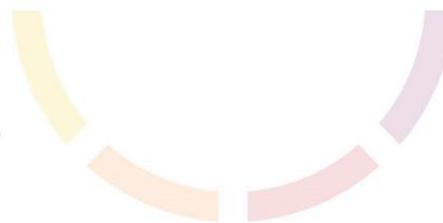




The new council for  
**NORTH  
YORKSHIRE**



## Briefings to Voluntary and Community Sector January 2022 Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Response
What do you mean by Double Devolution?	This is the opportunity for town/parish councils and communities that want to, to deliver services or manage assets, providing there is a valid business case. This will require proper consideration and preparation including new ways of working, training, ongoing support, and transfer of resources.
How are you ensuring Diversity Equity & Inclusion is a core value of the new council?	Equality and diversity principles are embedded within the core governance structure of the entire programme. These are being centrally monitored to ensure consistency (as are other key values such as climate change).  The new councillors to be elected in May 2022, will make decisions on the new council's policies including those on equality, diversity and inclusion.

Question	Response
	Please be assured all programme decisions currently being taken are considering equality and community diversity.
Can Borough Councils transfer assets during the period 2022/23?	<p>On April 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 the assets and liabilities of all eight councils transfer into the new single council. Any decisions regarding transfer of assets, property or contracts will be taken after this point.</p> <p>Up until April 1st 2023, each of the eight councils is responsible for its own assets and can make decisions regarding transfer in line with any existing protocols in place</p>
Why were constituency borders used as the basis for Area Committees? Will the old district boundaries be used for any purposes ongoing?	<p>Politicians involved in drawing up the proposals including arrangements for Area Committees felt it was very important to maintain a link with MPs so that they could raise important matters regionally and nationally if needed. MP attendance ensures that the North Yorkshire's voice is heard directly in Whitehall and NYCC currently has constituency committees which MPs attend once a year and/or send representatives. From 1 April 2023 the recognised boundaries will be the 89 new electoral divisions and the geography of the new area committees will be based on the six MP constituencies. Area committees will take local decisions using the agreed boundaries on matters like local planning and licensing and will hold the new council's executive to account.</p> <p>Districts and borough areas will no longer exist.</p>
Will the new area committees replace the current planning committees?	Subject to the new executive's approval - yes they will.
Having Area Committees looking after planning decisions but not responsible for delivery seems a contradiction?	<p>The main roles of the area committees will be around local decision making on matters like local planning and licensing as well as holding the new council's executive to account.</p> <p>They will not be responsible for local service delivery but they will have an oversight of how local services are performing in their area.</p>

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p>Who will draw up Local Plans?</p>	<p>Currently there are seven local plans (National Parks have their own local plan) relating to each borough or district area.</p> <p>The new council will continue to use these plans until it takes the best of them and any relevant additional and/or new information to develop a new one. This will need to happen within five years of its launch.</p> <p>There will be extensive public consultation at each stage throughout this process.</p>
<p>Who determines the membership of Community Networks?</p>	<p>We are looking at successful operating models both here in North Yorkshire, and elsewhere in the country and learning from that best practice. This includes who should be involved and how the partnerships are supported and developed. They will include resident and community groups, local businesses, local councillors, town and parish councils, MPs and partners like heath, police and fire services.</p> <p>We want to work with these networks to bring forward action plans reflecting local need and which are supported by their area committees</p>
<p>How do you envisage the new council will engage with thematic county-wide VCS organisations? It will be difficult to engage with 30 Community networks, but many of these organisations have a great contribution to make.</p>	<p>Conversations will be supported by community networks. We already have thriving community partnerships and this will continue in the new council. It will also be easier to have these conversations when services are joined together. A key role for the unitary council, set out in the proposal for local government reorganisation, will be creating the conditions for local communities to flourish and supporting them to do this.</p> <p>Please do contact us with ideas and we will consider them as part of the planning process.</p>
<p>I understand the logic behind creating community networks but there are populations in</p>	<p>That will be part of the co design conversation after the May elections. We are not pursuing one size fits all it's about what suits the area and the new council . If you have a particular</p>

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Question	Response
<p>North Yorkshire which are scattered and need different kinds of networks which are not focused on particular places.</p>	<p>concern please contact us and we can make sure this is taken into account during the discussions.</p>
<p>How will you ensure that existing formal funding arrangements that exist with the VCS for specific delivery are either continued or give clarity as to what they are to be replaced with?</p>	<p>All contracts and funding agreements that extend beyond 31 March 2023 will transfer to the new unitary council</p> <p>Any contracts or funding agreements that are due for renewal or re-procurement during 2022/23 will still be reviewed (unless a waiver is appropriate).</p> <p>All 8 councils have agreed to consider extending, where possible, other existing regular funding agreements with VCSE organisations to 2023/24.</p>
<p>Will there be a plan to support the VCS in making the most of tendering and grant opportunities?</p>	<p>Existing funding arrangements/contracts will carry on. For new funding/tendering opportunities we will continue to follow best practice around procurement involving the voluntary sector.</p> <p>This process can take several months as we are aware that we need to help organisations understand what's needed and to give them time to prepare for that. So, discussions will happen in a helpful and timely way.</p>
<p>Will there be NYCC member locality budgets in 2022/23 and will they be considered as an option in the new council?</p>	<p>The existing County Councillor Locality Budget scheme will continue for the financial year 2022/23.</p> <p>The proposal for the unitary council included similar arrangements after April 2023; this will need to be agreed by the new council.</p>
<p>Is work taking place to work with other funders, such as the NHS and NY Police, to make sure changes to local authority</p>	<p>Existing funding arrangements will continue into the new authority as outlined above.</p> <p>And the new council will continue to work with other public sector funders to understand any difficulties and to minimise impact as a result of Local Government Reorganisation.</p>

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Question	Response
investment is not removing one part of a funding mix and creating difficulties for other public sector commissioners and grant providers?	
My organisation currently delivers services in a particular district. In the future will this be more aligned to the parliamentary constituency?	If your organisation is delivering services in a particular area that will continue for the duration of the contract and you won't be have to change to fit in with the area committee geography.
How will the VCS link in with the Council at a local level that will enable their voice to be heard?	<p>There will be 90 new councillors representing 89 new divisions and having one councillor to link to makes things simpler.</p> <p>Community networks and area committees will also provide the opportunity for direct relationships and greater local decision-making.</p> <p>Please contact us with ideas and we will consider them as part of the planning process.</p>
How will the Unitary authority affect Town and Parish Councils and Councils such as Harrogate and Scarborough which currently are not parished?	<p>Town and parish councils will continue. The new council will build on the good relationships that already exist and we are actively engaging with them over issues such as potential transfer of assets etc.</p> <p>Regarding new town councils for Scarborough and Harrogate the draft Structural Changes Order makes provision for this process to be considered  <a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2022/9780348231380">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2022/9780348231380</a></p> <p>The process for establishing new town councils for Harrogate and Scarborough will be subject to a community governance review, including a consultation with local people re need,</p>

Question	Response
	<p>geography, impacts and warding arrangements. The process will start once the new council is in place.</p>
<p>How can the VCS get involved in the workstream groups where they have an interest?</p>	<p>The work streams are officer led and are the planning and development governance aspects of the whole LGR programme.</p> <p>Currently involvement in these is via engagement like the webinars and partner updates.</p> <p>As work progresses the work stream leads who are taking forward specific areas of the programme may well engage in more depth with relevant interested partners and organisations.</p> <p>That engagement and close working will continue as services develop in the years ahead.</p> <p>If you want to raise any points at any time please contact Paul Shevlin or Neil Irving (contact details at the end of the Q&amp;A)</p>
<p>It would be great to have an open discussion in the future about some of the challenges that the new council might be facing and ask the sector what we could offer to help. Could the VCS be contributing to the "engine room" of the Programme Management Office?</p>	<p>The programme management office is very much focused on managing the 16 work streams. There is a huge amount of ongoing work and coordination is very important. If you have any points you would like to raise, please do contact us and we will raise them for you. The contacts are at the end of this FAQ.</p>

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<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
What's the best way to contact the lead on Planning?	Up until the new council comes into existence in April 2023 planning responsibilities will continue to be delivered by your local planning authority. If you have a question about planning now you should approach them – most likely your borough or district council.
My organisation rents space at the District Council as our base will this be able to continue?	Contracts which extend beyond 2023 will continue. There will continue to be a main office in each district area and we are keen to maintain and expand close relationships with all partners.
Will the implementation of the changes slow or accelerate the integration between health and social care?	<p>Many relationships will become much easier by joining up services for example housing, health and social care, financial support etc.</p> <p>Health services are currently going through major change and we are already working with them on future integration. A key role for the implementation team is to ensure that there is no disruption or loss of focus during the transition to a new council.</p>
Will the new authority build on some of the successful approaches taken by Stronger Communities to work in a 'supportive commissioner' role, focusing on stories and outcomes rather than contracts requirements and outputs?	Yes very much so. We will be looking to adopt the approaches that work best from all 8 councils both county council and districts and boroughs.
Will the new authority look to support the existing assets in the voluntary sector and build on them? or try and do more things 'in house'?	We are committed to working with the voluntary sector to help develop services and community assets. We want to see practical local delivery models wherever possible.
How will you ensure fair distribution of resources and	Discussions are already happening across organisations now and they will continue into the new authority. Your local councillor will act as your local champion and should be your voice around such matters.

Question	Response
finances to all areas of the county?	Budget will be discussed and decided on by the new council and driven by local need and the resources available.
Which parts of children's services are open to double devolution?	The new council will be required by law to provide some specific children's services. However decisions on this matter will be made by the new authority.
How will a council house tenant who is in debt to the council over council tax and is at risk of eviction benefit from the new arrangements now the data sharing is easier?	<p>Evictions are always a last resort.</p> <p>Bringing together the eight authorities and joining up services will make it easier to support all residents, including those most at risk.</p>
How are staff feeling?	<p>Our staff are our greatest asset and we are ensuring they have the information they need to feel secure in their jobs and informed about the change programme. The new council will offer greater opportunity for staff to progress. Many staff from across all 8 councils are already contributing directly to planning the new council's services alongside their day job.</p> <p>We plan to enhance current engagement across the organisations to include regular surveys to make sure we consider at all times how people are feeling and where they need support.</p>
How do you envisage the Community Networks working with the Area Committees?	Area Committees will have statutory decision-making powers. Community Networks will support local social action. Local priorities and views will be supported via local community networks and area committees. Local priorities will be understood and acted upon wherever possible. The Area Committees will support the delivery of Community Network action plans and hold the new council's executive and its partners to account for the delivery of local priorities.

## LGR VCS FAQs January 2022

If you have any further questions, suggestions or would like to be involved as we continue our conversations please email either Paul Shevlin or Neil Irving and include VOLUNTARY SECTOR in the subject line.

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