



PROJECT ROME

# NORTHERN AGENDA

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## Editorial

**Dan Jarvis  
will be Labour's  
candidate for  
the inaugural  
Sheffield City  
Region Mayor  
election in May.**



**Dan Jarvis MP**

The Member of Parliament for Barnsley Central won the nomination with 58% of the vote against Sheffield Councillor, Ben Curran. Jarvis's win has been seen as a victory for Labour moderates as Curran was backed by the major unions and Momentum and was seen at the preferred candidate of Jeremy Corbyn. However, the former Parachute Regiment Major's victory could lead to a stand-off with the Labour leadership.

Labour's National Executive Committee (NEC) threw a curve ball into the nomination process just two days before the close of poll



when it decreed that any Labour MP selected for another full-time elected role will have to give up their parliamentary seat.

Jarvis’s campaign was predicated on doing both jobs (he pledged to give his Mayoral salary in full to a new Mayoral fund to tackle inequality in South Yorkshire) and to use both positions to advance the case for a wider One Yorkshire devolution deal in 2020. His carefully worded statement following the result claimed it was a “vote of confidence in the platform on which I am standing, and the potential of devolution; first in the Sheffield City Region and then across wider Yorkshire.”

Northern Agenda understands that Jarvis has no intention of giving up his parliamentary seat and has spent the weekend consulting with lawyers. It is clear that the Labour party has no powers to force Jarvis out of parliament and the NEC has already backed down from it’s initial position of saying it would refuse to validate his nomination until he stepped down. A Labour spokesperson confirmed that the new rule would come into force only if Jarvis is elected, which he is almost certain to be.

With neither side looking like they’re ready to back down, this could get interesting. The NEC decision came out of the blue and has been seen as a blatant attempt by the leader’s office to remove a popular, centrist MP from parliament. “It’s a spiteful move by

the Corbynistas. They want Dan’s safe seat for one of their own and have used this as an opportunity to get rid of a potential future rival to Corbyn. They’re picked the wrong fight with the wrong man”, a Labour insider told Northern Agenda.

Although Jarvis won the nomination comfortably, with a week to go before the close of poll, a senior figure within the party told Northern Agenda that the contest was neck and neck and recommended we put a bet on Curran winning. Thankfully we declined. Team Jarvis were always confident that their under-the-radar micro-targeting campaign using Facebook would pay dividends - “It was Operation Barnsley Analytica”, quipped one wag.

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**- Dan Jarvis**



Meanwhile, plans for a One Yorkshire devolution deal are moving ahead following a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Yorkshire, attended by Secretary of State, Sajid Javid, and Northern Powerhouse Minister, Jake Berry. Also in attendance were a host of Yorkshire local authority leaders and Chief Executives, as well as representatives from the business community and trade unions. It was an impressive display

of unity from the White Rose delegation, with little dissention from the calls for government support for a One Yorkshire deal. Javid signalled a subtle softening of the government’s approach by not ruling out a wider Yorkshire deal, nor the possibility of a timetable that would see a Mayoral election in 2020; a key ask from campaigners.

The Secretary of State told the meeting that the region needed to come forward with concrete proposals for what powers would be included in a devolution deal. Within a week the Yorkshire local authority leaders had agreed such a deal. The draft document, written by a small group within the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, wasn’t universally welcomed however.

“It lacks real detail that government will want to see and is too West Yorkshire centric, which isn’t surprising given its authorship”, one commentator told Northern Agenda. “Where was the consultation with businesses and the Yorkshire public? This was written by a couple of blokes in a darkened room in Leeds. They won’t take people with them if this is how they do business.”

Reaction from the business community was largely muted and the public continue to be excluded from the process. The smartest of the One Yorkshire campaigners know there is a long way to go to get this deal over the line. If they are going to do it they need to get the Yorkshire public on-side.

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**- Commentator**

