

GREATER YORKSHIRE, GREATER AMBITION

Greater Yorkshire Devolution: Statement of Intent

“The Northern Powerhouse will be a success if the North has a fast growing economy linked together by world class infrastructure. In order to achieve scale and critical mass we must evolve as one diverse economy and not several. As a powerful economic bloc we will compete on a world scale. This is not a UK competition.

The York and North Yorkshire with East Riding LEP believes the way forward is to organise ourselves into business sectors across the North. Businesses can then more easily support each other with innovation, University links, best practice, supply chain development, forward planning for skills and targeted inward investment. Sector working also has the advantage of removing both political and boundary constraints.

Devolution is necessary at a level which will support our ambitions. The international brand recognised and supported by most of our people is Yorkshire. When working ‘abroad’ we are proud to tell people ‘we are from Yorkshire’. Therefore devolution at a Greater Yorkshire level is our first choice. It makes sense. We believe this will provide the scale needed to successfully deliver the skills and physical infrastructure necessary for growth.”

Barry Dodd CBE, Chair Y, NY, ER LEP

We the persons listed below are pleased to submit the attached Statement of Intent outlining our proposals for a devolution deal on the geography of Greater Yorkshire consisting of

Bradford	Calderdale	Craven	City of York
East Yorkshire	Hambleton	Harrogate	Hull
Kirklees	North Yorkshire	Leeds	Richmondshire
Ryedale	Scarborough	Selby	Wakefield

It is our wish that all 16 local authorities work with our 3 Local Enterprise Partnerships and the private sector to deliver real economic growth.

In recognition of the uniqueness of our history and strength of our locality, our preferred option is to open up detailed dialogue with Central Government on a devolution deal centred around the geography of Greater Yorkshire as our preferred option.

We believe that the sense of attachment to the locality of Yorkshire is unique and provides an ideal opportunity to provide a devolution deal on a scale which will allow Greater Yorkshire to compete on a global scale and provide the engine to drive the Northern Powerhouse. The scale of such a devolution deal will allow the authorities to come together to provide an effective body to tackle the key issues for the region. We consider that this option will provide the strongest solution to support local growth, create faster transport links between cities and rural areas, improve skills and increase training.

We must accept that South Yorkshire has decided that they will be responsible for their future. This geography ensures that Greater Yorkshire, all of Yorkshire except South Yorkshire, provides for all local authorities to be included in the Northern Powerhouse project, with no one being excluded because of location or economic challenge.

We feel that this proposed geography meets the Chancellor's call to be ambitious. We believe that although diverse we can bring together the financial power of the Leeds City region, Britain's third biggest port complex at Hull, the renewable energy projects of the Humber and the Coastal area, the agri-business, world-class food manufacturing, and outstanding tourism assets of North and East Yorkshire and York, and York's role as a Science City, the energy generation in Selby which powers our industries and keeps the country's lights on, and the massive contribution potash mining will add to our national GVA

Moreover Greater Yorkshire is more recognisable than its constituent parts, and brings together a rich tapestry of rural and urban economies. The millions who watched the Tour de France Grand Depart not only appreciated the individual locations, but also took away an impression of a collective and connected place.

Working together has seen an All Party Parliamentary Group of MP's deliver benefits for the region

Our aspirations are:

1. Transform Public service delivery
2. Raise Productivity
3. Significantly accelerate housing delivery
4. Invest in infrastructure to provide faster connectivity between cities and global gateway ports and airports

Working in partnership with the Government we will:-

Transform public service delivery through strong and transparent leadership and governance and by a commitment to work together to provide high quality services to our residents in a fiscally responsible way.

Increase productivity by raising skills and aspirations among our workforce and supporting the development of key industrial sectors including sustainable energy, advanced manufacturing and engineering, traditional service industries and new digital industries, biotechnology and agritech industries.

Increase the rate of house building to meet the needs of our growing population, support economic growth and provide affordable high quality housing for everyone in the region.

Invest in transport and communications infrastructure which provides faster connectivity between cities, global gateway ports and airports to ensure that Greater Yorkshire sits at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse.

Devolution of Powers to Greater Yorkshire

The geography of Greater Yorkshire has a historic and proud identity which is recognised worldwide. Yorkshire provides a real sense of place and tradition with which residents are proud to identify. The Yorkshire brand is a powerful driving force behind a unique devolution opportunity which needs to be explored in greater detail. This devolution deal allows Greater Yorkshire to make decisions about its future which will further raise the profile of the area across the country and abroad.

Greater Yorkshire has a population of 3.7m and a GVA of £73bn A Greater Yorkshire (GY) would provide the optimum locality to devolve a range of functions to have the greatest impact for the region and to provide a true powerhouse of the North.

It is noted that Greater Yorkshire has the potential to provide real growth opportunities and compete on a world stage. Greater Yorkshire has:

- Yorkshire has a clear identity and would be able to speak with one voice on issues of transport and economic development, ensuring the region is heard on the national and international stage.
- Unity under a global brand of “Yorkshire”.
- Strategic consideration of major infrastructures such as motorways, airports and the Port of Hull.
- An opportunity for better connections across Yorkshire to access exporting and support key sectors of the economy.
- The best opportunity to “punch above our weight” in the northern powerhouse for all areas of Yorkshire
- 93% of journeys to work starting in GY are internal to GY
- The biggest devolution deal in the country

We have attached an annex illustrating the Greater Yorkshire asks which combine both the desires of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the York, North Yorkshire and East Yorkshire proposals. The annex also shows how closely aligned the asks are across the region and provides a valuable opportunity to be more ambitious by developing our conversation further with the Treasury for a greater devolution deal that will bring further benefits to all our residents. The size of the proposed geography and economy should give greater confidence that further powers can be devolved to the Mayor and the Combined Authority for Greater Yorkshire.

It is considered that the geography of Greater Yorkshire provides such a compelling case for devolution that greater time should be allowed to explore this option and that Central Government

should provide the greatest possible levels of flexibilities and freedoms to such a region to provide the best outcomes for local people.

There is a need to capture the moment and the momentum that the Chancellor has placed on offer, but it is also only correct that time should be taken to pause and allow the largest devolution deal in the country to be done properly and for maximum effect.

Governance

"I want to hear what local councils, local people think is the best way to make sure that Yorkshire has a strong voice and that decisions that affect Yorkshire are taken in Yorkshire" - George Osborne

"We need a united region not a parochial carve-up" – political correspondent, Tom Richmond, writing in The Yorkshire Post.

We believe that this option is the best way to give the people of Yorkshire a strong voice and to ensure that any decision about Yorkshire, will be made in Yorkshire. In return for devolution on this scale, we would see strong governance arrangements in place across the region which would consist of a single Combined Authority with an elected Mayor and an Executive of Leaders.

We strongly believe that any devolution deal must be through the agreement of all the local authorities involved and that devolution should not be forced on an unwilling partner. Each partner authority will then have the energy and the responsibility to sell the benefits of devolution to the residents it is elected to serve. We would like to open up discussions on this geography as we are convinced that a compelling case can be made for devolution on this scale that will have the greatest impact. In return we wish to have a devolution deal which reflects the scale of the geography and the variety of powers that would need to be devolved to drive. We have therefore submitted this statement of intent to allow more time to be given to explore this option with Government and with our partners so that this proposal can be taken forward as the preferred option for the region.

MEP's, MP's, Council Leaders, and Group Leaders have come together in discussions to consider a proposal that we believe is in the best interests of Yorkshire and its residents.

We now invite Government to work with us to develop this proposal.

So far the list of Councils, Group Leaders, MEP's and MP's supporting this proposal is below:-

Council Leaders;

Craven – Cllr Richard Foster , City of York – Cllr Chris Steward , East Riding of Yorkshire – Cllr Stephen Parnaby, Hambleton – Cllr Mark Robson, Harrogate – Cllr Richard Cooper , Hull City – Cllr Stephen Brady , North Yorkshire – Cllr Carl Les, Richmondshire – Cllr Yvonne Peacock , Ryedale – Cllr Linda Cowling , Scarborough – Cllr Derek Bastiman , Selby – Cllr Mark Crane

Conservative Group Leaders;

Bradford – Cllr Simon Cooke, Calderdale – Cllr Stephen Baines, Kirklees – Cllr Robert Light,
Leeds - Cllr Andrew Carter, Wakefield – Cllr Nadeem Ahmed

Member of European Parliament;

Timothy Kirkhope

Members of Parliament;

Craig Whittaker, Jason McCartney, Julian Smith, Julian Sturdy, Kevin Hollinrake, Nigel Adams, Rishi Sunak, Stuart Andrew, Alec Shelbrooke, Robert Goodwill, Diana Johnson, Alan Johnson, Karl Turner

"The word great is often overused in marketing, but Yorkshire truly is a great region, with great people, and great businesses. Yorkshire has a strong brand which is recognised worldwide, and the Tour de France showed that when we work together we can achieve the greatest of things."

Gary Verity, Welcome to Yorkshire