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Dear Parish Council

North Yorkshire County Council is launching a major consultation on what the North Yorkshire Archives service of the future should look like.

Currently the county archives are housed in the County Record Office at Northallerton in a building that is in need of a complete overhaul so that it can continue to maintain important and irreplaceable documents in a secure and controlled environment. Some of the documents held are centuries old and provide a unique insight into 800 years of North Yorkshire's history.

The Archives service is also keen to take advantage of the greater access opportunities offered by improved broadband coverage across the county, by allowing online digital access to the service and its unique collections.

In consulting on our future provision, we need to make as many links as we can to the wider heritage offer available across the county through the wealth of established heritage groups and providers. We are also keen to understand what our partners, such as yourselves, as well as users and non-users of the service would like to see provided by a digital age record office. We are also keen to learn from the many dedicated enthusiastic heritage groups and volunteers how it can better support their needs in preserving the heritage of local communities.

I would therefore be most grateful if you could respond to the consultation as well as encourage responses from any volunteer/heritage groups that you may be involved with that would have an interest in this project. The survey is open to anyone, both as an individual and as a group with an interest in the archival heritage of North Yorkshire. To find out more about the consultation or to take part in it please visit the consultation webpage on our web site:

<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/recordofficesurvey>