

Appendix E – Material prepared by officers of Craven, Harrogate, Richmondshire and Selby councils to inform possible consultation responses to East/West Proposal

<p>1) Is the councils' proposal likely to improve local government and service delivery across each area? Specifically, is it likely to improve council services, give greater value for money, generate savings, provide stronger strategic and local leadership, and create more sustainable structures?</p>	<p>Yes – the proposal has been designed to meet the government's criteria and the 'Case for Change' sets that out in detail. East & West gives balanced populations of 465,000 in the east, and 363,000 in the west, which reflects previous ministerial guidance.</p> <p>This proposal will establish two balanced unitary authorities, which will work together in a strategic partnership and ultimately create a strong Combined Authority, with two equal partners.</p> <p>The East and West authorities will be large enough to deliver efficiencies and take a strategic view of services, but local enough to be representative of local people and businesses and understand their needs and priorities.</p> <p>The proposal is practical and deliverable. Significant savings are possible, giving greater value for money with return on investment in two years. East & West unitaries are of a practical size for efficiency and delivery at scale, whilst respecting the value of place and creating a future stability for both authorities. The East & West model would tackle concerns over York's future sustainability as a small unitary already with financial challenges.</p> <p>The proposal will support us to deliver devolution. Two balanced unitaries will create a fairer, stronger combined authority under a future elected mayor – crucial for delivering effective devolution.</p> <p>It is also better for business and will help to support the post-covid recovery. The new East & West authorities will help drive the 'levelling up' of the Northern Economy. We already have a strong track record in bringing forward major economic development schemes for the benefit of our communities. Over the last five years, there has been nearly £900 million worth of investment projects delivered in the area.</p> <p>This proposal represents a local government structure which is less bureaucratic and has more local decisionmaking, with more powers and streamlined strategic planning, together with local leadership at a local level. It keeps local government local. Our engagement has told us that many people want to retain "local" councils – with a close connection between local government, local communities and the local economy.</p> <p>The proposal Protects and strengthens local democracy. Our proposal recommends that each councillor would represent between 3,000 and 4,000 electors, which fits comfortably with recent recommendations by the Local Boundary Commission for England. NYCC's proposal would have each councillor representing over 5,000 people.</p>
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In summary:

- This proposal will improve local government and service delivery across each area and can be the foundation for levelling up and building back better in North Yorkshire and York.
- Including York in reorganisation means that savings and improvements in services would be made for York as well as for the county council and district and borough councils.
- East & West offers the best possible option for delivering affordable housing delivery across the whole area. York is the only authority in North Yorkshire that has failed to meet Housing Delivery targets.
- Significant savings are possible, with return on investment in two years. This is a quick and realistic payback for council taxpayers.
- East & West authorities are of a practical size for efficiency and delivery at scale, whilst respecting the value of place and creating a future stability for both authorities. The East & West model would tackle concerns over York's future sustainability as a small unitary already with financial challenges.
- Savings across the whole area are up to £56 million and potentially more.
- Our engagement has told us that many people want to retain "local" councils – with a close connection between local government, local communities and the local economy. Our structure of two balanced authorities, eight Locality Committees, a strong role for parish and town councils, and connected communities addresses this.
- The proposal protects and strengthens local democracy by ensuring that councillors have a fair and manageable ratio to electors.

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2) Where it is proposed	□ This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to get change right for York and North Yorkshire. It is important
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<p>that services will be delivered on a different geographic footprint to currently, or through some form of joint arrangements is this likely to improve those services? Such services may for example be children’s services, waste collection and disposal, adult health and social care, planning, and transport.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ that decisions be made based on the most effective long-term sustainable structures that will improve outcomes for local people, rather than whichever is the quickest to implement. □ The proposal unlocks the potential of York. The influence of York is currently limited but could be extended through joining up the region’s major city with the broader area. Businesses are already seeing the opportunities of this in the digital, property and tourism sectors. York has under-delivered on housing and its Local Plan and this could better be addressed by York being an integral part of an East unitary authority. □ The proposal provides the best opportunity to improve adult and children’s services in York by merging them with the award-winning County services. It makes children’s services more sustainable in the longer term and provides York with access to greater resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In North Yorkshire, children’s services are already delivered on a locality basis because the County is so large. The opportunity for York to improve from combining services will be valuable. ○ Bringing county, unitary and district functions together at a local level, presents opportunities to deliver better people-based services. We acknowledge that there is the potential for some short-term disruption to services, but this is the case with any reorganisation. We will ensure that new arrangements are developed by experts in the field, with responsibility to ensure that there are no negative impacts in the short term to people or their care. This has been done successfully in other areas where the services have been in a poorer condition. We are therefore confident that we can build on the existing strength within the services currently to develop a better service for the whole of York and North Yorkshire. □ Local plans will be easier to agree upon for smaller (albeit still very large areas) rather than a massive authority on the North Yorkshire footprint. □ Removing repetition and delivering services on a larger scale will provide the scale for services to be delivered more effectively, but at a scale, which is proven and can still be sensitive to local need.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The new East & West authorities will help drive the ‘levelling up’ of the Northern Economy. We already have a strong track record in bringing forward major economic development schemes for the benefit of our communities. Over the last five years, there has been nearly £900 million worth of investment projects delivered in the area.
<p>3) Is the councils’ proposal also likely to impact local public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Other public sector partners including the Police, Fire & Rescue and health have been consulted and support the move to two unitary authorities. They have said that they can work with either of the two unitary proposals which have been put forward.
<p>services delivered by others, such as police, fire and rescue, and health services?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ A Combined Authority would be balanced with two partners of roughly equal population, size and economy. This creates stable conditions for strong partnerships over the long-term. □ The proposal would have a positive impact on health services, creating greater integration with public health, and stronger partnerships between leisure and culture, health and wellbeing, and health prevention. □ The East & West proposal would make no structural change to the footprint of police and fire services, but would allow stronger integration with those services, in particular building on North Yorkshire Police’s ambition to design an operating model that takes into account the rural, coastal and urban diversity of the area. □ This model reflects the government’s levelling up agenda by making sure that no area in North Yorkshire is left out with nowhere to grow. □ This model is the least disruptive of grass-roots services and support and so provides the strongest foundations to build back better following Covid.
<p>4) Do you support the proposal from the councils?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ This is the best possible model for local government reorganisation in North Yorkshire and York. It recognises the needs of people who actually live and work here and reflects the diversity of the area’s communities. It maintains residents’ connections to their local councils – vital in terms of democratic representation and local leadership.

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- The proposal put forward within the East & West model is the result of an objective and transparent analysis carried out by independent experts to evaluate the best option for the future of Local Government in York and North Yorkshire. A number of options were considered, including the alternative bid. This option represents the outcome of that work and was not based on any pre-conceived conclusions or vested interests, looking beyond current administrative boundaries, systems and arrangements to find the best possible model for the future.
- The East & West proposal is the only model that meets the criteria as set out by the government in its invitation for submissions.
- The proposal is **well-supported**. It is the most popular unitary model, as shown by three separate polls (our principles research, the independent market research study, and the market research question on our website). This proposal also has the most support amongst elected councillors.

5) Do the unitary councils proposed by the councils represent a credible geography?

- The two unitary authorities in the East & West model are the optimum size. The East will have a population of 465,000 and the West will have 363,000. Crucially, they will still be the optimum size in 20-30 years' time and the longer term.
- The East & West model establishes a realistic transport infrastructure footprint that matches how people travel. Especially along key major transport corridors like the A59, A1(M), etc.
- Key identities in North Yorkshire centre around smaller units, like the coast, Dales, Moors. Parish identities are extremely important. This proposal recognises this.
- These proposals **make sense for people and places**, with geographies reflecting the way people live, work and travel currently. It balances people of working age across the two authorities: important for financial sustainability.
- York City would always maintain its own identity as part of a new authority, but its inclusion would also strengthen its contribution to the wider region.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The sub-regional brand will be strengthened through an effective and balanced combined authority.
<p>6) Do you have any other comments with regards to the proposed reorganisation of local government in each area?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Both bids are made up of two authorities with the same external boundaries. An East & West option is equal in population and size of economy that provides a sound and sustainable basis for the future. The North Yorkshire/York model is unbalanced and represents a more ‘quick fix’ approach. Both proposals offer savings, however only the East & West model includes York in any savings and improvements. East & West would require a greater level of change in the short term but would provide the sustainable footing of two ‘optimum sized’ authorities that are large enough to deliver efficiencies and innovation to provide excellent services, a strong local voice and play to the unique strengths of the fantastic assets and communities they represent. These authorities will be in place for this generation and the next and we recognise the need to get change right. □ It is the most popular unitary model, as shown by three separate polls (our principles research, the independent market research study, and the market research question on our website). □ The East & West proposal meets all the tests set out in the government’s criteria by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two new unitary authorities based on credible geographies at the optimum size and scale. ○ East & West unitaries of a practical size for efficiency and delivery at scale, whilst respecting the value of

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place and creating a **future stability** for both authorities.

- Authorities that will **deliver devolution** - Two balanced unitaries will create a fairer, stronger combined authority under a future elected mayor – crucial for delivering effective devolution.
- This proposal represents a local government structure which is less bureaucratic and has more local decision making, with more powers and streamlined strategic decision making with local leadership at a local level. It **keeps local government local**.
 - The proposal **protects and strengthens local democracy**. Our proposal recommends that each councillor would represent between 3,000 and 4,000 electors
- The proposal **unlocks the potential of York**: creating a sustainable structure for the future.
- The proposal is **well-supported**. It is the most popular unitary model, as shown by three separate polls (our principles research, the independent market research study, and the market research question on our website). Also has the most support amongst elected councillors.
 - These proposals **make sense for people and places**, with geographies reflecting the way people live, work and travel currently.
- Police, Fire & Rescue and health have been consulted and support the move to two unitary authorities, they have said that they can work with either of the two unitary proposals which have been put forward.
- **Supported by business** and will help build back better **supporting post-covid recovery**.
 - By bringing county, unitary and districts functions together at a local level, this proposal presents opportunities to deliver **better people-based services**.