



Ryedale District Council

REPORT TO: North Yorkshire Building Control Partnership Board

DATE: 8 February 2023

REPORTING OFFICER: Robert Harper. Head of Building Control.

SUBJECT: NYBCP Transition to North Yorkshire Council

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To receive a report on the transition of NYBCP to North Yorkshire Council on 1st April 2023.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Report be noted.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 To provide Members with information on the current position with the transition of NYBCP to North Yorkshire Council which will take place on 1st April 2023.

4.0 POLICY CONTEXT

4.1 This policy falls within the Partnership's objectives and values in providing excellence in customer services, delivery of a high-quality service and respecting our employees and responding to their needs.

5.0 REPORT

5.1 As the present eight District, Borough and County Councils will merge to become the new unity authority of North Yorkshire Council the present partnership arrangement of NYBCP will also become part of the North Yorkshire Council on 1st April 2023.

5.2 Over the past months a huge amount of work has been carried out by officers of each local authority and the county council to ensure that from 1st April 2023 services will still be delivered in a safe and legal manner

and this equally includes the building control service for the new authority.

- 5.3** As of 1st April it is proposed that building control will be provided as it is now by the building control teams at Craven District, Harrogate Borough and NYBCP without much change. Regular meetings have been held with critical members of each of the three teams, along with all building control staff meetings, to ensure that the transition is seamless for our service users and staff in the run up to and beyond vesting day. Following this we will enter the transformational period of the new authority when changes will be made to ensure that teams across the North Yorkshire area become one in delivering services to our residents.
- 5.4** Although the primary focus is to ensure that a safe and legal building control service will be provided on and after vesting day it is also important to ensure that service users have an overall positive experience and for that reason, as part of the LGR process, agreement has been reached for a single set of building control fees to be adopted from 1st April across the whole of the North Yorkshire Council area. For this purpose all three sets of building control fees were considered and rather than try to harmonise the differences in amounts and categories it has been agreed that the fees from 1st April will be based on the current NYBCP fee schedule which will include a 6% uplift in line with other council fees.
- 5.5** Another area of focus that the building control LGR sub-workstream has been considering is that of branding and it has been unanimously agreed that the NYBCP brand needs to continue, front and centre, into the new authority and be linked to the branding of the new authority. The reason for this is that the NYBCP brand has been established over the past 22 years and it is recognised that the brand itself is strong and well known with local service users and as such losing the brand would have a detrimental effect on the confidence of our service users with the potential to reduce market share. Such a decision to lose the brand will also be taken advantage of by competitors as an indication that the present service provided by NYBCP may not carry through to the new authority.
- 5.6** As the current building control partnership is a joint committee of five partner authorities, which will no longer be in existence from 1st April, the joint committee will no longer be in existence as this would essentially mean that the new authority will be in partnership with itself, as such this will also see the termination of the NYBCP Management Board. With effect from 1st April 2023 NYBCP will merge with the building control teams of Craven District and Harrogate Borough which will become the building control department of North Yorkshire Council within the Planning Directorate.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications resulting from the contents of this report.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no legal implications resulting from the contents of this report.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1 All risks associated with this are being recorded and monitored by the LGR project management processes in places.

9.0 CONCLUSION

9.1 No changes will take place with NYBCP until 1st April 2023 and then NYBCP will become part of North Yorkshire Council to deliver its building control service which will see the termination of the joint committee partnership agreement between the current five partner local authorities.

Background Papers: None

OFFICER CONTACT:

Please contact Robert Harper, Head of Building Control, if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted on 01347 825759 or at robert.harper@nybcp.org