

# Briefings for Parish and Town Councils and Parish Meetings

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021



The new council for  
**NORTH  
YORKSHIRE**

# Welcome

## Aim:

- To update Parish and Town Councils and Parish Meetings on Local Government Reorganisation in North Yorkshire.
- To provide an opportunity for you to ask questions and influence the relationship with the new council.

## Presenters:

- Councillor Carl Les: Chair, LGR Implementation Board and Leader, North Yorkshire County Council
- Paul Shevlin: Sponsor of LGR Locality Workstream and Chief Executive, Craven District Council
- Neil Irving: Assistant Director, North Yorkshire County Council



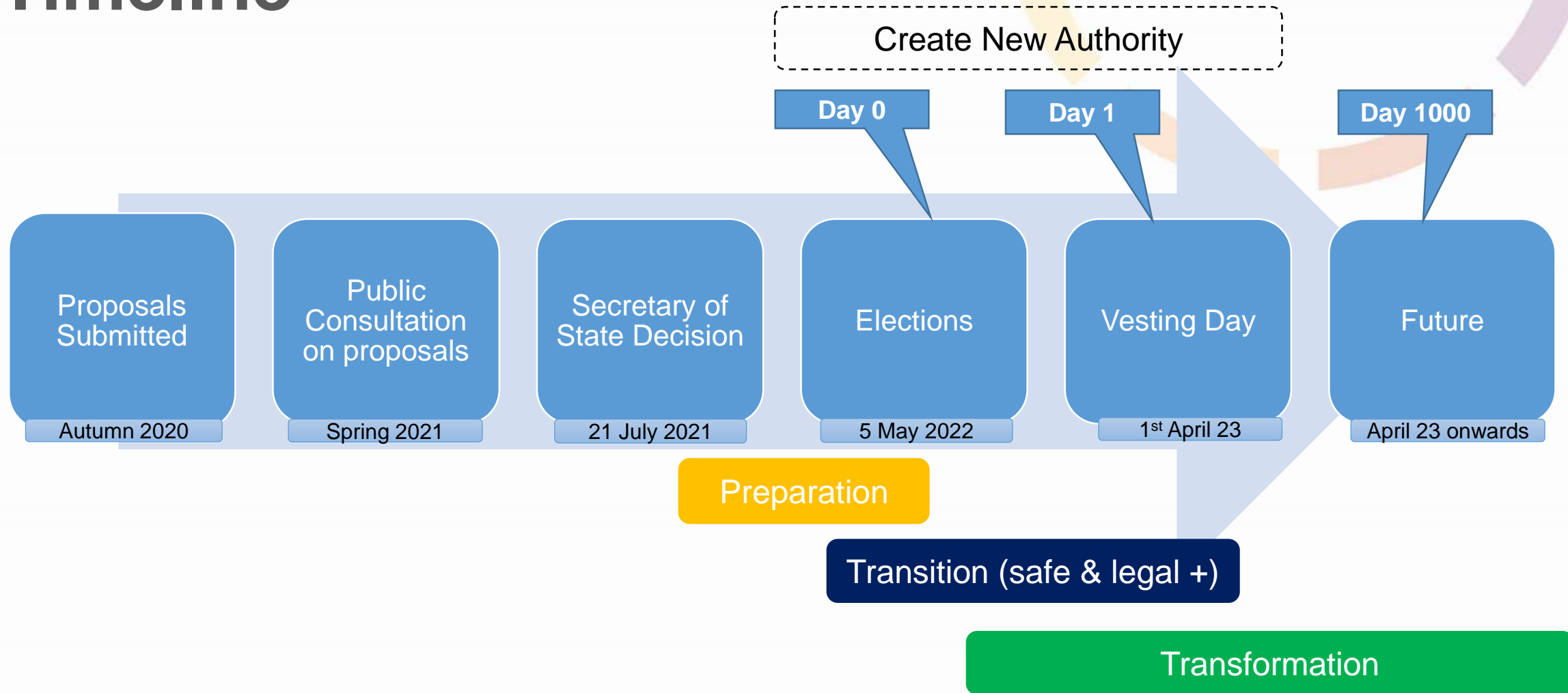
# Housekeeping

Have a question? – type it into the conversation box

Copies of presentation and FAQs will be sent to all Parish Clerks, for circulation.

Regular updates will be sent to Parish Clerks for circulation.

# Timeline



# Overview of LGR Business Case

- Reduce duplication, bring services together and make savings
- Improve effectiveness and efficiency of local government services
- A local office in every District area
- A range of local customer access points (approx. 30)
- A council of around 90 members
- Local Area Committees
- Community Network arrangements for every market town and area
- New ways of working with Town and Parish Councils

# Structural Changes Order

Requires Parliamentary approval, probably early 2022

Creates the new unitary authority from 1st April 2023

Sets out the timing of elections: 5th May 2022

Specifies wards and number of councillors

Imposes legal duties on the county and district councils:

- to cooperate and consult with each other
- to work together to prepare for the transfer of the functions, property, rights and liabilities to the new unitary authority

# What does this mean in practice?

The county and districts continue as sovereign bodies until 31 March 2023.  
Must cooperate and work together to prepare for the new unitary authority

The 90 councillors elected on 5 May 2022 will serve for five years and be the:

- county council to 31 March 2023, and
- shadow unitary council to 31 March 2023, and
- unitary council from 1 April 2023 to May 2027

Next elections May 2027, and then every four years

No District or Borough Council elections



# Implementation governance

## Implementation board

- County Council executive and District Council leaders. Chaired by Cllr Carl Les (NYCC), deputy chair Cllr Mark Crane (Selby DC).

## Implementation team

- County Council Management Board and District Council Chief Executives. Chaired by Richard Flinton (NYCC), deputy chair Paul Shevlin (Craven DC).

Programme Management Office – made up of officers from county and district councils.



# Targets for Vesting Day (1<sup>st</sup> April 2023)

Key 'must dos'...

Ensure safe and legal operations

Democratic arrangements in place

Transfer of staff

Transfer of property, assets and contracts

IT systems and technology in place

Customer access / One Front Door (and simplification of customer journey)

Locality transformation – implementation of new localism



# Work Streams – Sponsors

WORK STREAM	Corporate Governance	Comms, Engagement & Branding	Culture, Leisure & Sport	Customer (incl. Revs/Bens)	Economic Development	Finance	Housing
SPONSOR	Barry Khan North Yorkshire	Richard Flinton North Yorkshire	Richard Webb North Yorkshire	Wallace Sampson Harrogate	Mike Greene Scarborough	Gary Fielding North Yorkshire	Justin Ives Hambleton

WORK STREAM	Human Resources	ICT & Digital	Locality	Organisational Development	Planning	Property	Regulatory Services & Emergency Planning	Waste, Highways, Parking & Street Scene
SPONSOR	Justine Brooksbank North Yorkshire	Stuart Carlton North Yorkshire	Paul Shevlin Craven	Stacey Burlet Ryedale	Janet Waggott Selby	Justin Ives Hambleton	Tony Clark Richmondshire	Karl Battersby North Yorkshire

WORK STREAM	Adults	Children's	Public Health	Day 1 planning and service continuity only				
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## Devolution

Mike Greene  
Scarborough,  
Richard Flinton  
North Yorkshire,  
Ian Floyd  
York

To be pursued in parallel to the transition to unitary council

# Locality workstream

Keeping the local in local government

- Positive working relationship with all parish and town councils and parish meetings
- Supporting town and parish councils – who want to – to do more
- Area Committees
- Community Networks
- Local service hubs and customer access points
- Town councils in Harrogate and Scarborough

# Elections to parish and town councils

- Elections to parish and town councils - normally aligned with elections to district councils – cost effective
- But different years across North Yorkshire
- The Structural Changes Order is expected to align all elections
- This will mean
  - the term of office of all existing parish and town councillors will end in May 2022
  - elections for all parish and town councillors in May 2022
  - next elections in May 2027, and then every four years

# Precepts and other agreements

- No change to the arrangements for precepts
- All contracts and legal agreements will novate to the unitary council
- We are looking to ensure that all other ongoing funding agreements with parish and town councils and voluntary organisations will continue for financial year 2023/24 on same basis as for financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23

# Positive working relationship

We want to have a positive and effective working relationship with all parish and town councils and parish meetings

- Recognition of the unique role of parish and town councils and parish meetings
- Effective communication, engagement and consultation
- Mutual respect
- Revised parish charter
- Personal relationships with nominated officers
- Improved and broader parish portal
- Further support and training – if that would be helpful

# Supporting those who want to do more

Opportunities for town and parish councils that want to deliver services or manage assets, providing there is a **valid business case**

- Identification of a **small group** of town and parish councils to develop and implement the concept with the unitary council. Others could follow on.
- Will require changes within the unitary council and the relevant town and parish councils, including new ways of working, training and ongoing support, and transfer of resources.
- Requires proper consideration and preparation; highly unlikely to be any significant delivery of **services** before 2024.

# Area Committees

- Likely to be 6 area committees, based on parliamentary constituencies
- Made up of all the unitary councillors for that area (approx. 15)
- Key part of the unitary council's governance
- Political accountability for the discharge of statutory functions and services at local level (scope to be decided)
- Decision making on locally relevant planning and licensing applications (where these are not delegated to officers)



# Community networks

- Co-design and consultation on format and areas after May 2022.
- Likely design principles
  - Centred around market towns and surrounding areas
  - Bring together residents, councillors, town and parish councils, MPs, community groups and partners like the NHS and police and fire service.
  - Engine rooms of local action and ideas, leading to greater collaboration, community focused priorities and delivery
  - Every network supported by a paid coordinator to help, encourage and empower network to take action and tackle local issues and priorities
  - Each network assigned one of the most senior council managers to ensure strategic connections and that managers are grounded in local delivery

# Local service hubs & customer access

- The new council will be local, with staff continuing to live and work in the communities they serve
- There will be a main office in each district and more face-to-face customer access points throughout market towns.
- Local customer access points – aiming to eventually have around 30
- Digital services, telephone and face to face – providing choice and accessibility across channels

# Harrogate & Scarborough

- Currently the significant parts of the towns of Harrogate and Scarborough are the only unparished areas in the county
- Community governance reviews in both areas to explore local interest is establishing town councils
- Subject to local interest, town councils could be in place in 2023 or 2024

# Future communications

- Working with a small number of interested town and parish councils on potential devolution of services and assets – please get in touch with **Paul Shevlin or Neil Irving with “Town and Parish Councils” in the heading of your email**
- What else would you find useful? (please post comments or email)
- Copies of presentation and FAQs will be sent to parish clerks, for circulation.
- Regular updates will be sent to parish clerks for circulation.
- If you have any further questions please email **Paul Shevlin or Neil Irving with “Town and Parish Councils” in the heading of your email**
- [PShevlin@cravendc.gov.uk](mailto:PShevlin@cravendc.gov.uk)
- [Neil.Irving@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Neil.Irving@northyorks.gov.uk)

# Thank you for attending

## Any questions?

