

# Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Committee 27 November 2025 Presentation

## Parish Liaison, Devolution and Community Rights (PLDCR) Team - Parish Liaison

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# PLDCR - Parish Liaison Overview

## 1 Parish Liaison

The team provides support for all Parish/Town Councils, City Councils and Parish Meetings (Parish Sector Organisations) facilitating ongoing engagement, communication and collaboration.

## 2. Devolution

The team facilitates the transfer of assets and/or services to local communities including Parish Sector Organisations (PSO's)

## 3. Community Rights

The team manages the council's statutory responsibilities for Community Rights in the Localism Act 2011 and forthcoming English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill including the following:

- Community Right to Bid/Community Right to Buy - (Assets of Community Value)
- Community Right to Challenge



# North Yorkshire Council - Parish Sector (2024/25)

- There are 572 PSO's (including groups) in North Yorkshire approximately twice as many as any other council, there are only 6 with over 200. Of these there are 160 Parish Meetings that are the smallest type of PSO.
- Where a precept is charged then, compared to other areas, the PSO's in North Yorkshire charge approximately 57% of the national average
- Where a precept is charged more than 45% of PSO's have total precept income less than £5,000, there are only 15 with total income over £200,000
- This indicates that there are a unique number of PSO's made up of more rural organisations and large numbers without a precept/with a very small precept.

# PLDCR - Parish Liaison Activities

- The PLDCR Team supports the NYC Relationship with Parish Sector Organisations
- The Parish Charter was adopted in July 2023 and is reviewed and updated annually [Parish Charter | North Yorkshire Council](#)
- The Team provide advice and support across NYC and to all PSO's, they act as a “single point of contact”  
[parishliaison@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:parishliaison@northyorks.gov.uk)
- The team have facilitated drop-in surgeries and meetings across the county based on NYC Area Committee areas
- Monthly Parish Updates are produced and distributed to all PSO's on the last Wednesday of the month
- The team supports a representative Parish Panel made up of 58 Parish/Town Councils



# PLDCR - Parish Liaison - Outcomes

- Since August 2024 there have been at least 230 queries dealt with via the PL inbox
- There have been 13 Parish Liaison/Drop-In Surgeries and Meetings held. The second year has now commenced, and the Harrogate and Knaresborough drop-in surgery was held on 19 September (all day) in Pannal, and the formal meeting was held on 1 October in Arkendale.
- There have been 14 issues of the monthly Parish Update published and 64 county-wide emails have been sent out on behalf of other NYC Services
- There have been 6 Parish Panel surveys undertaken, subjects include The Parish Charter and performance of the PLDCR Team
- The Team have attended 7 individual Parish Council Meetings and 6 Yorkshire Local Council Association Branch meetings
- The estimated number of individual issues raised and resolved is 417

# Parish Liaison – Developments 2025/26

- Virtual Drop-in Surgeries have been introduced, held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (am) and on the 3rd Wednesday of every month (pm) – Appointments are bookable
- A new Parish Website has been developed and will be available in the new year

## PSO's in Harrogate and Knaresborough AC Area (17)

1. Arkendale, Coneythorpe and Clareton Parish Council	10. Marton cum Grafton Parish Council
2. Boroughbridge Parish Council	11. Nidd Parish Council
3. Brearton (Parish Meeting)	12. Pannal and Burn Bridge Parish Council
4. Farnham (Parish Meeting)	13. Ripley Parish Council
5. Ferrensby (Parish Meeting)	14. Scotton Parish Council
6. Hampsthwaite Parish Council	15. Scriven Parish Council
7. Harrogate Town Council	16. Staveley and Copgrove Parish Council
8. Killinghall Parish Council	17. Walkingham Hill with Occaney (Parish Meeting)
9. Knaresborough Town Council	

# PLDCR Team - Devolution

- Double Devolution Pilots - Work to progress the Double Devolution pilot proposals has progressed, the proposal for the transfer of Knaresborough Market to the town council was agreed by the Executive in October and timescales are being discussed
- A Devolution Framework is being developed for all devolution opportunities across the council. It is anticipated that the work will bring together/update existing approaches to both asset and service-based transfers developing new policies as appropriate including the Community asset Transfer policy and a review of the double devolution process
- There are existing processes/agreements in place including Community Asset Transfers
- Any devolution queries should be submitted to [localdevolution@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:localdevolution@northyorks.gov.uk)

# PLDCR Team - Community Rights

## *Assets of Community Value*

- Process developed after 2023 bringing together all district/borough councils' methodologies
- There are 84 ACV Listings in total, of those listed 50 have been nominated by PSO's
- In the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill the Community Right to Buy replaces Assets of Community Value with new stages, responsibilities and timescales once owner decides to dispose. The nominating group is assumed to be the preferred Community Buyer with options to have alternatives

# PLDCR Team - Community Rights Emerging Areas: English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill

## **Local Authority: Effective Neighbourhood Governance**

- There is no detail in the Bill but suggests that the Secretary of State can direct the shape of Neighbourhood governance including for existing Local Authorities

# Questions?