



LEYBURN TOWN COUNCIL

Market and Burial Authority

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 23rd NOVEMBER AT 7PM

Present: Cllr Alderson Cllr Beswick Cllr Holder Cllr Medley
Cllr Sanderson Cllr Spenceley Cllr Waites
District Cllr's Amsden & Sedgwick Clerk: Mrs C Smith
1 Member of the public

Apologies received from Cllr Walker & Wood.

20.245 Unitary Authority Proposals- To discuss and take appropriate action on the proposals for the formation of a Unitary Authority.

The Council discussed the two proposals for the formation of a Unitary Authority noting the following on each proposal:

RDC Proposal- East and West model would see Craven, Harrogate, Richmondshire and Hambleton join together to form a Unitary Council in the west, and Selby, City of York, Ryedale and Scarborough join together to form a Unitary Council in the east.

- Creating two new Council's would split existing vital service departments such as the children's & adults social care services, highways, transport and infrastructure in half to create more individual departments.
- Have they considered what will happen to the police, fire and rescue service? The current North Yorkshire Police and Fire services work well, these services would also need splitting in two.
- Would potentially create an economic divide between East and West.
- East and West are very diverse, the formation of two Council's would break it into two very different areas. East and West Councils could focus more on the bespoke needs of the area.
- The figures put forward by KPMG on the cost savings made by the RDC proposal seem extremely high. No savings will be made in the first two years as they will have to pay implementation costs.



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- Little detail of the middle tier implementation unit and what this will cover.
NYCC Proposal- a single Unitary Authority for North Yorkshire based upon the current county footprint, whilst retaining the existing Unitary City of York Council.
- Will provide stronger and more joined up services across a single unitary rather than multiple authorities. Utilises and builds on current services that are already in place and functioning well. From a practical perspective the NYCC structure of local government will be more efficient, more resilient, can offer improved services for residents and will better value for money than the East/West split.
- There is already a range of collaborative areas between North Yorkshire County Council and the City of York.
- Will have implementation areas, so this would be more local than the District Council we have now. P74 of the NYCC proposal details that Wensleydale & Swaledale will be one Community Network which will bring everyone in the Dales together as one.
- Concerns over the one size fits all Council from some members.

The Council **resolved** to support the NYCC proposal to establish a single Unitary Authority for North Yorkshire, working alongside the existing Unitary City of York Council on its current boundary.

Proposed– *Cllr Sanderson*

Seconded – *Cllr Alderson*

Resolved by a unanimous show of hands, all Members in favour- Cllrs that had concerns over the NYCC model agreed to support the majority by voting for the single Unitary Authority.

Devolution- The Council discussed devolution and what services Leyburn Town Council would be interested in taking on in the future.

The Council accepted that the local government reform is a good opportunity for the Town Council. Councillors **resolved** to show a keen



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interest to embrace and take advantage of the additional powers offered to the Council for the benefit of the local area.

The Council has already demonstrated that it can take on other services with ease and would be keen on taking on more additional services in the future. Services that the Town Council would be interested in taking on in the future included the Public Toilets on Railway Street and taking on responsibility for the Pay and Display Car Park to assist with the current parking issues in Leyburn.

Cllr Holder put forward the proposal that the Town Council should put in an application to the Richmondshire District Council for the listing as an Asset of Community Value relating to the redundant premises of the Leyburn Badminton Club and Police Station. Cllr Holder believes that these premises are a community asset and would make a good civic centre.

Cllr Spenceley noted that she would not support designation as an ACV of the Police Station and Badminton hall, because the Town Council already own Thornborough Hall.

Future Agenda item: Community Asset Register.

Actions: A letter of support for the NYCC proposal detailing the additional services the Town Council would be interested in will be sent to Richard Flinton, chief executive and Neil Irving, Assistant Director at North Yorkshire County Council.

Meeting closed 19.52



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Appendix

Letter in support of the NYCC Proposal sent to MR Richard Flinton, CEO NYCC and copies sent to MR Neil Irving, Assistant Director Policy Partnerships and Communities NYCC and MR Rusi Sunak, MP.

Mrs C Smith
Clerk to the Council
Thornborough Hall
Leyburn
North Yorkshire
DL8 5AB

26th November 2020

Mr Richard Flinton
Chief Executive
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL7 8AD

Dear Mr Flinton

I am writing to you in support of the local government reorganisation, the Council view this as a significant opportunity to improve and empower the local community.

The Town Council discussed both proposals at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on Monday 23rd November and resolved to support the NYCC proposal to establish a single Unitary Authority for North Yorkshire, working alongside the existing Unitary City of York Council on its current boundary.

North Yorkshire County Council is better able to provide strategic leadership, as there is already a range of collaborative areas between North Yorkshire County Council and the City of York.

This approach to restructuring local government through moving to a unitary structure will provide not just financial savings but stronger more resilient joined up services across a single unitary, ending confusion among the public as to which organisation is responsible for which services also giving people a single, unified voice for the entire county.



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North Yorkshire County Council currently deliver very good services in adult and child social care services, education, highways, transport and economic development. A single authority would utilise and pool specialist expertise in addition to other resources required to deliver front line services.

The Town Council believe it is important that all councils work together to get the best deal for the local community. The restructure is an opportunity to put in place effective, efficient and sustainable units of local government which can think and act strategically to improve decision-making as well as deliver value for money for local residents.

The Town Council welcome the proposal of double devolution of assets and services as it will give real strength to local councils. The opportunity to take on additional responsibilities in the future will be embraced; the Town Council have a particular desire to improve the services provided. Parking in Leyburn is an ongoing issue that we are currently trying to address, taking on responsibility for the pay & display car park would assist us in resolving this issue.

The single unitary authority will also be genuinely local and rooted through local offices to bring community networks together.

The Town Council consider Leyburn a local hub and would put forward to the new Authority that Leyburn would make an ideal location to situate a community office. The NYCC proposal details that *“There would be opportunities to rationalise former district and county offices and still to have appropriate office bases for staff across the county in each former district area to be located near to communities”*. Thornborough Hall already houses the Richmondshire District Council Community Desk and this works well within the Community Library as a local hub providing assisted digital facilities and information for local residents. If a larger area is required for community offices there are a number of buildings in the centre of Leyburn such as the current police station which could possibly be utilised for a community hub in the future. The Town Council urge North Yorkshire County Council to consider if this building could be utilised once the merge of the Police and Fire Service in Leyburn is complete and propose that any future potential sale of the building is postponed until the new unitary authority is formed.

The Town Council appreciate the detailed proposal and offer to answer any further questions the Councillors may have and remain optimistic about the proposed local government reorganisation.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlotte Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs Charlotte Smith
Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
Leyburn Town Council