

**UPDATE REPORT TO
PLACE SELECT
COMMITTEE**

**REPORT OF HEAD OF
ECONOMIC GROWTH &
DEVELOPMENT**

BOUNDARY SIGNS REVIEW

SUMMARY

This report updates members on the outcome of the consultation on the review of boundary signs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That committee note the support for the boundary signs denoting the historic county boundary signs.
2. That the detailed wording of these signs will be considered after the publication of the Traffic Signs Regulation and General Directions review by Government.


BACKGROUND

Prior to reporting the findings of the Committee's review into boundary signs members wished to consult with the public to take their views into consideration.

This consultation took place via the Council's internet site from 16th November until 31st December 2015 with thirteen responses received.

Of the thirteen responses were received from individuals and organisations twelve supported some form of historic boundary marking and one was opposed. The comments are summarised in the table below:

Comment	Source
Quite simple from Thornaby's point of view. Just use the original boundaries. Historically everywhere south of the river Tees should be addressed as North Yorkshire. Everywhere to the north is County Durham!	Mr Mike Russell, 26 Grange Rd, Thornaby-on-Tees, TS17 6LU.
I would very much like to see signs showing the boundaries of Durham and the North Riding of Yorkshire placed where ever is possible and practical. I would especially like to see them in Thornaby, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Jan Jobling.
We wish to stay with Yorkshire. Hilton is a Yorkshire village and we are Yorkshire people and wish to remain so. We found a short article in the D & S Times but have received nothing from S B C.	P D & D Brown, 5 Manor Drive, Hilton, TS15 9LE.

<p>Yarm Residents Association would be very happy with something like this.</p> 	<p>Jason Hadlow.</p>
<p>Yes, there should be signs to mark the boundaries of the traditional counties of Yorkshire and County Durham. The signs for Yorkshire should say 'North Riding of Yorkshire' and be situated in the same places as they were before 1974, where still possible, and in appropriate position on any roads constructed since 1974 that cross the traditional boundary.</p>	<p>Nigel Sollitt</p>
<p>Certainly on the south side of the river, people are fiercely proud of our heritage and our North Yorkshire roots. We would like to see the "Welcome to the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees" signs removed and replace them with signs that read something along the lines of "Welcome to (Town Name), North Yorkshire".</p>	<p>Julie Breckon</p>
<p>I believe the boundaries in question are historic not ceremonial. Could you please confirm? It would also be nice to get further details of the campaign. Is there a design template to be used?</p>	<p>Gerard Dugdill</p>
<p>I would draw your attention to the following recommendations, quoted verbatim, from a letter dated November 1993 on 'the future local government of Cleveland and Durham' sent by Sir John Banham, Chairman of the Local Government Commission, to the Secretary of State: <i>'North of the River Tees, those areas now in Cleveland should, for ceremonial and related purposes, return to the historic county of Durham. South of the River Tees they should return to Yorkshire.'</i> From this the intentions of the commissioners are perfectly clear and so are their implications for the wording of the signs: the historic counties are still there, and the areas mentioned belong to them. The signs confronting northbound travellers should read 'County Durham' and those in the opposite direction 'Yorkshire'.</p>	<p>Michael Bradford</p>
<p>This history of this country not only defines who we are, but, is also an asset that can be used to promote an area. 'Stockton on Tees, in the land of The Prince Bishops with an administrative area covering the Tees valley communities of Yorkshire and County Durham.' This is not only accurate, but much more appealing to visitors than any 20th/21st century</p>	<p>Trevor Peasant</p>

<p>inventions. Not only do I hope to see County Durham/ North Riding of Yorkshire signage, when driving over the Tees, but I sincerely hope that this quickly spreads to other authorities through the country!</p>	
<p>I feel people in Yarm would be delighted if we got our original signage of North Yorkshire that was displayed on entering Yarm High Street. I think people who voted to leave Stockton Borough were more interested in being back in North Yorkshire rather than actually changing councils!</p>	<p>Pat McLurg</p>
<p>Please don't waste hard earned tax payer's money on signage - there is absolutely no need to do so. Use the money more wisely rather than, fix pot holes, repair schools, fund swimming lessons, support the police helicopter etc. There is already plenty of signage in and around south Stockton if anything you should introduce a sign amnesty removing outdated and unnecessary signs (new road layout ahead that never gets removed etc.), also use lampposts for signs rather than additional posts. New road in to Ingleby is a prime example, 7 or 8 signs within a few hundred yards, why?</p>	<p>Richard McLeod</p>
<p>Could I state that I simply write as a resident of Yarm - I represent no organisation, nor do I have any vested interest in any local council or political organisation. I write simply as a resident who is proud of his town and county. I wish to see the boundary of the North Riding of Yorkshire re-marked at Yarm and elsewhere within Stockton Borough on the south bank of the river Tees.</p>	<p>Nigel Wilkin</p>

Clearly there is a general consensus that the historic boundary should be signed but there are some differing views on the exact wording of these signs. At this stage it is probably academic to get into the detail of the exact wording until the Department for Transport (DFT) publish the outcome of the review into traffic signs.

While this consultation was taking place Councillor Cook wrote to the DFT asking when the review would be published. A response was received on 4th January 2016 which stated that the new regulations were planned to be in place in spring 2016, subject to Parliamentary approval.

The locations for the boundary sign was previously agreed by Committee at their meeting on 5th October 2015 and they were the four river crossings:

- Yarm Bridge
- Jubilee Bridge (Queen Elizabeth Way)
- Victoria Bridge
- Princess of Wales Bridge

The remaining issue is the wording and the design of those signs which will be influenced by the regulations expected on spring of 2016.