

WELCOME FROM **Richard Flinton, Chief Executive**

It is a real joy to be able to start with some great news for families in Selby today. I am very pleased to be able to confirm that our plans for a Special Free School have taken a big step forward – with the announcement of the sponsor. The Wellspring Academy Trust has been selected by the Department for Education to take the school on and to deliver much needed support for families in the area who have children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). Currently, pupils with SEND in the area must travel for some distance to get the help and education they need – so this is really welcome news. We believe that every child should have the best possible opportunities in life and we are passionate about pursuing that goal – this school will make a really positive difference for many families in Selby. Helping some of our most vulnerable young people to enjoy school life as close as possible to where they live is at the heart of our approach. You can read more about the free school here

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/special-school-selby-takes-major-step-forward>

It's also very nice to be able to talk about more great things you all continue to achieve during the pandemic. Take the 'virtual' community celebration taking place this Friday in the Esk Valley, for example. Residents there continue to keep their spirits up and stay connected with all sorts of things like sharing exercise and music sessions and even virtual walks. You can read all about what they have been up to - and the terrific tale of North Yorkshire Moors National Park volunteer and assistant ranger, Jim Hall on the link just below. It's a lovely story and just typical of the team spirit and selflessness we continue to see right across the county.

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/community-celebrates-lockdown-triumphs>

We have been keeping busy, too – as you would no doubt expect. I have talked previously about how government has told us that the only way to secure the substantial money and local powers that go with devolution is to get rid of the current local government structure here. In brief, that means the eight councils in existence becoming one or two. The order covers York and North Yorkshire and is a really important moment for everyone. We want the very best deal and the strongest, most sustainable public services for everyone. That's why, yesterday, we made it clear we are working on a bid that will deliver that.

Ours will be the only bid that won't break up North Yorkshire. The only bid that will deliver best value and annual savings to strengthen and protect services of around £25million pounds a year. It will offer you a stronger say in what matters in your area through what we are calling a 'double devolution' approach. By that, I mean we would hand on down the powers and money to those town and parish councils that wanted it, to deliver on your very local priorities. We would also give you a stronger voice through a network of community forums serving market town areas.

Ours is the only bid that will ensure that brand North Yorkshire, and all the values it stands for, stay intact and which respects our identified geography. And the only one which respects the integrity of

the City of York, which is already a single tier council providing all services to its residents and businesses. Our bid also follows in the success of other single councils serving whole counties, such as our neighbours in Durham and colleagues in Cornwall. We have been researching their experience to learn from the very best of them and talking to them about the very significant financial savings and service improvements they have been able to deliver thanks to their scale and strength. This learning is important and extremely relevant here.

You can find out more about our proposal here <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/north-yorkshire-kick-starts-unitary-bid-secure-devolution-deal>

Signing off for this week, I cannot leave you without wishing you all happy Yorkshire Day for August the 1st. I hope you spend it celebrating the very many wonderful things you have done and continue to achieve as part of that team. Our very own North Yorkshire Youth Choir have continued to work together virtually across the county, throughout lockdown, and have produced some really inspiring music. We are very grateful that they have let us use their beautiful rendition of 'Song of the Sea' as the theme for our 'Thank You' video to Team North Yorkshire.

They are an inspirational member of that team and we hope you enjoy their performance <https://youtu.be/Et0Ak2l2sKc>

Stay safe and well.

Keeping in touch

NYCC's website has a dedicated area for all the latest COVID-19 related news visit: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information>

Follow us on social media: @northyorkscc on Facebook and Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

UPDATE FROM Dr Lincoln Sargeant, Director of Public Health

Across the UK there have now been 300,692 lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 up until 28th July, sadly with 45,878 COVID-associated deaths. To date, there have been 2,562 confirmed cases of COVID-19 across North Yorkshire – we are currently seeing an average of 2 new cases per day across the county. The infection rate in North Yorkshire remains lower than the national and Yorkshire & Humber average rates.

We continue to proactively work with businesses, accommodation settings and other organisations across the county to help keep them COVID-secure. It has been good to see so many people complying with the new guidance on face coverings, which are now mandatory in shops and supermarkets as well as on public transport. **It is still advised to maintain 2 metre social distancing wherever possible**, but using face coverings in crowded places and regular handwashing will help to minimise the risk of transmission. More information on face coverings is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>.

Testing and contact tracing remain key elements of both the national and local response to COVID-19. If you develop symptoms of coronavirus you should self-isolate at home (along with any other members of your household) and arrange to get tested as soon as possible by visiting www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by ringing 119. If you test positive, you will be contacted by NHS Test & Trace and asked to provide information on who you have been in close contact with since 48 hours before your symptoms started. You may also be contacted by Test & Trace if you have been identified as a contact of someone who has COVID-19 – you will be asked to isolate at home for 14 days (as it can take up to 14 days for symptoms to appear). For more information visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/>.

Working together towards recovery

Testing

As part of the national testing programme for coronavirus, drive-through Mobile Testing Units, run by the Department for Health and Social care, will be operating in the following locations over the coming days between 11am and 3pm:

- **Thursday 30 July - Whitby** - Whitby Park and Ride, Whitby, YO21 1TL
- **Thursday 30 July - Richmond** - Round Howe Car Park, Reeth Road, Richmond, DL10 4T
- **Friday 31 July - Northallerton** - Allertonshire School, Brompton Road, Northallerton, DL6 1ED
- **Saturday 1 August – Selby** – South Entrance, Drax Power Station, New Road, Selby, YO8 8PH
- **Sunday 2 August – Scarborough** – Scarborough Park & Ride, Seamer Road, Scarborough YO12 4LW
- **Monday 3 August - Northallerton** - Allertonshire School, Brompton Road, Northallerton, DL6 1ED
- **Tuesday 4 August - Thornton Le Dale** - National Trust Car Park, No.5. Chestnut Avenue, Pickering, YO18 7RR

Before you attend you must book a test. Tests can be booked from 8pm the night before.

Watch this video to find out what to expect and how to prepare for the test:

<https://youtu.be/QawyKwllfKQ>

Find out more and how to book at www.northyorks.gov.uk/testing

Visiting care home residents

We appreciate the benefits of seeing family for mental health and wellbeing during these difficult times, however this needs to be balanced with the risk of introducing COVID-19 into the care setting. Guidance has been shared with care providers for them to facilitate care home visits in a variety of ways, making sure measures are in place to keep residents and staff safe. Our in-house care homes are working on arrangements at each location with the intention of commencing visits from next week (3rd August). An Easy Read version will be ready to share by the end of this week.

Supporting our schools and childcare

The development of a special free school for the Selby area has taken a major step forward with the naming of the academy sponsor for the project.

The opening of a special school has been widely supported locally and we made the successful bid for a free school to Government as it is an important part of our strategic plan for SEND provision in the county.

The Department for Education has now named the Wellspring Academy Trust as the sponsor to take on the school, which will meet a long-standing need of families in the area with children with special educational needs and disabilities.

At present, there is no special school in Selby, which means children and young people from the area who need special education have to travel to another part of North Yorkshire, often for long distances, or out of the county.

It will reduce travelling time and, therefore, the time children spend away from their home and community. There will also be greater opportunity to have health needs met locally, to be part of community events and developments and to prepare for adulthood in their own area.

We already work closely with the Wellspring Academy Trust on special education provision in the Harrogate area as it runs the Grove pupil referral unit in Harrogate and The Forest School, a special school in Knaresborough, and we look forward to developing a positive partnership in Selby.

The proposed school will cater for up to 100 pupils aged three to 19 and the Government expects that the school, which is one of 35 announced for England, will open after September 2022.

Work with the DfE, in respect of the site and the building, is developing but is in the early stages. The planning authority for the school will be Selby District Council. A planning application for the school will be submitted by the DfE's consultant and the date for this has yet to be determined.

Grow and Learn

It is never too early to start talking, singing and reading to babies – that's the message at the heart of 'Grow and learn' – our initiative to improve speech, language and communication in young children for when they start school.

Singing nursery rhymes and other songs, and chatting and reading to children are key ways of developing their early language.

"These don't have to be done at a set time – they can be done any time to fit in with daily living", said Ruth Little, School Readiness Co-ordinator at North Yorkshire County Council.

"We've put together a summer activity calendar for parents and carers with children under four – you can get the whole family involved and keep everyone entertained!

"The activities in the calendar will promote play and opportunities for children to explore the world around them. This in turn supports their learning and development which will help them to be ready to start school."

Find the calendar and more chat, read, sing and play ideas, plus information about how to join your local library at: www.northyorks.gov.uk/growandlearn

Look out for Grow and Learn on @northyorksc

Teamwork to support our residents

Community support organisations (CSOs) continue help people returning to carrying out ordinary tasks such as shopping for themselves. In Richmondshire, members of a walking group have started meeting in small numbers and setting off at timed intervals. Most of the members are over 70 and have been self-isolating. This step towards a return to ordinary life is a positive move forwards. For people who do still need support with shopping, prescriptions and other essentials, CSOs will still be there as part of Team North Yorkshire's help for those who need it.

Although shielding pauses from August 1, and the national programme of food and prescription deliveries ends, we are making sure no-one slips through the cracks. Over the past few weeks we have been contacting residents, who have been shielding, to reassure them that alternative arrangements are in place for help with shopping and other essentials where this is required and a volunteer is deployed to carry out a door knock check if people can't be contacted.

Alan Kane, has been shielding with his wife Sue as they both have lung disease. He says simply knowing the CSOs and the team of volunteers were there to help him was incredibly reassuring and made himself and Sue feel less alone during lockdown.

Alan said: "If we catch anything, it could be incredibly dangerous. At first it was very hard. But knowing we had the volunteer organisations behind us to help was incredibly reassuring and it still is."

Alan and Sue have had their prescriptions delivered by volunteers throughout lockdown, but they also appreciated the time taken by the volunteers to simply call and check they were okay. He said: "We have managed and it has got easier, but knowing someone was looking out for us was marvellous and I'm very glad it's continuing. If one good thing has come out of this, it's how friendly people have been and how willing to help. The volunteers who helped me could have sat at home, but they've put themselves out there and keep doing so."

People who are self-isolating and need help with shopping, prescriptions and other essentials but don't have anyone to call on, or anyone concerned about the welfare of someone else, can contact North Yorkshire County Council's customer service centre on 01609 780780. The centre is open seven days a week 8am to 5.30pm. People can also find details of local voluntary and community groups offering support at www.northyorkshireconnect.org.uk. For more information about support available go to www.northyorks.gov.uk/help-you-during-coronavirus-covid-19.

Growing our local economy

Local pub gives back to the community

North Yorkshire Buy Local (www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local) is the online marketplace set up by North Yorkshire County Council to help local businesses survive and thrive.

There are now over 700 businesses registered from across the county, forming a vital part of Team North Yorkshire by offering a huge range of services.

For Vicki Jowett, owner of The Buck Inn, a traditional country pub at the heart of Thornton Watlass near Ripon, being a community pub is about much more than serving quality food and drink to her customers. Now, and during lockdown, Vicki and her team have gone out of their way to support the local community, doing anything from shopping to providing an outdoor library.

Vicki has also found new customers through offering take-aways and deliveries, and well over 100 people viewed The Buck Inn on Buy Local.

Register your business and tell your network about the Buy Local market place today!

www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local

Please share our social media messages encouraging businesses to register, and directing the public to the site. Follow @northyorksc on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

County Leader urges Freeport approval

The creation of a Freeport on Teesside could bring major employment benefits to North Yorkshire, the Leader of the County Council has told Chancellor of the Exchequer and Richmond (Yorks) MP Rishi Sunak.

In a letter to the Chancellor, Cllr Carl Les urges that Teesport be given Freeport status now.

Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen is leading a proposal to Government for a Freeport on the Tees. He believes it could create 32,000 jobs over 25 years. Much of North Yorkshire would be in commuting distance for these jobs, he says, and the benefits of the wider economic upturn would extend into North Yorkshire, for example supply chains operating from Stokesley and surrounding areas.

Cllr Les welcomes the forecast creation of jobs and a projection that a free zone could create £2bn of additional annual gross value added.

In his letter to the Chancellor, he writes: "Whilst there will be clear and obvious direct benefits for the Tees Valley, it is my firm belief that these will also be felt strongly in North Yorkshire.

"I am extremely encouraged by these projections and their potential positive impact in North Yorkshire. As you will understand, more than most, many of those living in North Yorkshire have jobs located in the Tees Valley and the boost a Freeport would provide for industries around the port and in the extensive supply chains would be a very welcome boost to jobs in the North Yorkshire area. As we emerge from the coronavirus pandemic, creating good-quality, well-paid jobs is going to be critical and this is an ideal opportunity to begin this progress."

With this in mind, he urges the Chancellor to act now to grant Freeport status to Teesport, rather than to wait until other ports are ready to compete for the status, pointing out that Teesside is ready to go now and could begin to deliver benefits quickly.

Cllr Les says: "Once the criteria have been drawn up and have been set out, I believe that the awarding of Freeport status for Teesside could be accelerated as its proposal would comfortably meet the necessary demands. Once the other areas across the country reach the stage Teesside

is currently at, they would compete for the remaining spots using the same criteria. By taking this approach, Government can accelerate this job creating policy in a fair and appropriate manner.

“As we navigate our way through this economic recovery, we cannot waste time and it seems logical to take this approach to the roll-out of Freeports.”

LEP News

York & North Yorkshire LEP’S annual report published

York and North Yorkshire’s emergence from the COVID-19 pandemic into a **Greener, Fairer, Stronger** economy is highlighted in the latest [annual report](#) from the regions’ Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

The report also reflects £220m of investment secured by the LEP across the region in infrastructure, business and skills and looks ahead to the area’s forthcoming recovery plan and Local Industrial Strategy.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme updates

The government has launched a [new calculator](#) to help employers with their next CJRS claims. Employers can now also download a [new template](#) if claiming for 100 or more employees through the scheme.

NHS Test & Trace & Face Coverings in the workplace

[Guidance on the NHS Test & Trace](#) service for employers, businesses and workers has been updated this week to include a new section on collecting customer and visitor data and additional information on if a worker develops symptoms and orders a test. Updated guidance on wearing face coverings can be read [here](#)

Further business re-opening

Bowling alleys, indoor skating rinks, casinos, exhibition halls and conference centres are due to reopen from 1 August. For guidance, access [here](#)

Eat Out to Help Out

Establishments are now signing up to this scheme which offers diners discounts throughout August. The government is encouraging people to [Eat Out to Help Out – look for the logo](#)

FCO advises against non-essential travel to Spain and Islands

People arriving in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland from Spain (including islands) from 25 July 2020 will need to [self-isolate for 2 weeks](#) due to the increasing risk of COVID-19. Read [here](#) for full details.

Government’s push to promote better health

PHE has launched the [Better Health](#) campaign to support people to live healthier lives and reduce their risk of serious illness, including COVID-19.

The government has also launched a [£2bn programme to boost cycling and walking](#) to embed the benefits of walking and cycling into how we live, work and get around.

Government's UK Transition Business Toolkit

The government has launched a [new campaign and toolkit](#) - The UK's new start: let's get going - to help businesses prepare for the end of the transition period on 31st Dec 2020.

FastFutures Digital Skills

A [new digital and personal skills programme](#) has been launched by FastFutures, targeting school leavers and looking to bridge the gap from education to employment. It will prioritise those from underrepresented groups.

Backed by businesses such as AstraZeneca, AO.com, Barclays, NHS, Tate and Lyle, the programme is free to learners and applications are open now until 13 August 2020.

Pay rises in public sector

Nearly 900,000 workers will benefit across the country, with teachers and doctors seeing the largest rise at 3.1% and 2.8% respectively recognising their efforts on the frontline during the battle against COVID-19.

For more information, visit: [Pay rises for doctors, police and more in the public sector](#)

Stay informed:

GOVERNMENT: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>

Y&NY LEP: <https://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/covid-19/>

Y&NY GROWTH HUB: <https://www.vnygrowthhub.com/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/>

Creative lockdown ideas

Great North Yorkshire Sons and Daughters – John Carr

A man whose legacy is threaded through North Yorkshire's roads network is the latest subject of the Great North Yorkshire Sons and Daughters campaign. The latest nominee is renowned Georgian architect John Carr. Carr served as the North and West Riding "bridgemaster".

Read more about John Carr and Made in North Yorkshire at: www.northyorks.gov.uk/made-in-north-yorkshire

Online music lessons

Our service has adapted to allow lessons to be taught online to pupils unable to attend school. We offer the full range of instruments, including brass, woodwind, strings, percussion, voice and keyboard. Lessons are delivered by specialist instrumental teachers over a secure connection.

We were among the first music service to pioneer this approach and are very experienced in it. For details, visit www.northyorkshireremusic.org.uk or email MusicServiceTuitionRequests@northyorks.gov.uk

Scavenger hunt at home

You may not be able to spend long enough outside to enjoy a scavenger hunt but why not try one at home? <https://www.thebigsmokeevents.com/the-stuck-at-home-scavenger-hunt>
