

**Cllr. Carl Les**  
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21 August 2020

Please forward to all Parish and Town Councillors

Dear Colleagues,

It was good that more than 250 parish and town councillors and clerks were able to participate in the seminar on Wednesday about our developing proposal for a strong single unitary council for North Yorkshire working in a stronger partnership with town and parish councils and parish meetings. The seminar included presentations from representatives of local councils in Cornwall, who went through similar changes eleven years ago. I know that there are many other councillors and clerks in North Yorkshire who were interested but unable to attend.

A recording of the seminar is available at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/ptc](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/ptc), together with the presentations made by speakers and responses to questions asked during the seminar. More information about our developing proposal is available at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/stronger-together](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/stronger-together).

A stronger partnership with town and parish councils and parish meetings will include opportunities for all, irrespective of size:

- A simpler, streamlined relationship with one principal council and group of councillors, rather having to work with two councils and groups of councillors; one council would also result in simpler, streamlined services without overlaps or gaps in-between.
- A strengthened say for parish and town councils through 25 Community Networks bringing local councillors, parish and town councils, public service providers and communities together to identify, agree and drive forward priorities for the local area.

- Estimated savings in excess of £25 million every year in North Yorkshire that can be reinvested in local front line services, by reducing duplication, senior management and back office costs through having one single council instead of eight.

For those town and parish councils that want to, there will also be a new devolution offer offering flexible opportunities to run services and assets currently managed by the county and district councils with packages tailored to local ambition and priorities. As a Parish Councillor myself of 12 years' service I was excited by the possibilities this double devolution can offer to parishes and towns that want it, and have the ambition.

The County Council already works locally, you see that with our local highway teams and many other services, but we want a new council for North Yorkshire to be more local still and with an even stronger connection to parish and town councils.

We are interested to hear from all parish and town councils and parish meetings about our developing proposal. We are also interested to hear from representatives who would like to be part of a working group now to ensure that the new relationship is designed together and reflects the breadth and ambition of local councils.

If you have comments or are interested in being part of the working group – or indeed have comments on how the existing relationship with parish and town councils and parish meetings can be improved – please email [Neil.Irving@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Neil.Irving@northyorks.gov.uk).

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Les'.

Cllr. Carl Les  
Leader