



## Notice of a public meeting of

### Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee

- To:** Councillors Crawshaw (Chair), Fenton (Vice-Chair), Hollyer, Hunter, Kilbane, Mason, Musson, Pearson and Rowley
- Date:** Wednesday, 18 November 2020
- Time:** 10.00 am
- Venue:** West Offices, Station Rise, York YO1 6GA

### AGENDA

#### 1. **Declarations of Interest**

At this point, Members are asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on this agenda.

#### 2. **Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee.

Please note that our registration deadlines have changed to 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the

management of public participation at remote meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is at **5.00pm on Monday 16 November 2020**.

To register to speak please visit [www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings](http://www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings) to fill out an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting please contact the Democracy Officer for the meeting whose details can be found at the foot of the agenda.

### **Webcasting of Remote Public Meetings**

Please note that, subject to available resources, this remote public meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The remote public meeting can be viewed live and on demand at [www.york.gov.uk/webcasts](http://www.york.gov.uk/webcasts).

During coronavirus, we've made some changes to how we're running council meetings. See our coronavirus updates ([www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy](http://www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy)) for more information on meetings and decisions.

### **3. Strategic Partnership Agreement (Pages 1 - 8)**

Further to the meeting of Full Council on Thursday 29 October, the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee are asked to consider the Strategic Partnership Agreement. The Leader and Chief Operating Officer will be in attendance to assist the committee.

### **4. Urgent Business**

Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

#### Democracy Officer:

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For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

**This information can be provided in your own language.**

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

 (01904) 551550

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**Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny  
Management Committee**

**18 November 2020**

Report of the Director of Governance

**Strategic Partnership Agreement**

**Summary**

1. At the meeting of Full Council on Thursday 29 October, Full Council approved the submission to Government of a case for City of York Council remaining a unitary on its existing footprint, together with the submission of its devolution 'Asks' to enable discussions on devolution to be progressed as quickly as possible. Full Council also accepted an amendment to the Executive's proposal to submit a Strategic Partnership Agreement, alongside those submissions as follows:

*"Approve the submission of a Strategic Partnership Agreement with North Yorkshire (Annex 4), which proposes areas of potential joint working between City of York Council and a new North Yorkshire unitary council to support efficient local government in the region, following consideration by Scrutiny and well in advance of the Government's final deadline for submission."*

2. This meeting of Customer & Corporate Scrutiny Management & Policy Committee has been convened to allow scrutiny to consider the Strategic Partnership Agreement submitted to Full Council on 29 October and the Executive on 22 October 2020. The Leader of the Council and Chief Operating Officer will be in attendance to respond to any comments the Committee wish to make. The Agreement is attached at Annex A to this report.

**Background**

3. At its meeting on 22 October 2020, the Executive approved for submission to Full Council, the Strategic Partnership Agreement, set out at Annex A, with North Yorkshire, proposing areas of joint working between City of York Council and a new North Yorkshire Unitary Council.

In order to maximise efficiencies in a new local government structure, the Executive recognised that authorities must work closely together to take any opportunities for joint or shared working where there is a benefit of doing so. Attached at Annex A is the York and North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership Agreement outlining how City of York Council could build on the existing joint working with North Yorkshire County Council, working effectively with a new North Yorkshire Unitary authority to maximise efficiencies. Existing collaboration includes a shared Health & Safety Service, shared use of some HR support & HR advisory support for schools, joint founding shareholders in Veritau (internal audit & fraud management), joint shareholders in Yorwaste (waste management company) and partners in the public private partnership of the Allerton Park Waste Recovery Plant. This would lead to the consideration of options to share resources or lead service delivery across aspects where each authority was best placed to do so for mutual benefit, respecting the sovereignty of places and communities.

4. The initial submission of the case for York to remain as a unitary council on its existing footprint was made to Government on 9 November by the Chief Operating Officer, in line with the Council decision. The Strategic Partnership Agreement, which supports this case, will be submitted by 9 December as part of the Council's supplementary submission of further evidence.
5. All the submitted material received by the Government will be considered and form part of their decision as to which options they will consult upon and what will ultimately be determined by the Secretary of State.

### **Consultation**

6. No specific consultation was required in the preparation of this report.

### **Options**

7. The Committee is asked to consider the Strategic Partnership Agreement attached in line with the decision of Full Council;
8. The Leader and Chief Operating Officer will be in attendance at the meeting to receive any comments the Committee may make.

## Council Plan 2019-23

9. The consideration of this report by scrutiny supports working as an 'open and effective council'.

## Implications

10. Any implications associated with entering into a Strategic Partnership Agreement were taken into account by the Executive at its meeting on 22 October 2020, when it considered, in particular, the potential to maximise efficiencies through a joint working approach. There are no direct implications therefore associated with this report.

## Risk Management

11. There are no known risks associated with the recommendations in this report, however CSMC's failure to consider the Strategic Partnership Agreement would directly contravene an agreed amendment at Full Council. Conversely, radically seeking to alter the Agreement might impact on any joint working approach under consideration with North Yorkshire.

## Recommendations

12. The committee are asked to consider and comment on the Strategic Partnership Agreement, as submitted.

## Contact Details

**Author:**

Dawn Steel

**Head of Civic, Democratic & Scrutiny Services**

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Janie Berry

**Director of Governance**

**Report Approved**  **Date** 10/11/2020

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)**

N/A

**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Annexes**

*Annex A* – Strategic Partnership Agreement

**Abbreviations**

*None*



## York and North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership

### Background

North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) are submitting a proposal to Government to create a new Unitary Council for the County of North Yorkshire. City of York Council (CYC) are submitting a proposal to Government to maintain the existing Unitary Council for the City of York and does not support inclusion within any proposed model by the District Councils of North Yorkshire. Both councils are fully supportive of a devolution deal for the York and North Yorkshire economy and the creation of a Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA). ***There is joint agreement between both councils that this is best achieved by establishing a new unitary council for North Yorkshire and the City of York Council retaining its existing footprint alongside a commitment to broaden the scope of collaboration to leverage the strengths of both councils.***

There is already a good history of collaboration between North Yorkshire County Council and the City of York Council and both councils see devolution and the associated reform of local government as an opportunity to build upon this collaboration. Both recognise that the city of York plays a key role in the economic make-up of the North Yorkshire hinterland but also that there are clear differences between York and the County of North Yorkshire.

The City of York Council and North Yorkshire County Council as part of its submission for local government reform, proposes the creation of a York and North Yorkshire strategic partnership that will complement the joint work at MCA level. A strategic partnership provides the opportunity to bring both councils together to build upon this collaboration at greater scale; to embrace the diversity; and to avoid the unnecessary costs and dis-benefits of disruption of changes to York.

### Strategic Partnership Principles

The following are suggested principles that would underpin the partnership:-

- We will remain sovereign bodies respectful of the strengths that both partners bring to the partnership, to the MCA and to the wider economic and social makeup of the York and North Yorkshire sub-region.
- We will utilise the specific strengths of each authority to support the other, through a range of collaborative approaches, from sharing of services through to acting as a critical friend.
- For those aspects of previous District responsibility, CYC will support transition arrangements for the new NY unitary, giving consideration to sharing of services where there is benefit in doing so.
- We will consider any potential efficiencies as part of forming new partnership working arrangements.

- We will use the future MCA as a vehicle for delivery of shared models of working where they relate to the priorities of the MCA. Other areas of governance will build upon other joint arrangements and will be proportionate.
- We will work jointly as part of the approach to recovery from the Covid pandemic creating a stronger and more effective response.
- We will come together as equals regardless of population, land mass and GVA output.
- Collaboration will not be limited to York and North Yorkshire. We will collaborate more broadly where this makes sense.
- We will be agile in our approach to collaboration. Success will be judged in the medium to long term and not solely on individual ventures.

### **Benefits of this approach**

- Delivers benefits of greater scale whilst minimising disruption
- Enhances efficiency and helps to further reduce costs
- Enhances sustainability of both councils
- Allows for sharing of specialisms and leading practice
- Reinforces collaboration at the MCA
- Respects differences and political sovereignty
- Provides framework to enrich planning and strategy (diversity of thinking)
- Provides flexibility to support the delivery of services at the most appropriate scale.

### **Areas of existing collaboration**

There are already a range of collaborative areas that involve the current North Yorkshire County Council and the City of York Council including –

- Shared Health & Safety Service
- Shared use of some HR support & HR advisory support for schools
- Joint founding shareholders in Veritau - internal audit & fraud management
- Joint shareholders in Yorwaste (waste management company) and partners in the public private partnership of the Allerton Park Waste Recovery Plant
- Shared management arrangements for adult education services
- Shared Emergency Duty Team for out of hours social care response
- Coroners service – shared arrangements
- Various other shared specialist services (e.g. Trading Standards, bridges)

In addition, both have a shared commitment to work within the Humber Coast and Vale Integrated Care System as part of the York and North Yorkshire System Leadership Executive.

The areas above demonstrate a maturity of relationship and a sound base upon which to build additional shared ventures for mutual benefit, notwithstanding the

recognition that there are real differences and it will not always be appropriate to have deeper collaboration.

### **Areas of immediate identification for collaboration include the following**

The following areas are recognised as areas of further more immediate opportunity:-

**Responding to Emergencies & Covid** – recent emergencies, notably Covid and flooding, have seen both councils work closely together in the same Local Resilience Forum. This has identified further opportunities to collaborate on emergency planning, flood management, and public health support resilience of services and the ability to work collectively during an emergency as part of the York & North Yorkshire LRF, particularly with just two councils rather than the current nine and the complexity of responsibilities this brings.

**Strategic Planning & Housing** – working as two councils alongside a mayoral combined authority will increase the ability to have a clearer shared strategic plan to inform priorities and development. As part of this, we will be able to explore housing opportunities both at strategic planning and delivery level, considering council housing and wider housing delivery to meet the shared requirements across boundaries.

**Working in a New Health & Care System** – as strong players and partners within the Humber Coast and Vale Integrated Care System, and as part of the York and North Yorkshire System Leadership Executive, there would be enhanced scope to explore joint opportunities with health partners at both local and sub-regional level. This could include the development of health population data, strategic approaches to the Better Care Fund, managing the risk of the care market and managing Continuing Health Care pressures. Further medium to long term transformational opportunities could also be built upon this new springboard for greater integration and collaboration across the health and care systems, linking into the development of the emerging Integrated Care Partnership on a York and North Yorkshire footprint.

**Harmonisation of council tax collection, revenues and benefits** – CYC could use its skills, capacity, experience and scale to support the new North Yorkshire unitary council in harmonising these services, working alongside those district council staff specialists.

**Children's Services** – further opportunities exist for working together to ensure shared best practice and resilience in children's services, acting as critical friends and building upon the strengths of this area in the sub-region.

**Adult Services & Public Health** – with many 'anchor' NHS and health partners in the region, there will be further opportunities to strengthen partnership arrangements to support consistent, community focussed health and care services.

**Environment and Climate Change** – the shared transport infrastructure and economy of York and North Yorkshire means that both councils will operate more effectively working together, alongside York and North Yorkshire LEP. This will

include sharing best practice when addressing carbon reduction and in the joint efforts to become the first carbon negative region.

**Waste Management** – both NYCC and CYC already have joint stakes in Yorwaste and a waste treatment plant so collaboration starts from a very high base. Opportunities are therefore enhanced to consider options to improve the waste service across York and North Yorkshire.

**Working with the market** – both councils share many of their supply chains and benefit could be derived from shared commissioning, brokerage and market interventions, particularly in social care.

**Legal Services** – CYC and NYCC already share some resources in this area and, therefore, there will be the opportunity to build on this existing work to increase the resilience and retention of specialist resources.

**Back Office** – a range of back office functions could be shared where it is efficient to do so, building on existing collaboration. Increased use of digital connectivity makes this even more realisable.

**Property** – further opportunities exist to share and rationalise office buildings and depots across York and North Yorkshire, again building upon enhanced digital connectivity.

**Budget and Finance** – with the increased financial challenges posed by the pandemic, further efficiencies will be sought through the new partnership arrangements and devolution to support CYC and NYCC in the delivery of key services to local residents, businesses and communities.