

Cllr Helen Swiers Report to FTC August 2021

Covid-19:

As usual, you have Richard Flinton's (Chief Executive) weekly reports therefore I shall not repeat except to say we still need to be on our guard against this disease and maintain any preventative measures we can.

Kickstart Scheme:

On Friday 30th July County Hall had the pleasure of welcoming the Chancellor and local MP, Rishi Sunak. He came to meet around 30 apprentices on the government Kickstart scheme. The scheme employs unemployed people aged 16 to 24 into good quality jobs for a six-month period to enable them to learn skills and hopefully longer-term opportunities. NYCC acts as a gateway into the scheme for employers and has seen 83 Kickstart candidates employed through its efforts with local employers. In addition, NYCC employs 28 young people directly through the Kickstart scheme.

New Arrangements for Local Government:

As I'm sure you know, on 21st July the Secretary of State announced which proposals, subject to Parliamentary approval, will be implemented.

North Yorkshire - single county unitary council
Somerset - single county unitary council
Cumbria - two unitary councils (East and West)

It was considered that the single county unitary proposal strongly met all three of the criteria. The geography of the new council will:

- Have the critical mass to deliver all services effectively at a local level to a large rural area whilst preserving delivery of current county services.
- Maintain the brand 'North Yorkshire' and established local identity.
- Maintain a geography which aligns with existing sector partnerships without disruption.

Now we have to make it work for us from Day 1 and there isn't a great deal of time. It is expected that all councils will work together collaboratively and constructively; indeed, engagement has already started. The first meeting of MHCLG with County and District/Borough Chief Executives is expected to take place mid-August. We have eight strong councils with good officers at all levels so we should be able to move forward and build on the strengths that we have across North Yorkshire.

STAGES

1. Decision made 21st July - immediate communication
2. Decision to Structural Change Order (SCO) (21st July – January/February 2022) - informal period of joint working with the expectation we will work together
3. SCO to Elections (February – May 2022) - formal structure in place – Implementation Executive and Implementation Team – oversee the change up to the elections
4. Elections to Vesting day (May 2022 – April 2023) - five-year term – one old then new member/ new council will be in place – transition to new council
5. Year one and beyond (April 2023 onwards) - Boundary Commission Review

IN SUMMARY

- It is an important moment for Local Government in North Yorkshire
- We all need to engage positively and bring together the local Government family
- Partners and other stakeholders will want to engage to help and shape the new council
- Need to put in place strong functional arrangements to deliver change
- It is critical that we keep staff on board from all councils
- Focus on key essentials for Day 1

- Strong communications with all - including councillors