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<b>PART B:</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL</b>
<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>12 NOVEMBER 2020</b>
<b>REPORT OF THE:</b>	<b>PROGRAMME DIRECTOR – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS AND PARTNERSHIPS PHILLIP SPURR</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER THE SUBMISSION TO GOVERNMENT OF THE YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE DEVOLUTION ASKS</b>
<b>WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 Ryedale District Council must consider whether it agrees to the submission of the York and North Yorkshire devolution asks to Government. It must be stressed that any decision taken upon whether to support submission of the asks marks the start of a negotiation process with Government. A decision would not, at this stage, be about agreeing the asks or a final negotiated devolution deal. It would simply be about endorsing the submission to Government so that devolution negotiation can commence.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 It is recommended to Council that:

- (i) Agreement is given to submission of the York and North Yorkshire devolution asks to Government, so that devolution negotiations can commence.

### **3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

3.1 An area wishing to seek a devolution deal must submit proposals to Government, setting out its investment requests. Devolution offers the opportunity for devolved local powers and up to £2.4bn to be invested in the York and North Yorkshire area. A significant portion of this would be invested to the benefit of the Ryedale economy. Submission of the asks document will allow devolution negotiations with Government to begin.

3.2 Any decision upon formal Council agreement of the asks, and the resultant devolution deal proposals, will be taken through the normal committee/Council processes in due course.

## **4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS**

- 4.1 Should Ryedale District Council not agree to the submission of the devolution asks to Government, this would potentially threaten the overall York and North Yorkshire devolution deal.
- 4.2 If a devolution deal is not agreed, £2.4bn of investment into York and North Yorkshire would potentially be lost, with Ryedale losing its share of that investment. The powers and funding that devolution offers to Ryedale and the wider North Yorkshire area are crucial to our future economic prosperity. This is even more so in the context of the Covid emergency as we seek to support and grow the district's economy.

## **5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION**

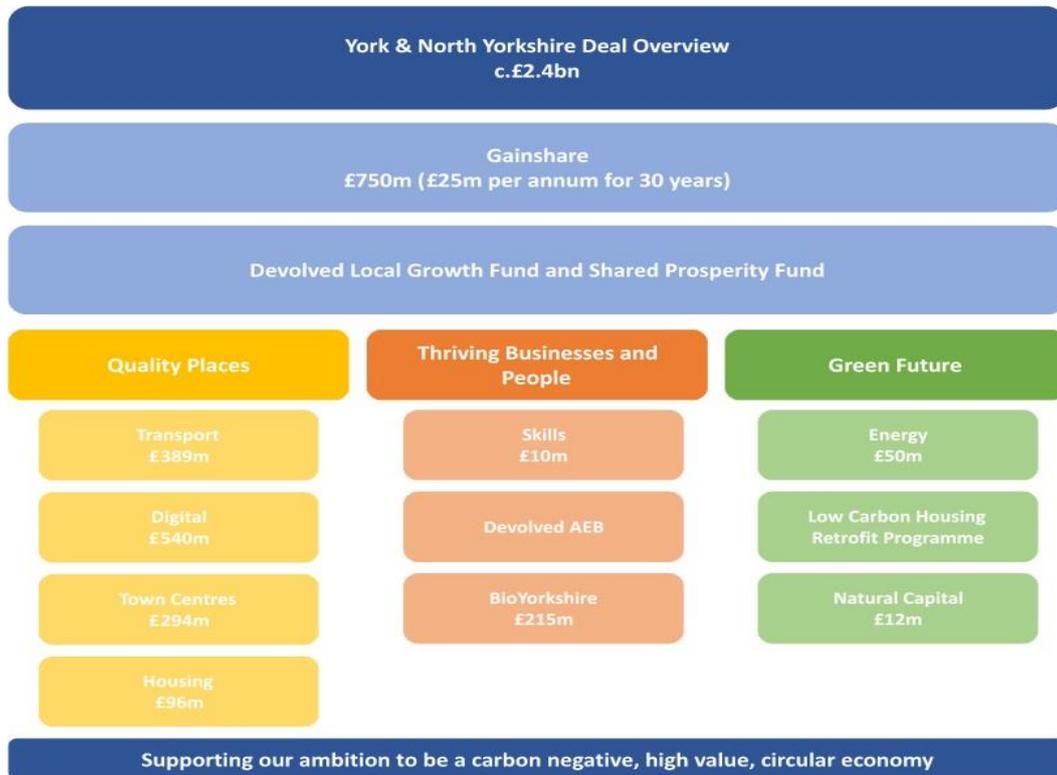
- 5.1 Meetings to discuss the draft proposals were held with Group Leaders on 6<sup>th</sup> May and 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020, and on 19<sup>th</sup> May an email was sent to all Members inviting comments on the proposals. This generated six responses (responses attached at Appendix 1) with respondents recognising the importance of devolution and the potential benefits it could bring to Ryedale, while raising concerns around governance, and highlighting the need for a strong Ryedale voice in the forward process.
- 5.2 A further All-Member Briefing was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 to outline the final devolution proposal, including presentations on the overarching deal and on what opportunities it could offer to Ryedale. There was recognition in the meeting of the importance of securing a deal and support for the submission of the asks to Government.

## **REPORT**

### **6.0 REPORT DETAILS**

- 6.1 In its manifesto in 2019, the Conservative Party set out an ambition for full devolution across England. In essence this involves Central Government devolving some powers down to local level, and committing to a programme of investment to drive economic growth.
- 6.2 Any area that seeks a devolution deal must prepare proposals setting out what level of strategic investment is requested from Government, and how that investment would be spent to drive future sustainable growth. Proposals also include how the local governance structure would work for the devolved geography.
- 6.3 Many councils around the country are currently discussing whether, or how, they might want to engage in the devolution agenda, and what benefits it could bring to their residents. The Leaders of the Councils in York and North Yorkshire have also been having such discussions.
- 6.4 A devolution deal proposal for York and North Yorkshire has been worked up. If the proposal goes ahead and is accepted by Government, it could mean investment of around £2.4bn on initiatives to transform places, lead the way on a green future, support businesses and people, and make communities safer. (Devolution proposals are attached at Appendix 2.)
- 6.5 For the residents of Ryedale, it could mean major investment into improved transport infrastructure, digital inclusion, vibrant market towns, housing and skills. It could also see organisations in our district becoming part of a world centre for bioscience and bio-renewables.

6.6 Specifically, proposals within the devolution asks comprise:



6.7 Officers have worked with the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Councils across the area over many months to help shape the proposals to reflect the needs of Ryedale.

6.8 Ryedale District Council (like all other Councils across York and North Yorkshire) is required to confirm its support for the submission of the asks prior to submission to Government. It must be stressed that at this stage the Council is simply being asked to consider endorsing the submission of the asks as the basis of negotiations with Government, and is not formally agreeing the asks themselves. Any formal decision upon the asks and the negotiated devolution deal will be the subject of formal consideration through the Council's committee and Council processes in due course.

## 7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The following implications have been identified:

- a) Financial  
There are no direct financial implications associated with the submission of the devolution asks to Government. As highlighted above, devolution offers the potential to bring £2.4bn of investment into York and North Yorkshire with a significant proportion of this being invested into the economy of Ryedale.
- b) Legal  
There are no direct legal issues associated with agreeing to submit the devolution asks. RDC is not formally agreeing the asks at this stage, but rather simply endorsing their submission as the basis of negotiations with Government.

The asks are separate from Local Government Reorganisation proposals at this time. Once there is further clarity on Reorganisation, and on devolution once the

anticipated Devolution White Paper is released, the Council can revisit matters as appropriate, but in the meantime it is important for the asks to be put forward.

Any decision upon formal Council agreement of the asks, and the resultant devolution deal proposals, will be taken through the normal committee/Council processes.

- c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental and Climate Change, Crime & Disorder)  
The asks are anchored by a devolution vision of York and North Yorkshire becoming England's first carbon negative economy.

Equalities issues will be addressed in the detailed development of individual devolution investment proposals.

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**Background Papers:**

York and North Yorkshire Devolution Proposal  
Elected Member Consultation Comments, 26/05/20

**Background Papers are available for inspection at:**

[Ryedale District Council's online library - Devolution](#)