

The 'Better Decision Making' tool has been designed to help you consider the impact of your proposal on the health and wellbeing of communities, the environment, and local economy. It draws upon the priorities set out in our Council Plan and will help us to provide inclusive and discrimination-free services by considering the equalities and human rights implications of the decisions we make. The purpose of this tool is to avoid decisions being made in isolation, and to encourage evidence-based decision making that carefully balances social, economic and environmental factors, helping us to become a more responsive and resilient organisation.

The Better Decision Making tool should be used when proposing new projects, services, policies or strategies, or significant amendments to them. The tool should be completed at the earliest opportunity, ideally when you are just beginning to develop a proposal. However, it can be completed at any stage of the decision-making process. If the tool is completed just prior to the Executive, it can still help to guide future courses of action as the proposal is implemented.

The Better Decision Making tool must be attached as an annex to Executive reports. A brief summary of your findings should be reported in the One Planet Council / Equalities section of the report itself.

Guidance to help you complete the assessment can be obtained by hovering over the relevant question.

Please complete all fields. If you wish to enter multiple paragraphs in any of the boxes, hold down 'Alt' before hitting 'Enter'.

Introduction

Service submitting the proposal:	Legal Services
Name of person completing the assessment:	Jane Milthorp
Job title:	Practice manager
Directorate:	Governance
Date Completed:	05/10/21
Date Approved (form to be checked by head of service):	

Section 1: What is the proposal?

1.1	Name of the service, project, programme, policy or strategy being assessed?
	Merger of York coroner area with North Yorkshire County Council coroner areas.

1.2	What are the main aims of the proposal?
	To merge York and North Yorkshire coroner services, at the request of the Chief Coroner.

1.3	What are the key outcomes?
	Improve standards of service, efficiency and resilience. Inquests will still be held in current locations.

Section 2: Evidence

2.1	What data / evidence is available to support the proposal and understand its likely impact? (e.g. hate crime figures, obesity levels, recycling statistics)
	<p>Chief Coroner's Guidance Note 14 - Merger of Coroners Areas, states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. it is the Chief Coroner's view that the number of coroner areas should be reduced in order to create sensibly sized coroner areas, taking into account the numbers of reported deaths, geographical size and types of coroner work in the area b. there are many part-time coroner jurisdictions which are too small for effective management and cost-efficiency c. in many cases 3,000-5,000 reported deaths would be an appropriate number for a coroner jurisdiction <p>our deaths are slightly lower than this at 1820 but the Chief Coroner still wishes us to merge into a single area</p>

2.2	<p>What public / stakeholder consultation has been undertaken and what were the findings?</p> <p>A detailed business case has been developed by the City of York Council and North Yorkshire County Council in consultation with the Chief Coroner's office and the Ministry of Justice, in line with the wishes of the Chief Coroner, the Ministry of Justice, the Senior Coroner, the North Yorkshire Police and the local authority officers.</p> <p>Once the business case has been submitted to the Chief Coroner's Office they will conduct a comprehensive consultation, including for all North Yorkshire and York local authorities: MPs, chief executives and officers of local authorities, coroners, police, registrars, neighbouring coroner areas, NHS and clinical commissioning group.</p>
2.3	<p>Are there any other initiatives that may produce a combined impact with this proposal? (e.g. will the same individuals / communities of identity also be impacted by a different project or policy?)</p> <p>None</p>



Section 3: Impact on One Planet principles

Please summarise any potential positive and negative impacts that may arise from your proposal on residents or staff.
This section relates to the impact of your proposal on the ten One Planet principles.

For 'Impact', please select from the options in the drop-down menu.
If you wish to enter multiple paragraphs in any of the boxes, hold down 'Alt' before hitting 'Enter'.

Equity and Local Economy

Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.1 Impact positively on the business community in York?	Neutral	
3.2 Provide additional employment or training opportunities in the city?	Neutral	
3.3 Help improve the lives of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds or underrepresented groups?	Neutral	

Health & Happiness

Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.4 Improve the physical health or emotional wellbeing of residents or staff?	Positive	Improved access to a better coroner service
3.5 Help reduce health inequalities?	Neutral	
3.6 Encourage residents to be more responsible for their own health?	Neutral	
3.7 Reduce crime or fear of crime?	Neutral	
3.8 Help to give children and young people a good start in life?	Neutral	

Culture & Community

Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.9 Help bring communities together?	Neutral	
3.10 Improve access to services for residents, especially those most in need?	Neutral	
3.11 Improve the cultural offerings of York?	Neutral	
3.12 Encourage residents to be more socially responsible?	Neutral	

Zero Carbon and Sustainable Water

Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
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3.13	Minimise the amount of energy we use and / or reduce the amount of energy we pay for? E.g. through the use of low or zero carbon sources of energy?	Neutral	
3.14	Minimise the amount of water we use and/or reduce the amount of water we pay for?	Neutral	

Zero Waste

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.15	Reduce waste and the amount of money we pay to dispose of waste by maximising reuse and/or recycling of materials?	Neutral	

Sustainable Transport

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.16	Encourage the use of sustainable transport, such as walking, cycling, ultra low emission vehicles and public transport?	Neutral	
3.17	Help improve the quality of the air we breathe?	Neutral	

Sustainable Materials

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.18	Minimise the environmental impact of the goods and services used?	Neutral	

Local and Sustainable Food

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.19	Maximise opportunities to support local and sustainable food initiatives?	Neutral	

Land Use and Wildlife

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.20	Maximise opportunities to conserve or enhance the natural environment?	Neutral	
3.21	Improve the quality of the built environment?	Neutral	
3.22	Preserve the character and setting of the historic city of York?	Neutral	
3.23	Enable residents to enjoy public spaces?	Neutral	

3.40	Additional space to comment on the impacts		

Section 4: Impact on Equalities and Human Rights

Please summarise any potential positive and negative impacts that may arise from your proposal on staff or residents. This section relates to the impact of your proposal on **advancing equalities and human rights** and should build on the impacts you identified in the previous section.

For 'Impact', please select from the options in the drop-down menu.
If you wish to enter multiple paragraphs in any of the boxes, hold down 'Alt' before hitting 'Enter'

Equalities

Will the proposal **adversely impact** upon 'communities of identity'?
Will it **help advance equality** or **foster good relations** between people in 'communities of identity'?

		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
4.1	Age	Neutral	
4.2	Disability	Neutral	
4.3	Gender	Neutral	
4.4	Gender Reassignment	Neutral	
4.5	Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral	
4.6	Pregnancy and maternity	Neutral	
4.7	Race	Neutral	
4.8	Religion or belief	Neutral	
4.9	Sexual orientation	Neutral	
4.10	Carer	Neutral	
4.11	Lowest income groups	Neutral	
4.12	Veterans, Armed forces community	Neutral	

Human Rights

Consider how a human rights approach is evident in the proposal

	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?

4.13	Right to education	Neutral	
4.14	Right not to be subjected to torture, degrading treatment or punishment	Neutral	
4.15	Right to a fair and public hearing	Positive	A more efficient coroner service will improve access to a fair and public hearing by reducing delays and offering a choice of inquest venues
4.16	Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	Positive	A more efficient coroner service will increase the respect to private and family life by reducing delays and offering a choice of inquest venues
4.17	Freedom of expression	Neutral	
4.18	Right not to be subject to discrimination	Neutral	
4.19	Other Rights	Neutral	

4.20	Additional space to comment on the impacts		



Section 5: Planning for Improvement

5.1	What have you changed in order to improve the impact of the proposal on the One Planet principles? (please consider the questions you marked either mixed or negative, as well as any additional positive impacts that may be achievable)
	A merged coroner service will improve standards of service, efficiency and offer increased resilience

5.2	What have you changed in order to improve the impact of the proposal on equalities and human rights? (please consider the questions you marked either mixed or negative, as well as any additional positive impacts that may be achievable)
	A merged coroner service will give families better access to coroner services and a fair hearing

5.3	Going forward, what further evidence or consultation is needed to ensure the proposal delivers its intended benefits? e.g. consultation with specific vulnerable groups, additional data)
	Consultation exercise to be carried out by chief coroner's office

5.4	Please record any outstanding actions needed to maximise benefits or minimise negative impacts in relation to this proposal? (Expand / insert more rows if needed)
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Action	Person(s)	Due date

In the One Planet / Equalities section of your Executive report, please briefly summarise the changes you have made (or intend to make) in order to improve the social, economic and environmental impact of your proposal.