

Please ask for: Councillor Mark Crane
Direct Dial No: 01757 292001

Your Ref:
Our Ref: MC/LVN

30 July 2020

Little Smeaton Parish Council:

[REDACTED]
Little Smeaton
Pontefract
WF8 3LF

Dear [REDACTED]

You may have seen reports in the media that the Government want the district and county two-tier system of local government to change so that we have one council for our area – a so-called unitary council. I wanted to let you know my general thoughts at this stage and to seek the views of you and your parish colleagues.

The government requires us to submit proposals for unitary government by early September so time is uncomfortably tight to ensure that we get the best result of the options available to us.

While much is unclear at this stage one thing we do know. North Yorkshire County Council is determined that there will be one council- a super-council - going forward based on the whole of North Yorkshire.

I think that local government should be based as closely to the people it serves as it possibly can be. I am therefore disappointed to learn that Selby district council will be disappearing, however, I seek your views on the best solution for the future, in conversations with government they suggest unitaries should be over 300,000 and 400,000 may be the optimum number. This could include city of York which currently has 210,000 residents and falls below the governments optimum number.


I hope that like me you are concerned about local government re-organisation and I would be interested to hear your views. You can email me on mcrane@selby.gov.uk

For the super-council scheme to go forward it needs the support of a majority of county councillors. Some are supporting it because they say they want the government to be able to choose between all the options. But we should make as many choices here in North Yorkshire as we can. That is why I do not think this option should even be presented to government. To do so runs the risk that we will end up with something that few of us want.

Whether you are for or against North Yorkshire's super-council proposal, I would urge you to seek out your county councillor and lobby them strongly with your views and ask them to vote accordingly when the decision comes to the County Council.

I look forward to hearing from you about these proposals and will endeavour to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Mark Crane
Leader of the Council