much money which we can ill afford
Creation of unnecessary work and expense for every electorate
Decision should be delayed so that need for town council can be reviewed once North Yorkshire Council and its area management has operated for at least two years. Finally it was extremely difficult to find this survey on the internet.

Do not have elections and let Harrogate matters be dealt with by Harrogate councillors as they are at present
Do not vote any more waste of my time
Don't agree with any of this
Don't bother with any additional elections
Don't want it
Don't need or want a town council
Elections every 2 years
Elections should be as soon as legally possible
Elections should be every 1-2 years
Elections should be every 2 years per councillor at most - ideally each member should face re-election every year.
Elections should be more frequent and should consider the age of candidates. I do not feel represented by the current demographics of the councillors.
Every 3 years
Every two years, with half changing each year
Feels like we are left in limbo for a year. Shouldn't all of this have been sorted out much sooner?
I believe that each member of the assembly should work for 12 months, that membership should rotate through all residents from age sixteen.
I believe that elections should be held on a three year frequency allowing the voting public greater chance to express their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the work of the council.
I cannot agree as I do not agree with the establishment of a Harrogate Town Council
I disagree with this timetable. It envisages elections from 2027 onwards being held at the same time as the elections to the North Yorkshire Council. I'm guessing this is mainly based on minimising costs by holding local elections only once every four years. I consider that this too long a gap. The public should be consulted every 2 years with North Yorkshire Councils elections alternating with Harrogate town council elections. This would allow the electorate to concentrate attention on the different issues facing the two councils instead of asking them to consider two largely separate sets of issues at the same time. Thus, I would prefer to see the recommendation replaced by 4 - that the parish comes into effect from 1 April 2024 for administrative purposes, and the first election for the town council be 2 May 2024 for an extended term of five years, with ordinary elections taking place in 2029 and every four years thereafter
I do not consider there should be a Harrogate Town Council
I do not think there should be a new Harrogate Town Council so there would be no need for any elections to it.
I don't agree with any of it as no one does anything positive for disabled and elderly residents - we are just left to rot as HBC & NYCC couldn't care less
I don't see why it takes so long
I don't agree with the formation of a new Harrogate Town Council. We have elected representatives in the new unitary authority and they should be held accountable for issues in Harrogate - not able to blame others for their inaction.
I don't see the point of a parish council. I have been to parish councils in Knaresborough and Ripon and seen first-hand the irrelevance, lack of purpose, resource and skill that they have and don't want this replicated.
I don't want them and by the sounds of it on this survey it's already been decided no matter the vote.
I see no need for any elections that will cost time and money who will pay NYC! I doubt if it will the residents.
I think my view is clear by now.
Irrelevant as it is too much for the little powers it will have
Irrelevant!
IT IS NOT NECESSARY OR WANTED!
Just creating an unnecessary level of bureaucracy which is never democratic or efficient

Just let the new central organization do the job
Let's have a proper local referendum in tandem with the next General election to see if the public actually want this in the first place.
Let's see how Harrogate runs without a town council. What is the rush
Local elections should be held every 2 years. To make sure that councillors do not become too comfortable and complacent in their positions.
No answer to this as I don't agree with the principle.
No Council, no need!
No elections & NO new expensive & unwanted parish council
No elections means no council
No elections needed if there is no town council
No it is a waste of money.
No needed
No preference
No town council
Not in favour of the whole proposal
Not necessary
Not necessary
Not necessary ,see above
Not needed
Not needed, if no Town Council.
Only 2 per cent of the electorate bothered to reply to the first consultation. That shows how little appetite there is for this proposal.
Please don't do it, leave us alone
Please don't go ahead - it not necessary
Pointless
Postpone the entire notion of Harrogate Council members for at least 5 years until we see how the new organisation performs
Prefer the elections to be every 2 years. 4 years is far too long for councillors to maintain their enthusiasm.
Review may need to happen more quickly than 4 years, especially after the first term of 3 years.
Save on the cost of elections, Harrogate does not want or need a town council.
Seems a waste of expense doing it for just three years.
Should be 4 years. If the council is to work it needs to be able to legislate
Should be elected every general election to minimise costs
Should be elections this year in May 2023
Should be every three years
Should be every two years
Should never implement
Since I don't want the council, I don't want the elections that go with it.. elections
Stop! Please...
The cost of holding elections for a Town Council would be better spent delivering core services by the new NYC. I do not believe it is appropriate to form a Town Council for Harrogate.
The cost of the council is too high and not enough details have been provided. Stop rushing through this process so you can unload costs from the county council onto a town council with no real power.

The cost of the proposed elections will rest on the local taxpayers whether or not they vote. There is no guarantee that sufficient information about the candidates will be made publicly available so that electors can make informed personal choices.
The council has had long enough to sort this out. Wasting time and money
The councillor we have for the Coppice area has been useless so why is this going to make any difference
The Town Council should be set up earlier so there is no lacuna
There should be a maximum term of 3 years for every cycle right from the start
There should be no election.
They should follow the government standard of four years.
Think it would be better for the New North Yorks Council to have chance to settle in to place first and then see at a later date how things are working out. Inflicting extra charges on residents so close to the Living crisis is a mistake.
This is an unnecessary cost to residents.
This is far too long an interval between elections, It would be more democratic to have one third or better still half of the positions voted on every year
This is irrelevant given my previous answer.
Too long a timescale if the wrong person is voted in, look at London, Scotland and Russia. People need to be held accountable and not treat any position as a gravy train
Totally logical and very necessary to match the County Council elections
Two years is long enough to make a change or pass the responsibilities on
Unnecessary expense.
Wait till 2027
Waste of money
Waste of money
Waste of money and time to set up an expensive duplicate of unitary functions
Waste of time
Waste of time and money
We just abolished one layer of government,
We need change, but not this nonsense.
We need to dispense with contact with Northallerton altogether
We should have elections sooner.
We should wait until 2025.
We should wait until 2027, give North Yorkshire opportunity to deliver, will also identify any gaps which parish council may be able to fill.
What a waste of time
What will another layer of local politicians cost the tax paying public?
Why elect them at all?
Why not wait until 2027
Why oh why do we get so many choices on this when it matters not a jot? Do you really think this will fool us into thinking that we voted for this? Why did we not get any choice as to if we wanted to get rid of local government and send all our taxes to be spent far away in the rural areas of North Yorkshire. Northallerton has no appreciation of what needs to happen in Harrogate or bigger towns. This reorganisation has been an absolute scandal.
Why such interest in setting up a council with no real power, whereas we had no input when all the decisions and money were grabbed by Northallerton Tories.
Will not be voting. Now consider it a waste of energy
Would prefer every 3 years

Would prefer that the initial council be in place for two years, and that follow election be every 3 years. 4 years is too long to be in position. Ideas/motivation of council members will become stale over a longer period.
Yes an elected mayor for North Yorkshire and York the priority at this time
Yes. The existing Harrogate councillors should start work as the town council right away. We don't want two sets of councillors - it would be even more confusing and expensive than the supposedly confusing and expensive system that Northallerton have decided to replace.
You must have true representation. At least 50% for or against. No.
You've already proved it's a 'recommendation' that is not wanted by the electorate so therefore elections for this are not needed. Therefore it is clear you are just wasting precious public funds whilst our services are degraded. You can't help with this but it's clear what the UK desperately needs is a General Election instead of this wasteful nonsense.

Comments for not sure responses

4 years is a long time for someone to take on a certain role
An earlier election would be preferable, but perhaps this is the earliest practicable date.
Are you suggesting that nothing will change from 1 April 2023 to 2 May 2024?
By 2 May 2024 the new Council will have been in place for just over a year and it may well be, at that time, that it is not considered so necessary to have a new tier of local government, that will not be cheap and will ever escalate in charges.
Concerned for value for money for the residents of Harrogate
DO WE NEED MORE COST BY ADDING MORE POSITIONS AND CHARGING EVERYONE MORE
Do whatever is going to cost the population the least
Don't agree so can't answer
I couldn't care less really but the longer the better I guess so that it will save the cost of forever re-electing councillors
I refer to previous answers, I simply require a reactive service, if that occurs I'd happily do without elections.
I think it would have been better to have them in May 2023 but I accept that that is probably too tight
It is not made clear why the elections are proposed for 2027
It is unfortunate that there cannot be an election until the unitary authority has been operating for a full year. Four yearly elections thereafter are acceptable.
It may be necessary to reduce this time scale.
It really doesn't matter. The key thing is not to waste money
It seems a long time in the future and I can never work out why things take so long; Life / circumstances may well be different by then which will create more delay.
Need to know more about the role of the council before commenting.
Reducing the available terms should help to remove complacency against any civil servants that think they are in for a free ride or will look to swing the lead.
Same thing different name
Seems a long gap
should keep all elections in line with each other so don't have to put on as many election days due to cost and disruption to public
Think it would be good to happen asap
This would totally depend on the structure put in place over the proposed 3 year period. It needs to be a flexible time of negotiation, to include many practicalities. It is very easy to propose this, that and the other, but far more difficult to be seeing to be knowledgeable and able to discern all necessary proposals and the practicalities around this! You are probably looking at 10-20 years of unrest and disagreement within the Harrogate Town Council - a mass exodus of residents could well be the result, with the drop in funds, crippling the quality of life in Harrogate. Prepare for the exodus!

Time is short. We need to begin NOW to ask for and list all the responsibilities that we want from this council, .e.g. Mayoral representation and other figure-heads.
We really need to be sure this is justified, more pushback from the electorate will not be good
What happens for representation of Harrogate between April 2023 and May 2024?
While a 4 year cycle seems reasonable, I would prefer a contingent break should there be issues that constituents are not happy with becoming apparent sometime prior to that. Being saddled with poor performance for 4 years is not desirable.
Why ask? Isn't this normal? How will Harrogate get anything done that's important to their residents in the year to May 2024? I am fearful for the future of this town which I love.
Why can these elections not be completed sooner?
Would prefer to understand powers and responsibilities of town council to be better understood and negotiated before establishment