

York seeks visionary Chief Executive to help shape a city for the future

Monday 4 August, 2025

City of York Council has launched the search for a new Chief Executive; a pivotal and high-impact leadership role offering the opportunity to lead one of the UK's most historic, innovative, and forward-looking cities.

The council is seeking an inclusive and strategic leader to drive forward its bold "One City, for All" vision, which focuses on improving health and opportunity across our whole city.

This follows the announcement that current Chief Operating Officer Ian Floyd will retire in April 2026. The new Chief Executive will be appointed this autumn following a comprehensive recruitment and selection process, allowing for a smooth and supported transition – with a start date scheduled for Easter 2026.

Cllr Claire Douglas, Leader of City of York Council, said:

"We are seeking an exceptional individual to lead our officer team from the front in helping take York forward.

"Our city is full of opportunity: from its rich heritage and thriving economy to its strong civic partnerships and growing global profile. But we also face real challenges, particularly around inequality, affordability and demand for services.

"We need a Chief Executive who shares our passion for fairness, sustainability and excellence in public service, and who can unite the organisation and city behind a shared ambition. You'll be a visible and values-driven leader, committed to working across traditional boundaries to help the council, working in partnership, achieve the very best outcomes for York".

Helen Whiting, Chief Officer for HR and Support Services, added:

"This is a unique opportunity to lead a council with a proud track record of innovation, outstanding services and strong partnerships, and to do so in one of the most recognisable cities in the UK.

"We're looking for someone with a proven ability to lead transformation, navigate complexity, and inspire people at every level. The successful candidate will inherit a talented and committed senior team, a passionate workforce, and a genuine mandate to make lasting change."

The role offers a salary of up to £177,821, plus the Elections Returning Officer fee, relocation support and access to the Local Government Pension Scheme. The council is committed to flexible and hybrid working, with a principal base at West Offices, York.

Key dates

- **Closing date:** Friday 5 September 2025
- **Longlisting:**
w/c 15 September
- **Technical interviews & Leader 1:1s:** w/c 22 September
- **Shortlisting:**
w/c 6 October
- **Assessment Centre & Panel Interviews:** w/c 13 October
- **Final Member Interviews:** w/c 20 October
- **Decision and Council appointment:** November
- **Start date:** Expected Easter 2026 (subject to notice period)

Media:



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