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By email to all Parish and Town Council and Parish Meeting Clerks – please forward to all Parish and Town Councillors

Dear Colleagues

As you may have heard, the Secretary of State, Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, has chosen the county council's proposal for the future delivery of local government services in North Yorkshire, <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-07-21/hcws234>.

As such, a new single and strong council will deliver services to every household in the county from April 2023, replacing the eight councils currently operating under the two-tier system.

A single council will also make things simpler for everyone – one number to call, one website, one customer service team and one accountable body.

Support for businesses, high streets and market towns will be aligned more closely with investment in infrastructure like highways and broadband. Planning, housing and health services will be able to provide more joined up support for families and communities.

This also allows us to deliver on our promise to empower local communities including town and parish councils and local groups and to work with them to develop plans and people focussed community networks. Local decision making and action will be a key feature of the new council. You can read the proposal we submitted to Government at www.northyorks.gov.uk/StrongerTogether.

This change will require considerable planning work over the next 20 months, including elections to the new council in May 2022, before the new arrangements take effect from April 2023. We would like

to involve Town and Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in this planning work, to help ensure that the new arrangements are effective and efficient.

During the development of our proposal to Government last year, we worked with a group of representatives from Town and Parish Councils and Parish Meetings. We will be contacting members of that group shortly, but we are also interested to hear from any others who would want to join and positively work with us on the creation of the new authority. If you are interested in joining the group please email me at neil.irving@northyorks.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Irving', with a stylized, cursive script.

Neil Irving
Assistant Director Policy, Partnerships and Communities