



## **Councillor Mark Crane - Leader of the Council**

**24 February 2022**

This report covers the period from the 21 December 2021. I have attended meetings of the Local Government Association (LGA and District Council Network (DCN), the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership Infrastructure board and the North Yorkshire Implementation Board.

### **Levelling up White Paper**

The Government published the levelling up white paper on 2 February 2022.

The LGA [published a comprehensive briefing](#) which includes a summary of each mission. The White Paper's [12 new national missions](#) relate to pay; productivity; local transport; gigabit-capable broadband; school performance; skills; life expectancy; wellbeing; pride in place; home ownership; crime rates; and devolution deals.

### **Devolution Deal**

North Yorkshire and York have been invited to enter into negotiations for a Devolution Deal. - Work is on going to update the "asks" for the devolution deal for York and North Yorkshire

### **Local Government Reorganisation**

Local government reorganisation continues to progress at pace. The structural change order was laid before parliament on the 24 January 2022. I attended an Implementation Board on 26 January items for discussion included updates on the Waste, Fleet and Highways and Planning workstreams. I emailed a brief update to all members on this subject. It is likely that the Implementation Board in February will be the last meeting of the informal Implementation Board as this will be formalised once the Structural Change order is enacted. I hope you managed to join one of the two member seminars held on the 7 and 8 February.

### **Leisure**

I can advise that the repairs to the underground electricity supply cable for the lighting at Selby Skate Park were completed and the facility re-opened t at the end of January.

Discussions continue with Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles (IHL) regarding the continuing impact of Covid on the leisure industry. In addition, the increase in costs of service provision and, in particular, the utility costs create a significant challenge to the service

which we are working with them to address to ensure that the Council continues to provide publicly available leisure facilities.

### **Housing repairs**

I am pleased to report that we continue to make good progress with clearing the backlog of repairs resulting from the various service interruptions due to Covid; with 87% of outstanding repairs now completed. Work to address the remaining 13% continues at a pace and the team are working hard to ensure these can be completed as swiftly as possible.

**Mark Crane**  
**Leader of the Council**