

Meeting: Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee

Members: Councillors Yvonne Peacock (Chair), Caroline Dickinson (Vice-Chair), Alyson Baker, Kevin Foster, Bryn Griffiths, David Hugill, Tom Jones, Carl Les, Heather Moorhouse, Stuart Parsons, Karin Sedgwick, Angus Thompson, Steve Watson, David Webster, John Weighell OBE, Annabel Wilkinson, Peter Wilkinson; together with co-opted Member Malcolm Warne.

Date: Monday, 17 March 2025

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: The Council Chamber, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD

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Business

10am

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 January 2025** (Pages 5 - 12)
- 3. Declarations of Interest**

All Members are invited to declare at this point any interests they have in items appearing on this agenda, including the nature of those interests.

4. Public Participation - Petition item

Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have given notice to Stephen Loach of Democratic and Scrutiny Services and supplied the text (contact details below) by midday on Wednesday 12 March 2025, three working days before the day of the meeting. Each speaker should limit themselves to 3 minutes on any item.

Members of the public who have given notice will be invited to speak at this point in the meeting if their questions/statements relate to matters which are not otherwise on the agenda (subject to an overall time limit of 30 minutes).

If you are exercising your right to speak at this meeting, but do not wish to be recorded, please inform the Chair who will instruct anyone who may be taking a recording to cease while you speak.

5. North Yorkshire Council's Petition Scheme - 'Rethink North Yorkshire School Transport Cuts' (Pages 13 - 18)

A combined paper and electronic petition has been received by North Yorkshire Council containing above 2130 signatures of people who live, work or study in the county. As the petition contains 500 or more signatures (but less than 30,130 signatories), it has been scheduled for debate at this meeting of the Area Committee.

The process for debating and responding to the petition is set out in the report detailed at Appendix A.

The petition was originally discussed at a meeting of the Area Committee held on 27 January 2025 but was deferred for consideration at a subsequent meeting to allow further information to be provided.

1pm

6. Public Participation - non-petition issues

Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have given notice to Stephen Loach of Democratic Services (contact details below) and supplied the text by midday on Wednesday, 12 March 2025, three working days before the day of the meeting. Each speaker should limit themselves to 3 minutes on any item.

Members of the public who have given notice will be invited to speak

- at this point in the meeting if their questions/statements relate to matters which are not otherwise on the agenda (subject to an overall time limit of 30 minutes);

- when the relevant agenda item is being considered if they wish to speak on a matter which is on the agenda for this meeting.

If you are exercising your right to speak at this meeting, but do not wish to be recorded, please inform the Chair who will instruct anyone who may be taking a recording to cease while you speak.

1.30pm

7. Annual update from David Skaith, Mayor of York and North Yorkshire

An update on the work of the Mayoral Combined Authority and progress with local issues.

8. **Annual Schools Update Report** (Pages 19 - 36)
9. **Local Nature Recovery Strategy** (Pages 37 - 40)
10. **Climate Change Activity** (Pages 41 - 48)
11. **Resilience and Emergencies Annual Report Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee - Response to issues raised at Meeting in September 2024** (Pages 49 - 52)
12. **£50k Seed Funding - Development of projects - Verbal update**
13. **Work Programme** (Pages 53 - 58)
14. **Any Other Items**
Any other items which the Chair agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances
15. **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 30 June 2025 at 10am – venue to be confirmed

Members are reminded that in order to expedite business at the meeting and enable Officers to adapt their presentations to address areas causing difficulty, they are encouraged to contact Officers prior to the meeting with questions on technical issues in reports.

Contact Details

Enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Stephen Loach Tel: 01609 532216 or e-mail:

stephen.loach@northyorks.gov.uk

Website: www.northyorks.gov.uk

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic Services)
County Hall
Northallerton

Friday, 7 March 2025

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North Yorkshire Council

Richmond (Yorks) Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 27 January 2025 commencing at 10.00 am at County Hall, Northallerton

Councillors Yvonne Peacock (Chair), Alyson Baker (non-voting), Caroline Dickinson, Kevin Foster, Bryn Griffiths, David Hugill, Tom Jones, Carl Les, Heather Moorhouse, Stuart Parsons, Karin Sedgewick, Angus Thompson, Steve Watson, John Weighell OBE and Annabel Wilkinson; together with co-opted Member Malcom Warne

Amanda Newbold – Assistant Director, Inclusion, Howard Emmett – Assistant Director, Resources and Steve Loach - Democratic Services

Other Attendees: 25 members of the public.

Apologies: Councillors David Webster and Peter Wilkinson;

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

129 Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 18 November 2024

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 18 November 2024 having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

130 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Yvonne Peacock declared a registered interest in relation to the agenda item North Yorkshire Council's Petition Scheme - 'Rethink North Yorkshire School Transport Cuts' and issues raised in relation to that during the public participation section of the meeting.

A Member asked whether Councillor Peacock could be allowed to remain in the meeting to represent her Electoral Division from where the petition emanated. In response the Monitoring Officer stated that Councillor Peacock had a disclosable interest and, unless she had a dispensation from the Standards Committee, which she did not, it would not be legal for her to remain the meeting during the discussions on this matter.

Councillor Yvonne Peacock left the meeting.

Councillor Caroline Dickinson in the Chair.

131 Public Participation

The following questions or statements, as detailed below, were submitted by members of the public:

Rob Macdonald

As predicted, the new budget has just revealed that the claimed savings promised from this policy were pure fantasy. A meagre fraction of what you voted for and still no more believable.

Today I'll explain why this shortfall was totally inevitable and why the model on which you based your decision was a smokescreen. Imagine I am offering you a hot drink. Tea or coffee? My shout. Which would you like? Please take a moment and make a real choice. But wait. You can still have your choice, but now it's going to cost you £10. Or you can have the other choice which is still free. You're thirsty so you won't walk away. Which would you choose now? Now look around. I am sure there are people in this room for whom £10 matters. How many of them would stick with their original choice if it now cost £10 while the other option is still free? If you think that anything less than 100 percent would stick with their original choice, then you agree with me that the policy savings claim was always a fantasy. Because the savings you voted for require that 100 percent of parents who currently choose a school other than their nearest, would make the same choice even when it is no longer free.

To get the four-point-whatever million pound savings, every one of those parents has to make the same choice rather than switch to the free option. If any choose the remaining free option instead, North Yorkshire Council doesn't get the claimed savings. You don't have to believe me. It's all there in section 5.17 of the Executive Report. Or you can ask Cllr Wilkinson. She knows I'm right. Perhaps you're thinking it was not '£4 million' but 'up to £4 million', whatever that means. I listened to your Full Council debate. No-one said 'up to'. Cllr Wilkinson endorsed the full £4 million at that debate as does Stuart Carlton now. What's more, if any parents do choose the free option, the very real costs of providing it are not accounted for. You need to make savings. You absolutely do. But they need to be real savings. Not fantasy ones. And fantasy savings are all this policy has going for it. Our petition asks you to bring back catchment. Doing so could save more than just money. Our petition provides you with the opportunity to act now before reality bites. The budget confirms what we've always said. So please, send this back to the Executive and ask them to reconsider this policy in the light of all they now know.

Jane Parlour - Chair of Dalton on Tees Parish Council.

My name is Jane Parlour and I am the Chair of Dalton on Tees Parish Council. I'm also the mum of four children who all attended their local primary, and catchment secondary, Richmond School.

Having discussed the changes to home to school transport policy recently introduced by North Yorkshire Council, our parish council has serious concerns about the impacts of these changes on not only the families and children living in our parish, but on all of those living in the area adjacent to the boundary with County Durham.

Using NYC's own calculator, families who for generations have had the certainty of being able to send their children to their 'catchment' secondary school, Richmond Comprehensive, free of charge, will now be expected to pay over £800 per child per year to do so. If they can't afford this they do of course have the 'choice' to send their children to their geographically nearest school across the county boundary in County Durham. Depending on precisely where they live, and whether the school has capacity to accommodate extra children, this could of course see a wide range of secondary schools in Darlington being designated as a pupils nearest available school. The result of this is that children transitioning from small village primaries will be far more likely to be split from the friendship groups that they will have built up over years. Anyone who has children will understand the upheaval and upset this would cause at an already difficult time for them. Because of this policy change families with children already attending Richmond School are facing the choice of whether to apply to send younger siblings to the same school with

the additional cost of transport, or to apply to an unfamiliar Darlington School where a space is far from certain but where home to school transport will be provided by NYC free of charge. It's worth pointing out to councillors that school term dates in Darlington are also different to those in North Yorkshire resulting in for example half term holidays falling on different weeks. I'm sure you can imagine the dilemmas that this could cause families, particularly those families already struggling financially.

Whilst I appreciate that North Yorkshire Council is facing significant budget pressures, and that the home to school transport budget needs to be scrutinised, these policy changes do not appear to be leading to definite and quantifiable savings for the council. Rather, this revised policy seems to be a case of "throwing the baby out with the bath water" .

This policy will see NYC having to provide buses, mini buses and taxis, free of charge, to ferry as yet unknown numbers of children backwards and forwards across the county boundary, to an unknown number of Darlington and Durham schools whilst simultaneously continuing to provide free home to school transport for an unknown number of children who still qualify for it..... heading in the opposite direction.

Given that this scenario will be replicated across every boundary between North Yorkshire and neighbouring local authorities it's hard to envisage this farcical and wholly illogical arrangement resulting in any financial savings being made at all, let alone the hundreds of thousands of pounds touted.

For these reasons, and for all the others put forward so eloquently by residents living in other parts of the county, I would ask councillors to show some common sense, reconsider this policy now, and revert back to the longstanding policy of free home to school transport for children attending their nearest CATCHMENT school within the county boundary.

Linda Rudkin

In April 2024, it was revealed that an estimated 140 students could lose their access to free transport to Richmond School if the proposed transport policy is enforced. This change will profoundly affect the makeup and dynamics of the school.

Richmond School is well known in the community for offering an incredibly broad curriculum, particularly in the performing arts and sports, and for catering to the diverse needs of students in our area. The school is able to provide this wide-ranging curriculum largely due to its large student population, which allows smaller, niche, and less common subjects to attract enough interest to remain financially viable.

This, in turn, enables the school to hire specialist teachers to deliver these subjects rather than relying on staff teaching outside their areas of expertise or, worse, not offering the subjects at all.

Subjects are only viable at GCSE and A-Level when there are sufficiently large groups of students enrolling in them. Should the current policy go through the subjects at risk of being removed from the curriculum include a wide range of technology-related courses, including Design and Technology, Food Preparation, Engineering along with two computing courses: Computer Science and Vocational IT. Dance and Drama are on the list too.

Councillors, do you know what impact this policy will have on your own schools in your wards? What does the mayor for York and North Yorkshire have to say about this policy? What school impact data do you have that you are not releasing following our requests to the Freedom of Information team? What are you trying to hide?

This issue is further exacerbated when considering its impact on our Sixth Form. If students are not exposed to a broad curriculum at Key Stage 4, they are unlikely to pursue these subjects in the Sixth Form. Additionally, if we lack specialist staff to deliver high-quality education in these areas, these subjects will inevitably disappear.

The impact on local employment is significant. Over the next five years, Richmond School anticipates reducing teaching staff by approximately 10 positions as a result of these changes. Remember, a loss of 20 students in one year is a loss of £120,000 to the school. Councillors, please return this transport policy to the Executive today and ask them to rethink and to make that change. It is the only solution. And it is the only way to prove to us that at last, you are listening. Bring catchment back.

Brenda Price – Chair of Governors Reeth and Gunnerside Schools

Our role as a governing body is to ensure the very best outcomes for our pupils. We provide a safe and enriching environment and as a small school, we nurture a very strong sense of community which extends beyond the school gates. This year we have a year 6 Cohort of 13 pupils. All the pupils live in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale with most qualifying for free transport to our schools through this Policy. Their catchment secondary school is Richmond School. The impact the policy changes have to our Year 6 cohort is severe. This year those 13 pupils would be split between 5 different schools. Richmond, Wensleydale, Risedale, Teesdale and Kirkby Stephen.

The community that we have nurtured for the previous 7 years shattered. Many of these children live in isolated locations so school and their transport to and from school is their social hub.

Cost saving? Two linear routes or five routes starting at different locations and finishing at different locations. I'm not even going to go into the travel required for transport providers to get to pick up points. Currently at the end of the school day, as well as the school bus travelling back from Richmond at 3.30, we are fortunate to have the 5.30 Little White Bus, a community bus driven by volunteers, able to travel as far as Keld. This route enables many children to take part in the wide range of after school activities available at Richmond School. There are no direct buses at any time of day on any of the other routes, reducing access to those hugely enriching activities.

Consistently over the last six months the concerns raised have only been answered by County Council officers suggesting 'it's about parental choice'. In reality our parents have Hobson's Choice – although there appears to be free choice, practically only one thing is being offered - to apply to a school they know their child will and can be transported to safely. The result, the routes demonstrated by the digital tool will never be risk assessed by council officers as no parent would ever put them down as their first choice. The council will however continue to highlight those as the only qualifying schools for free school transport. DFE statutory guidelines state that: "Parents will need to easily understand how they can find out which school is their nearest suitable school for travel purposes". The evidence is that clearly, in this case, it is not easy to understand. Will we ever know if some of the "nearest schools" would be deemed unsuitable if risk assessed, or, if by using bridleways on the digital tool and a subsequent longer route to school using roads would alter a decision on a nearest school.

Charlotte Fowler and Carol Livingstone

I'm sure you are getting fed up hearing from us and would rather we would go away, I don't want to spend any more of my time discussing school transport either, but these are our children and our communities, and we care. Please be inclusive for the 74% of us living in rural North Yorkshire, our children need transport to their catchment school for reasons you are already aware.

There are more and more stories coming in thick and fast to our group. There are still lots of parents who are unaware of the school transport policy change. Families that have moved address a few miles down the road from Gilling West to Fawcett can now not access free home to school transport to their existing school.

A 13-year-old whose family moved to North Cowton just weeks after the new policy was put in to force has just found out they now can't get on the bus to Richmond School that stops outside his house. Instead, a taxi will be paid for to take him to Darlington. What a waste of money.

Families that have been through the appeals process already and have been rejected are going to appeal again, this will continue. Families are worried how they are going to be able to afford to send their children to school or be forced to send them on transport to their nearest school – measured by footpath - that is a further journey away - by road - and in some cases it will be the same school bus that they previously got on, but now will have to attend a different school. Some families have been silenced because their concerns have not been taken seriously, they have said that nothing will make a difference because, and I quote 'we are just numbers on a piece of paper', show these people that you do care and that you are listening. These families are not just in the Dales, there are more stories from across this constituency and indeed across the whole of North Yorkshire. The longer you leave this the more damage it will do and the more time and money it will waste. Act now to avoid any more mess.

The policy in its current form is going to cause ripple effects across the county for years to come for no financial benefit, if you think that thousands of parents like us are going to sit quietly for two years whilst you experiment to see if there are any savings, causing disruption to our families and ruining schools, then I'm sorry, you are sorely mistaken. Please help to bring catchment back

132 North Yorkshire Council's Petition Scheme - 'Rethink North Yorkshire School Transport Cuts'

Details of the petition and its aims were set out in the published report, together with a response from representatives of Children and Young Peoples Services.

The key features of the Council's arrangements for receiving and debating petitions, as published on the Council's website, are as follows:

Receipt of the petition is published on the Council's website (which has been done in the case of this petition).

If a petition contains 500 or more signatures (but less than 30,130 signatories), it will be scheduled for debate at a meeting of the appropriate Area Committee which is the case for this petition.

The petition organiser is offered the opportunity to speak for five minutes at the Area Committee meeting to present their petition. Subsequently, at the meeting, the petition will be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes and a decision will be made on how to respond to the petition.

The possible responses by the Council to petitions, as shown on the website, are:

- (a) to take the action requested by the petition;
- (b) not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate;
- (c) to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee; or
- (d) where the issue is one on which the council Executive is required to make the final decision, the council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision.

The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision. This confirmation will also be published on the website.

In accordance with the arrangements described above, the petition organiser was invited to join the meeting to present their petition.

The statement by the petitioner, **Ian Dawson**, was as follows:-

In 2023, when this council was formed as a unitary authority, the concern was that local voices would not be heard. Critics claimed that we would end up with decision-making that was disconnected from the communities that you are here to serve. Those who championed the change, many of whom are in this room today, promised residents that this would not be the case. Now is your chance to prove it.

The roots of this petition come from the consultation that was held last Spring. 1299 responses and 147 pages of comments expressing concerns – almost all of them stemming from one single change – your decision as a Council to restrict free school transport to ‘nearest school only’.

The warnings of the negative impact that this would have on families, schools and communities were all there 10 months ago. As was the evidence that it would result in more vehicles covering more routes, so more costs. But nobody listened. The consultation changed nothing and made us wonder why you even bothered.

In the Executive and Full Council meetings that followed, questions went unanswered, and concerns fell on deaf ears. You ploughed on relentlessly and rushed it through. You weren't even listening to each other. Conservative Councillor David Ayrton who voted against this proposal, summed it up neatly when he said:

- ‘Any savings that exist will be undermined by the costs.’
- ‘The impact is too great on the communities we represent.’
- ‘Guidance is exactly that, guidance not the rule.’

He nailed it.

To be clear, there are no savings here. The £4.2m figure has been acknowledged as a pipe dream, that's why it's not in your budget. The extra costs involved are obvious. And that's before you factor in the waste of officer time and endless appeals. It took us just a few weeks to gather over 2000 signatures, such was the level of public concern. More people from across the county have come forward since then, many sharing firsthand stories of the damage your decision is already starting to do. Those voices are going to get louder. Our community action group is already 240 people strong and growing daily.

You have pledged to be ‘the most local, large council’. Well here, right now is a chance to prove you mean it. How you react to this petition today and your willingness to amend this policy in the light of what you now know, is the biggest single test that this council has faced yet. Do not let us down.

Changing eligibility to ‘catchment school or nearest in county’ mirrors what other rural areas with similar geographies as ours, such as Devon and the Conservative-led Cornwall Council have done. And reinstating catchment bring us in line with our strategic partners at York City Council. It puts children's education first and supports hardworking families. It protects our North Yorkshire schools and avoids this council spending another ten months wasting time and money on appeals, assessments and managing public protests.

This amendment is needed urgently. It is clear this cannot and should not wait. We have heard today the disruption to lives that is already happening and the risks that schools are facing. The longer this mess goes on the more children it will harm and the harder it will be to repair the damage done.

Return this policy back to the Executive today with a recommendation to make one single amendment - scrap 'nearest school only' and bring catchment back.
It is the only workable solution for North Yorkshire. And the only way to prove to us that at last, you are listening.

Prior to the response by Officers, Members raised the following issues:-

- Concern was raised that appropriate information including requests through the Freedom of Information Act, that had been requested in advance of this meeting, had not been provided to allow Members to undertake an informed debate.
- A Member stated that he had requested that the following information be provided to the Committee prior to this meeting, but it had not been received:
 1. What is the expected financial impact on our each of our area's schools, due to the implementation of the new Home to School Policy?
 2. Has a Social Impact Assessment been undertaken on the consequences of the new policy on our local communities?
 - a. If so, what are the results of this assessment?
 - b. If not when will this assessment be undertaken?

In response it was stated that the financial details had been provided for the Councillor, however that had been no requirement for a Social Impact assessment, therefore, this had not been undertaken. Details were provided in relation to the financial aspect and it was stated that these had been provided to the Councillor. In response he stated that he had not received these details and he had asked for these to be provided to the whole Committee, not just him.

In view of the lack of information provided a Member proposed that the issue be deferred for consideration at a subsequent meeting to allow all the requested information to be provided. It was suggested that prior to voting on a deferral an opportunity should be provided to allow officers to explain the impact a deferral would have on the implementation of the policy.

Resolved –

That it be agreed that officers be provided with an opportunity to explain the impact a deferral would have on the implementation of the policy.

In response to this officers referred to the report provided for this meeting and highlighted sections 4.8 to 4.12 as containing the specific details on the effect of a deferral.

In noting this information Members still had concerns that there was insufficient information available for them to proceed on this matter. Clarification was provided as to the meaning of Statutory Guidance and how this should be interpreted in terms of the adoption of the policy.

Resolved –

That the item submitted under North Yorkshire Council's Petition Scheme, 'Rethink North Yorkshire School Transport Cuts', be deferred for consideration at a subsequent meeting of this Area Committee, enabling officers to provide the detailed information requested by Councillors, by the various Freedom of Information requests and details of the additional highways budget required, in a timely manner, so that it can be taken into account when determining the petition.

133 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Resolved –

That it be noted that the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 17th March 2025 at 10am.

The meeting concluded at 12.35pm

North Yorkshire Council

Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee

17 March 2025

Receipt of Petition titled 'Rethink North Yorkshire School Transport Cuts'.

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

1. Background

A meeting of the Committee was held on the 27 January 2025 to consider the petition, outlined above, under the Council's Petition Scheme. The decision from that meeting was to defer consideration of the petition to a subsequent meeting.

Attached to this covering report (at Appendix A) is the initial report from the 27 January 2025 meeting containing details of the petition request, the process for considering the petition and relevant comments in relation to the policy change process. The initial report will be utilised and referred to in respect of the proceedings at today's meeting.

2. Decision from The Area Committee Meeting held on 27 January 2025

That the item submitted under North Yorkshire Council's Petition Scheme, 'Rethink North Yorkshire School Transport Cuts', be deferred for consideration at a subsequent meeting of this Area Committee, enabling officers to provide the detailed information requested by Councillors, by the various Freedom of Information requests and details of the additional highways budget required, in a timely manner, so that it can be taken into account when determining the petition.

3. Recommendation

That this covering report be noted and the report from the 27 January 2025, attached at Appendix A, be utilised for the proceedings at this meeting.

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)
County Hall
Northallerton

Author of report: Stephen Loach, Principal Democratic Services Officer.

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North Yorkshire Council

Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee

27 January 2025

Receipt of Petition titled 'Rethink North Yorkshire School Transport Cuts'.

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

1.0	Purpose of the Report
1.1	To advise of a petition containing more than 500 signatures.
1.2	To ask the Area Committee to consider a response.

2.0 The Petition

- 2.1 A combined paper and electronic petition has been received by North Yorkshire Council and contains 2129 signatures of people who live, work or study in the county.
- 2.2 The title of the petition is 'Rethink North Yorkshire School Transport Cuts'. There are two statements attached to the petition which are outlined below (see *italics*):

1. *North Yorkshire Council's recent decision to limit free school transport to the nearest school only is detrimental to rural families. It will divide communities, harm local schools and risk children's safety by requiring travel on remote, often impassable routes. In return, there is no guarantee of any substantial financial savings.*

We the undersigned, led by a team of anxious Upper Dales parents and local residents, demand that councillors rethink and reverse this damaging policy in the light of the negative impact it will have on the safety and education of children across rural North Yorkshire.

2. *North Yorkshire Council has voted to reduce the provision of free home to school transport. None of the pupils that live in Swaledale will be eligible for funded transport to their catchment secondary school in Richmond. Free transport will only be offered to the nearest school, in Leyburn, Kirkby Stephen or Barnard Castle. All of these journeys involve minor, steep, single-track roads over high moorland. In winter, all of these routes become impassable before (and more often than) the low-level route to Richmond. While the nearest school principle is easy to understand in some places, its application in our region requires further consideration.*

The Liberal Democrats, the Green Party, two Conservative and many Independent Councillors voted against the policy. Despite many objections from parents, teachers, school governors and members of the public, the Council has not yet made provision for our community.

The Action Group working on this has decided to send another petition to the Council asking them to rescind their decision, or to make an exemption for Swaledale.

2.3 The petition can be seen on the Council's website here: [Petitions received | North Yorkshire Council](#)

3.0 The Council's Arrangements for Receiving and Responding to Petitions

3.1 The key features of the Council's arrangements for receiving and debating petitions, as published on the Council's website, are as follows:

- Receipt of the petition is published on the Council's website (which has been done in the case of this petition).
- If a petition contains 500 or more signatures (but less than 30,130 signatories), it will be scheduled for debate at the next meeting of the appropriate Area Committee.
- The petition organiser is offered the opportunity to speak for five minutes at the Area Committee meeting to present their petition. Subsequently, at the meeting, the petition will be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes and a decision will be made on how to respond to the petition.
- Possible responses by the Council to petitions, as shown on the website, are:
 - (a) to take the action requested by the petition;
 - (b) not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate;
 - (c) to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee; or
 - (d) where the issue is one on which the council Executive is required to make the final decision, the council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision.
- The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision. This confirmation will also be published on the website.

3.2 In accordance with the arrangements described above, the petition organisers have been invited to join today's meeting to present their petition.

4.0 Officer comments relating to the policy change process

4.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide home to school travel for eligible children of compulsory school age in accordance with Statutory Guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE). The Council sets out how it meets these duties in the North Yorkshire Council Home to School Travel Policy. The overall cost to the Council of the provision of home to school travel is significant and has been rising at pace. Expenditure has broadly doubled since the last revision of the policy in 2019.

4.2 The Council consulted on the current policy between 12 February and 26 April 2024. This comprised of consultation meetings for the public and school groups and an online survey that received 1299 responses. In addition to online responses, other correspondence such as letters from parish councils and feedback from transport providers were also included in the consultation. A petition 'Stop school bus cuts' containing 378 signatories was also received.

4.3 During the consultation period meetings were offered and took place with individual councillors and political groups. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee also met informally on 20th May and reviewed the motion to 'halt the cuts' that was proposed and seconded at Full Council on 15th May 2024. The report of the committee was provided and is referenced at point 499 in the minutes of the Executive meeting held on 16th July 2024.

- 4.4 On 16th July, the Executive Committee received a report requesting that the new policy was adopted and that consideration was given to seven recommendations, six of which had been subject to consultation and one which was added subsequently in relation to extending the eligibility for families on low incomes with secondary school age children.
- 4.5 Following consultation, the addition of this discretionary provision was in recognition of the impact of rurality on families where the nearest schools are further from home than in other areas. Eligibility for low income families to attend one of their three nearest suitable schools was extended from 6 to 12 miles.
- 4.6 During the meeting of the Executive, sixteen members of the public provided statements or questions, ten of these were read at the meeting.
- 4.7 At the Executive committee on 16th July 24 it was recommended unanimously to Full Council that a new home to school travel policy be adopted and the recommendations be made. The Full Council met on 24th July 24 and this item was considered and is referenced at point 101 in the minutes of that meeting. A named vote was taken, and the motion was declared carried with 48 votes for, 26 votes against and no abstentions.

Officer comments relating to the petition

1 *The request that ‘councillors rethink and reverse this damaging policy in the light of the negative impact it will have on the safety and education of children across rural North Yorkshire.’*

- 4.8 The Council must include information about their school travel policy in their composite prospectus for school admissions (which must be published by 12 September each year). Following the consultation process and the Full Council decision, the policy has been implemented since 1st September 2024. An up to-date policy is required to be available by 19 September each year so that parents may take it into account when deciding which schools to apply for during the normal admissions round. Parents of pre-school children and those leaving primary school have applied for places in primary schools and secondary schools respectively, to commence in September 2025. Proactive communication about the travel policy change has taken place alongside the admissions rounds. National Offer Days will be held in March and April 2025 and this year’s admissions process is still live. It is therefore not possible for the Council to reverse or rescind the policy during this year’s cycle. To revise the policy at this time would not accord with our duties under The School Information (England) Regulations 2008 and also the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Therefore, the view of officers is that the policy, once approved and published, should not be *reversed* or amended during an admissions cycle.
- 4.9 The Council has agreed to undertake a post implementation review of the policy in summer 2026, when the policy will have been operational for a whole school year cycle. Before this time, it may not be possible to draw sufficient information to analyse and make meaningful recommendations. A full cycle would enable greater levels of analysis of the impacts of the policy across the whole county. The findings of this review will be published in autumn 2026 and should a revision to the policy be required, there would be time for this to be proposed, consulted on and adopted in time for 12th September 2027 at the earliest. Therefore, the view of officers is that this, already agreed review, could address the petitioners’ request for councillors to *rethink* the policy.

2 *The request that councillors ‘make an exemption for Swaledale’.*

- 4.10 The Council is required to set policy for the county. The petition refers to the nearest school principle. This is a term covered by DfE within their statutory guidance ‘Travel to school for

children of compulsory school age' (January 2024) under 'Part 1: local authorities' statutory duty in relation to eligible children'. The Council has both considered and aligned the Home to School Travel Policy to DfE guidance.

- 4.11 Across the county, the journeys that children may take to school are not the same as the distance used to calculate the nearest school. This point has been reiterated to residents who have enquired on the matter before and since the policy change, and it has been publicised widely in media releases put forward by the Council. The journeys being referred to in the petition have not been determined as home to school travel routes; this is because the September 25 admissions round is still live and school places have not been confirmed. By association, eligibility under the travel policy has not yet been assessed for any children in Swaledale who are moving to secondary school in September 2025. The view of officers is that it is too early to consider *exemptions* and that policy changes of any kind should be considered after the post implementation review.
- 4.12 To conclude, the policy was subject to a consultation process and all responses were published alongside the reports at the time the policy was adopted. Today, the policy implementation is still in its early stages, so any changes should (i) only take place once there is sufficient evidence to review the current policy impacts, and (ii) should only be scheduled to occur within the timeframes set out in the school admissions regulations.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 That the Committee notes the petition and provides a response as detailed in paragraph 3.1.

Possible responses by the Council to petitions, as shown on the website, are:

- (a) to take the action requested by the petition;*
- (b) not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate;*
- (c) to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee; or*
- (d) where the issue is one on which the council Executive is required to make the final decision, the council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision.*

Appendices:

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)
County Hall
Northallerton

Author of report: Stephen Loach, Principal Democratic Services Officer.

Background Document: North Yorkshire Council's petitions information and advice, a copy of which is on the Council's website [Petitions | North Yorkshire Council](#)

**North Yorkshire Council
Richmond Area Committee
17 March 2025**

Schools update

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To inform Members of the local educational landscape, educational achievement and the financial challenges which affect schools in the Richmond committee area.

2.0 Local educational landscape

2.1 As of 31 August 2024 there was a total of 71 schools and academies within the Richmond Committee area. The table below shows the number of schools and academies in both the county as a whole and the Richmond committee area by school type.

Summary of schools' status – 31 August 2024

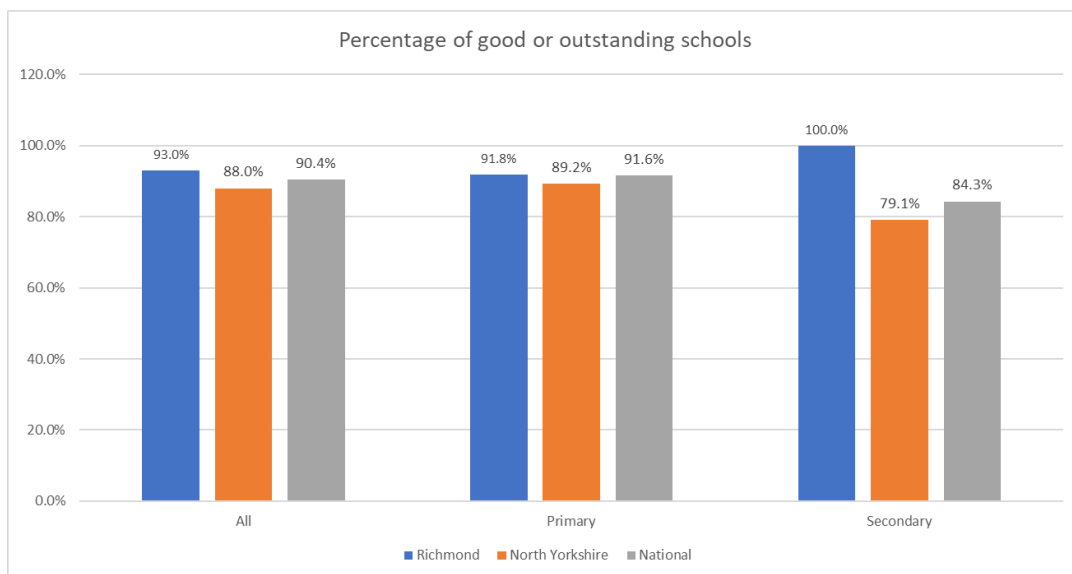
	Schools in North Yorkshire		Schools in Richmond AC	
Primary Maintained	173	58.6%	42	68.9%
Primary Academy & Free School	122	41.4%	19	31.1%
Total	295		61	
Secondary Maintained	13	30.2%	3	42.9%
Secondary Academy	30	69.8%	4	57.1%
Total	43		7	
Special Maintained	6	60%	2	100%
Special Academy	4	40%	0	0%
Total	10		2	
PRU Maintained	4	80%	1	100%
PRU Academy	1	20%	0	0%
Total	5		1	
Total maintained	196	55.5%	48	67.6%
Total Academy	157	44.5%	23	32.4%
Overall Total	353		71	

3.0 School standards

3.1 School Ofsted judgements

In the committee area, as of August 2024, 91.8% of primary schools were judged Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, which is above the North Yorkshire rate, and similar to the national rate. In terms of secondary schools, 100% were judged Good or Outstanding; this is higher than both the North Yorkshire and national averages. Overall, there are three schools judged 'requires improvement' and two 'inadequate' in the committee area.

At the time of writing, the constituency areas two North Yorkshire Maintained Special Schools and Pupil Referral Service were recorded as either 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.



In 2024, 100% (28 of 28) of the childcare establishments (childcare in non-domestic premises) which have had an Ofsted inspection in the committee area were 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. The rate in North Yorkshire was 98% at the same time.

3.3 Attainment overall

For two years, exams and assessments in schools did not take place because of the disruption to students' education caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In 2020 GCSEs, AS and A level exams faced widespread cancellation and were replaced with a grading process involving teacher/ centre assessment. Similarly, summer 2021 assessments were awarded based on teacher or centre assessment and no statistical adjustment processes were used. Overall, final grades were significantly higher in both 2020 and 2021 than in 2019.

The Government allowed GCSEs, AS and A Level and equivalent assessments and exams to go ahead in England in summer 2022, and has made some changes to general, vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs). Additionally, school-level performance (league) tables were re-introduced for the end of the GCSE phase (key stage 4) in 2022; school-level information for secondary phase was not published during either 2020 or 2021.

It is important to emphasise that direct comparisons with outcomes from previous years need to be made with the pandemic in mind, as pupils will have had disrupted learning during this period. Apart from this factor, there have also been several changes to exams and grading. As such, the DfE have recommended that caution is exercised when making comparisons with previous years.

In primary schools, performance across North Yorkshire in the Early Years (Early Years Foundation Stage Profile) has continued to be above national benchmarks and is beginning to approach the level of attainment seen before the pandemic. Attainment of children at Key Stage 2 is improving but yet to recover to pre-pandemic levels. In secondary schools the percentage achieving a grade 5 or above in both English and Maths (Basics) improved in 2024 and is now 1.6% higher than national.

3.4 Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP)

In 2024, 71.2% of children in the committee area achieved a Good Level of Development. An in-year comparison of EYFSP outcomes with LA and national figures (see table below) shows

that the same proportion of pupils within the committee area achieved a good level of development compared with all NYC pupils and this reflects a higher proportion than national.

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile – percentage achieving a good level of development			
	Richmond	North Yorks	National
2019	73.3%	72.8%	71.8%
No scores due to covid			
2022	70.4%	68.3%	65.2%
2023	71.2%	70.3%	67.2%
2024	71.2%	71.2%	67.7%

3.5 Key Stage 2

In 2024, 58.3% of children in the committee area achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, which is higher than the North Yorkshire average but below the national comparable figure. An in-year comparison of KS2 attainment with LA and national figures is shown in the table below.

Key Stage 2 - percentage achieving the expected standard or above in reading, writing and maths combined.			
	Richmond	North Yorks	National
2019	60.3%	63.4%	64.9%
No scores due to covid			
2022	52.2%	56.6%	58.9%
2023	53.1%	56.1%	60.0%
2024	58.3%	57.8%	61.0%

3.6 Key Stage 4

The average Attainment 8 score, which measures the achievement of a pupil across eight qualifications, was 43.6 for 2024. This is below both the North Yorkshire and national comparable figures.

Key Stage 4 - Average Attainment 8 score			
	Richmond	North Yorks	National
2019	45.0	48.7	46.7
No scores due to covid			
2022	48.2	50.3	48.8
2023	44.2	46.8	46.3
2024	43.6	46.8	46.1

The percentage achieving a grade 5 or above (grading is 9-1) in English and Maths (Basics measure) was 39.3% for 2024. This is below both the national and the North Yorkshire comparable figures.

Key Stage 4 - Percentage achieving a grade 5 or above in English and Maths			
	Richmond	North Yorks	National
2019	38.2%	47.4%	43.2%
No scores due to covid			
2022	48.1%	53.8%	49.8%
2023	39.5%	46.0%	45.3%
2024	39.3%	47.7%	46.1%

3.7 Not in education, employment or training

There were 967 young people recorded in Year 11 living in this committee area in May 2024 and of this cohort only 14 (1.5%) were not in education, employment or training after leaving school in January 2025. The figure compares favourably with the overall North Yorkshire figure of 1.7% for the same period.

4.0 Suspension Incidents and Permanent Exclusions

4.1 Suspension Incidents

In the 2023/24 academic year, there have been a total of 9960 suspensions for a total of 3114 individual children in North Yorkshire. 605 of these children were on roll of mainstream schools in the Richmond committee area.

Suspension Incidents								
Academic year	Pupils suspended			Total Suspensions			Reason for suspension	
	North Yorkshire	Richmond (mainstream)	Percentage of North Yorkshire total (pupils)	North Yorkshire	Richmond (mainstream)	Percentage of North Yorkshire total (incidents)	Most common reason (Richmond)	Most common reason (North Yorkshire)
2018/19	2149	314	15%	5970	824	13.80%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (53.4%)	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (48.7%)
2019/20	1578	250	16%	4365	674	15.44%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (43.0%)	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (48.2%)
2020/21	1578	276	17%	3553	588	16.55%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (32.0%)	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (40.0%)
2021/22	2046	363	18%	5197	897	17.26%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (40%)	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (45.5%)
2022/23	2753	532	19%	7639	1559	20%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (55.8%)	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (48.2%)
2023/24	3114	605	19%	9960	2111	21%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (63.9%)	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (53.4%)

In 2023/24, schools in the committee area had a 16% share of the total schools' population in North Yorkshire and had a 21% share of suspensions for the whole county.

4.2 Permanent exclusions

In 2023/24, there were 122 permanent exclusions from all schools in the county, 29 of which were for children in Richmond mainstream schools. In the same period of 2022/23, there were 96 permanent exclusions, 23 of which were from the Richmond area.

Academic year	Richmond	North Yorkshire	Percentage of North Yorkshire total
2018/19	15	87	17%
2019/20	15	51	29.41%
2020/21	3	26	11.54%
2021/22	13	55	23.64%
2022/23	23	96	24%
2023/24	29	122	24%

In 2023/24, schools in the committee area had a 16% share of the total schools' population in North Yorkshire and had a 24% share of permanent exclusions for the whole county.

4.3 Responding to increasing exclusion from schools

It is important to note that the decision to suspend or permanently exclude from school can only be made by the school's headteacher as a last resort. The increasing rates of suspensions and permanent exclusions were discussed as part of an 'Education Matters' conference held in Harrogate in 2024.

The North Yorkshire response has also included outreach support for schools through SEND Locality Hub teams, offering outreach services for children at risk of suspension or permanent exclusion.

5.0 Special Education Needs and Disabilities

5.1 SEN Statistics for Committee Area

As of 31 December 2024, there was 891 children in the committee area with a North Yorkshire funded EHC plan, this amounted to 16.6% of the North Yorkshire total. The most common needs are:

- Autism (47%) (34% in North Yorkshire)
- Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH, 17%) (19% in North Yorkshire)
- Moderate Learning Disabilities (MLD, 11%) (10% in North Yorkshire)

There were 1858 in the committee area with SEN Support in North Yorkshire schools (2024 School Census (January)), amounting to 17.6% of the North Yorkshire total. The most common needs are:

- Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH, 19%), (19% in North Yorkshire)
- Speech, Language and Communication (SLCN, 19%) (20% in North Yorkshire)
- Specific Learning Difficulties ((e.g. Dyslexia), 18%) (22% in North Yorkshire)

5.2 Increasing demand for Education, Health and Care plans (EHC plans)

Whilst requests for Education, Health and Care plans (EHC plans) shows some sign of slowing, demand for assessments continues to be historically high.

The 2022/23 academic year saw 1263 requests for assessment for an EHC plan received, the highest number since EHC plans were introduced. Slightly fewer requests were received by

North Yorkshire Council in 2023/24, a total of 1196. 219 (18.3%) were for children or young people living in the committee area in 2023/24, a circa. 11% decrease on the 247 in 2022/23.

Additional capacity has been built into North Yorkshire Council's Educational Psychology Service this is expected to have an impact on the timeliness of responding to assessment requests.

5.3 SEND provision

Providing appropriate provision to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) has become an area of increasing pressure on resources in local authorities throughout the country. Aligned with our Local Area Partnership Strategy the Council continues to maintain a focus upon working with mainstream schools to strengthen the offer for children with SEN so the vast majority can be educated within their local communities. Additionally, the council also have an agreed £20.5m capital programme to develop more specialist places for children across the county. This includes developing Targeted Mainstream Provision as well as increasing Special School places.

In the Richmond committee area the council remain committed to the delivery of a new special school in Northallerton. The council successfully bid for the school in 2022 to be delivered by the DfE and Wellspring Academy Trust have been selected to run it upon completion. The council is awaiting notification from the DfE regarding their proposed programme for delivery. Additionally, The Dales School have been approved to receive capital investment of c.£250k to provide a small increase in capacity and to further enhance the facilities available to children attending the school. Whilst the local area already has a full complement of Targeted Mainstream Provisions, unlike other areas, dialogue continues between schools and the council to explore the possibility of further increasing the number of TMPs in line with future demand forecasts.

6.0 Elective Home Education

Total EHE

As of the end of the 23/24 academic year there were 1303 children recorded as Electively Home Educated (EHE) in North Yorkshire, 180 (13.81%) of which were formerly attending a school in Richmond AC. At the same point in the previous year, there were 953 children EHE in North Yorkshire, 129 formerly from a school in Richmond. This represents a 39.5% increase in the area, compared to a 37% increase in North Yorkshire as a whole.

	Richmond EHE	Richmond EHE % of all North Yorkshire EHE	Total North Yorkshire EHE
22/23	129	13.54%	953
23/24	180	13.81%	1303

In 2023/24, schools in the committee area had a 16% share of the total schools' population in North Yorkshire and had a 13.8% share of electively home educated children and young people for the whole county.

Becoming EHE

In the 2023/24 academic year, 821 children became EHE in North Yorkshire, 116 of which were formerly educated in a school in the Richmond. This figure in the previous academic year (2022/23) was 68 from Richmond out of 482 becoming EHE in North Yorkshire.

The government has set out plans to introduce a requirement for families subject to a protection plan to get council permission before removing a child from school to be home-educated as

part of the Children’s Wellbeing Bill (December, 2024). Earlier this year it also announced plans to introduce a national register in England to help account for all home-educated children.

7.0 School Finance

7.1 2023/2024 School Revenue Balances

Local Authority maintained school revenue balances as at 31 March 2024 are summarised below, together with a comparison with 2023. The balances are also expressed as a percentage of school delegated budgets.

	Primary & Nursery 161 schools	Secondary 14 schools	Special 6 schools	Pupil Referral Unit 4 schools	Total 185 schools
Total School Revenue Balances (Net) as at 31 March 2024	£15,522k	-£448k	£303k	£810k	£16,187k
% of Revenue Budget	12.6%	-0.8%	1.7%	31.2%	8.1%
No. Schools with an Accumulated Revenue Budget Surplus as at 31 March 2024	143	10	4	4	161
No. Schools with an Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2024	18	4	2	0	24
<i>Comparison to total school revenue balance (net) as at 31 March 2023</i>	+£1,288k	+£639k	+£1,191k	+£57k	+£3,175k

(The number of school budgets submitted to the local authority for 2023/24 is lower than the total number of local authority maintained schools operating within North Yorkshire due to a number of school federations operating a single, amalgamated budget covering all of the schools within the federation)

24 schools (13% of LA Maintained schools) had an accumulated revenue budget deficit totalling £5.3M as of 31 March 2024. An analysis of the budget deficits by school phase is detailed in the table below:

	Primary & Nursery	Secondary	Special	Pupil Referral Unit	Total
No. Schools with an Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2024	18	4	2	0	24
Total School Revenue Deficit Balances as at 31 March 2024	-£825k	-£2,793k	-£1,698k	N/A	-£5,316k
Average Value of Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2024	-£46k	-£698k	-£849k	N/A	-£221k
Highest Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2024	-£184k	-£959k	-£1,631k	N/A	-£1,631k
Lowest Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2024	-£1.4k	-£493k	-£67k	N/A	-£1.4k

7.2 School Budget Projections - Based on 2024/25 Revised budgets

The 2024/25 Revised Budgets submitted to the local authority by schools in December 2024 are summarised below:

	Primary & Nursery	Secondary	Special	Pupil Referral Unit	Total
	148 schools	12 schools	5 schools	4 schools	169 schools
Total Forecast School Revenue Balances (Net) as at 31 March 2025	£11,045k	-£678k	-£1,769k	£728k	£9,326k
No. Schools with an Accumulated Forecast Revenue Budget Surplus as at 31 March 2025	125	6	4	4	139
Average Value of Accumulated Forecast Revenue Budget Surplus as at 31 March 2025	£101k	£303k	£52k	£182k	£110k
No. Schools with an Accumulated Forecast Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2025	23	6	1	0	30
Average Value of Accumulated	-£67k	-£416k	-£1,976k	£0k	-£200k

Forecast Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2025					
<i>Comparison to total school revenue balance as at 31st March 2024</i>	<i>-£4,477k</i>	<i>-£230k</i>	<i>-£2,072k</i>	<i>-£82k</i>	<i>-£6,861k</i>

(The overall number of individual school budgets have reduced from 185 to 169 between the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years due to 14 schools converting to academy status and 2 schools closing).

7.3 School Finance and Funding Issues

- The Government’s 30 October 2024 Budget announced total core school funding is increasing nationally by £2.3 billion in 2025/26. This includes funding through the schools NFF, high needs funding, Central School Service Block (CSSB) of the Dedicated schools grant (DSG) and pupil premium. Of the £2.3 billion increase in total school funding, £1.3 billion will cover:
 - the remaining costs of the 2024 teachers’ pay award in mainstream schools, so that the full 12 months of salary costs are fully funded at a national level;
 - an increase to the mainstream schools NFF; and,
 - increases to the pupil premium and other elements of core funding.
- The remaining £1 billion of the additional £2.3bn core school funding will be added to the overall high needs budget.
- The 2025/26 school funding formula factor values have been increased to include the rolling in of the previously separate grants in 2024/25 of Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG), Teachers Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG) and Core School Budget Grant (CSBG). The floor is ‘cash flat’ at 0%, after taking account of the funding that schools received through TPAG, TPECG and CSBG in 2024/25. The DfE require local authorities to set the 2025/26 Minimum Funding Guarantee funding protection level for schools between **minus 0.5% and 0%**. The DfE anticipate that further funding, in respect of the increase in employers’ National Insurance contributions, will be provided in 2025/26 by a grant outside the School National Funding Formula. However, the DfE have stated that schools will be required to fund the teaching and support staff pay awards from their 2025/26 budget allocations, with no additional funding support.
- School budgets have experienced significant cost pressures in the 2024/25 financial year, this position is expected to continue for the 2025/26 financial year. Cost pressures include:
 - Below forecast inflation increases in school funding provided by Government for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years; this is likely to be particularly challenging for many schools in respect of meeting pay award costs for the 2025/26 financial year.
 - Cost pressures associated with supporting an increasing number of pupils with additional SEND support needs.
- North Yorkshire secondary schools are placed 142 out of 151 local authorities in terms of funding level per pupil. On average, a school in North Yorkshire will receive £6,326 per pupil in 2024-25 compared to a national average of £6,879. Comparing the funding for a 1,500

pupil secondary school this equates to a difference in funding of £0.83m. The funding for North Yorkshire primary schools is more favourable with a position 34 out of 151 local authorities in terms of the funding level per pupil. For primary schools, a North Yorkshire school will receive on average £5,381 per pupil compared to a national average of £5,281. The average funding position in relation to primary schools in North Yorkshire is influenced by the levels of the lump sum and sparsity funding received through the DfE National Funding Formula by the relatively high number of small, rural primary schools within the local authority area.

- North Yorkshire has a number of schools that, geographically, are vital in serving their local communities. Inadequate sparsity funding and general financial pressures for smaller, rural secondary schools, continues to be a significant concern. NYC utilises the provision in the DfE National Funding Formula (NFF) to locally provide additional lump sum funding of £50k for the smallest (less than 350 pupils), most rural secondary schools. NYC continues to lobby the DfE and local MPs for higher levels of funding for the small, rural secondary schools within the LA.

7.4 Local Authority Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty

- The Local Authority adopts a number of measures to support schools facing financial difficulty:
 - the use of a financial risk rating framework to determine the level of support, challenge and intervention undertaken at individual school level,
 - the escalation path for financial intervention including the use of Notices of Financial Concern, where deemed appropriate. Currently, ten schools are subject to a Notice of Financial Concern.
 - the undertaking of School Resource Management reviews in individual schools where this has been identified as an appropriate intervention through the risk rating process. The reviews are either commissioned from the DfE or undertaken by LA staff with the SRMA accreditation and based on the DfE School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) model.
 - continuing to undertake research into small school financial effectiveness to identify and share best practice
 - review of the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) and Resource Management dashboard in financially challenged schools
 - continuing the promotion of school collaboration and the sharing of best practice in terms of effective resource management between schools
 - the provision of Headteacher and Governor finance briefings and training
 - continuing to lobby DfE for fairer funding for North Yorkshire schools, especially in relation to small, rural secondary schools.
- In 2023/24 North Yorkshire Council received a funding allocation of £972k to support individual schools in financial difficulty. The local authority developed an eligibility criteria and an associated funding allocation methodology to distribute the funding to schools in financial difficulty. The DfE have stated that the funding was one-off for the 2023-24 financial only and has not continued for 2024-25

7.5 Schools Financial Position – Richmond

2023/24	2024/25
<p>30 schools projecting to be in budget surplus as at 31 March 2024 6 schools projecting to be in deficit by March 2024; 17% of schools in Richmond (3 primary, 2 secondary, 1 special)</p> <p>Projected average primary surplus = £134k Projected average secondary surplus = £293k Projected average special surplus = N/A Projected average PRU surplus = £255k</p> <p>Projected average primary deficit = -£23k Projected average secondary deficit = -£726k Projected average special deficit = -£67k Projected average PRU deficit = N/A</p> <p>(Data Source – 2024/25 Revised Budgets)</p>	<p>31 schools projecting to be in budget surplus as at 31 March 2025 5 schools projecting to be in deficit by March 2025; 14% of schools in Richmond (3 primary, 2 secondary)</p> <p>Projected average primary surplus = £107k Projected average secondary surplus = £284k Projected average special surplus = £52k Projected average PRU surplus = £150k</p> <p>Projected average primary deficit = -£30k Projected average secondary deficit = -£629k Projected average special deficit = N/A Projected average PRU deficit = N/A</p> <p>(Data Source – 2024/25 Revised Budgets)</p>

8.0 Planning school places

8.1 School sustainability

The sustainability of schools is largely influenced by three key factors which are usually related to each other:

- Falling pupil rolls
- School standards
- Financial difficulty

Where school closures have occurred in North Yorkshire these factors have been relevant. During the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2024 there were 9 school closures within the county. These included one within the committee area which was the technical closure of Wavell Junior School with effect from 7 April 2024 to facilitate its amalgamation with Wavell Community Infants School.

In June 2024 the Governing Board of Hackforth and Hornby Church of England Voluntary Controlled School requested that the council undertake a consultation in respect of the closure of the school. A statutory process has been undertaken by the council and on 18 March 2025 the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills will consider a report arising from a statutory consultation in respect of the proposed closure of Hackforth and Hornby CE VC Primary School and determine whether to proceed with the closure with effect from 31 August 2025.

On 29 January 2025 the Secretary of State made a substantive decision to close Kirkby Fleetham Church of England Primary School (an academy which forms part of the Dales Academy Trust) also with effect from 31 August 2025. This decision was taken in accordance with the DfE's process for the closure of academies, as set out in the guidance, 'Closure of an academy by mutual agreement,' October 2024.

8.2 Pupil rolls – current and future

In accordance with the Education Act, 1996 the Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available for every child. For this purpose, it groups schools together into planning areas in accordance with the requirements of the DfE. Appendix 1 shows the planning areas for the Richmond Committee area together with: -

- The schools and academies in each planning area
- Capacity in the planning area
- Current numbers on roll
- Projected future numbers
- Projected impact of approved housing developments

The Council is carefully monitoring pupil numbers across the Richmond committee area. A large proportion of the area is rural and served by small schools located within villages. A falling birth rate combined with other demographic changes means that a number of small schools are facing financial challenges associated with low numbers on roll. In the committee area there are examples of schools working innovatively to mitigate these challenges. This includes collaborative working between schools, including in federations. For all small schools the fluctuation of pupil numbers exacerbates the already challenging nature of school funding.

The general picture across the whole of the county shows projected growth in the urban areas contrasting with declining numbers in rural locations. There are several social and economic reasons for this. Currently, there are several areas where the numbers on roll are falling and there is surplus capacity in the school system.

Appendix 1 does not include projections of pupil yield from housing development sites that have been proposed but that do not yet have planning approval. Within the committee area the most significant development is planned for Catterick and North Northallerton.

The key points to note within the planning areas across the committee area, and which have a potential impact upon school places, are:

- 8.4 *Swaledale Area* – The proposed second and third phases of housing at Gatherley Road have the potential to yield additional pupils. However, a falling birth rate, the general availability of housing and employment factors have resulted in a fall in numbers in many of Swaledale’s schools. Officers will continue to monitor the development and pupil numbers to review the potential requirement for additional school capacity to be provided.
- 8.5 *Northallerton Area* – North Northallerton is the principal site for housing in Hambleton’s Local Plan. Oakbridge Church of England Primary School, a new one form entry primary school located in North Northallerton, opened in September 2024, under a phased opening plan, to help accommodate children generated from the housing.
- 8.6 *Stokesley Area* – Despite the housing allocations serving Stokesley in Hambleton’s Local Development Plan, the anticipated pupil yield from this housing is not forecast to generate a shortfall in either the primary or secondary schools.
- 8.7 *Catterick Area* – Richmondshire’s Local Development Plan identified Catterick Garrison as its principal development area and included significant allocations of open market housing and service family accommodation. Officers are continuing to monitor the pupil numbers at the garrison, including changes arising from the ongoing new development and planned troop movements. The current assessment is that no additional school place

capacity is likely to be required to accommodate the additional housing proposed in the Local Development Plan, but this will be kept under review.

- 8.8 *Wensleydale Area* – This area of the Richmond committee area is characterised by schools serving sparsely populated, and super-sparsely populated, areas. Demographic changes within those areas have resulted in significant reductions in pupil numbers which, in turn, have resulted in financial challenges for the local schools.

Wensleydale School and Sixth Form, for example, has approximately half the pupils of a single urban secondary, yet its sparsely populated catchment area covers an area which in a city would be served by several secondary schools.

Wensleydale School and Sixth Form temporarily suspended its sixth form provision with effect from September 2023. This decision was taken by the School’s Governing Board in response to the relatively low numbers of post-16 students on the schools roll, and the challenges that this presented in maintaining a viable post-16 provision in terms of quality of experience, subject breadth and financial viability. The council has undertaken a statutory process in respect of the permanent closure of the sixth form and on 18 March the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills will consider a report arising from a statutory consultation in respect of the proposed closure and determine whether to proceed with the proposal .

9.0 Recommendation

- 9.1 That Members note the report on educational factors in the Richmond committee area.

Authors: Amanda Newbold (Assistant Director – Inclusion), Howard Emmett (Assistant Director – Strategic Resources), Louise Wilson (Assistant Director – Education and Skills)

Appendix 1 - School Place Planning data

Planning Areas and forecast surplus/shortfall school places as of 31 August 2024

School planning area	Places available as of 2023/ 2024	Number on Roll 2019/ 2020	Number on roll 2023/ 2024	Surplus Capacity 2023/ 2024	Forecast pupils as of 2028/ 2029	Projected Pupils from current housing permissions until 2028/2029	Forecast/ Surplus capacity 2028/29
*School located in a neighbouring committee area							
PRIMARY							
Bedale • Bedale CE	420	349	314	106	305	39	76
Bedale Outer Area • Aiskew, Leeming Bar CE • Burneston CE (VA) • Crakehall CE Primary • Hackforth and Hornby CE • Hunton and Arrathorne CP • Leeming and Londonderry CP • Leeming RAF CP • Snape CP • St. Nicholas CE Primary, West Tanfield • Thornton Watlass CE	963	598	619	344	562	64	337
Total	1383	947	933	450	867	103	413

Catterick Garrison • Carnagill CP • Le Cateau CP • Wavell Community Primary • Cambrai Primary Academy	1365	1265	933	432	812	74	479
Catterick Outer Area • Bolton-on-Swale St Mary's CE • Colburn CP • Hipswell CE Primary • Michael Syddall CE (Aided)	818	724	649	169	539	38	241
Total	2183	1989	1582	601	1351	122	710

School planning area							
*School located in a neighbouring committee area	Places available as of 2023/ 2024	Number on Roll 2019/ 2020	Number on roll 2023/ 2024	Surplus Capacity 2023/ 2024	Forecast pupils as of 2028/ 2029	Projected Pupils from current housing permissions until 2028/2029	Forecast/ Surplus capacity 2028/29
Northallerton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alverton CP • Applegarth Primary • Broomfield School • Mill Hill CP • Romanby Primary • Sacred Heart RC 	1347	1185	1225	122	1118	67	162
Northallerton Outer Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ainderby Steeple CE • Appleton Wiske CP • Brompton CP • East Cowton CE • Great Smeaton Academy • Kirkby Fleetham CE • Osmotherley Primary • South Otterington CE * 	813	572	564	249	514	80	219
Total	2160	1757	1789	371	1632	147	381

Stokesley Primary Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stokesley Primary 	399	223	205	194	228	26	145
Stokesley Primary Outer Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilsdale Midcable Chop Gate CE • Carlton & Faceby CE VA • Hutton Rudby • Ingleby Greenhow CE VA • Kirkby & Great Broughton CE VA • Marwood CE VC Infant • Roseberry Academy 	835	698	688	147	655	10	170
Total	1234	921	893	341	883	36	315

Thirsk Outer Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alanbrooke School* • Carlton Miniott Primary Academy* • Knayton CE Academy* • Sessay CE VC Primary* • South Kilvington CE Academy* • Topcliffe CE Academy* • Dishforth CE* • Pickhill CE 	912	829	813	99	761	31	120
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School planning area	Places available as of 2023/ 2024	Number on Roll 2019/ 2020	Number on roll 2023/ 2024	Surplus Capacity 2023/ 2024	Forecast pupils as of 2028/ 2029	Projected Pupils from current housing permissions until 2028/2029	Forecast/ Surplus capacity 2028/29
*School located in a neighbouring committee area							
Swaledale Primary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brompton-on-Swale CE Primary • Middleton Tyas CE • Richmond Methodist • St Mary's RC Primary • Trinity Academy Richmond 	1196	993	887	309	781	44	371
Swaledale Primary Outer Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barton CE Primary • Croft CE Primary • Eppleby Forcett CE • Gunnerside Methodist • Melsonby Methodist • North & South Cowton CP • Ravensworth CE Primary • Reeth CP 	525	339	331	194	279	43	203
Total	1721	1332	1218	503	1060	87	574

Wensleydale Primary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leyburn Primary 	210	195	169	41	148	48	14
Wensleydale Primary Outer Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Askrigg VC Primary • Bainbridge CE Primary & Nursery • Hawes Primary • Middleham CE • Spennithorne CE Primary • West Burton CE Primary 	480	252	255	225	220	68	192
Total	690	447	424	266	368	116	206

School planning area *School located in a neighbouring committee area	Places available as of 2023/ 2024	Number on Roll 2019/ 2020	Number on roll 2023/ 2024	Surplus Capacity 2023/ 2024	Forecast pupils as of 2028/ 2029	Projected Pupils from current housing permissions until 2028/2029	Forecast/ Surplus capacity 2028/29
SECONDARY							
Bedale • Bedale High School	935	479	594	341	615	36	284
Catterick • Risedale School	925	532	606	319	609	62	254
Northallerton • Northallerton School & 6 th F	1250	1021	1084	166	1190	48	12
Stokesley • Stokesley School	1269	1165	1104	165	1100	11	158
Swaledale • Richmond School • St Francis Xavier School	2210	1845	1851	359	1791	38	381
Wensleydale • The Wensleydale School & 6 th Form	492	365	340	152	341	25	126

Note

- School planning areas are groups of schools which are used for assessing current and future pupil demand for school place provision and structured according to DfE guidelines.
- Figures above take into account outstanding housing permissions, but not undetermined planning applications or draft Local Plan proposals. Pupil yield from housing is based on 25% for primary aged pupils and 13% for secondary aged pupils

North Yorkshire Council

Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee

17 March 2025

Update on the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

Report of the Corporate Director – Environment

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update members with progress on the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), since spring 2024 and in advance of the six-week statutory public consultation scheduled to start from late May 2025.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are the England-wide system of spatial strategies established by clauses 104 to 108 of the Environment Act 2021.
- 2.2 They are designed as tools to drive more coordinated, practical and focussed action to help nature. Each Strategy will, for the area that it covers:
- agree priorities for nature's recovery,
 - map the most valuable existing areas for nature,
 - map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals.
- 2.3 North Yorkshire Council was appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) as responsible authority in August 2023 and commenced work on the LNRS in September of the same year. NYC has followed DEFRA's statutory guidance and advice and undertaken extensive technical studies and stakeholder engagement from September 2023 through to March 2025. NYC has compiled all the documentation required by the statutory guidance, with supporting appendices.

3.0 UPDATE ON THE NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK LNRS

- 3.1 Since spring 2024, the project team has continued to follow the requirements of the LNRS statutory guidance in addition to the monthly online advice sessions from DEFRA.
- 3.2 This involved a series of in-person workshops to elicit our priorities for nature recovery covering different habitats across our geography including:
- woodland
 - wetland
 - upland
 - grassland and farmland
 - in-river habitat
 - urban

- 3.3 We had over 120 attendees from a range of organisations including: Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, City of York Council, protected landscapes, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and White Rose Forest. Alongside each priority is a series of associated measures (actions).
- 3.4 At the same time, we co-created our vision strapline - 'To work together to enhance, expand, restore and connect our region's habitats for thriving nature across North Yorkshire and York'. The vision is underpinned by 10 principles, including: restoring natural processes, producing food, fuel and timber in nature friendly way, connecting people to nature and managing our water sustainably.
- 3.5 Over the summer period we worked closely with our advisory group (steering group) to devise the approach to our nature recovery map and this also involved several calls with DEFRA and Natural England's LNRS central team to agree a way forward.
- 3.6 During the early winter months, we facilitated nine in-person workshops for landowners, land managers and farmers to update them on our work, present the proposed mapping method and brief them on the forthcoming statutory public consultation in late spring 2025. At the same time, we have been progressing our work on wildlife species devising a method for selecting a long list of priority species and a short list of focus species (approximately 80 no.). The focus species will benefit from our proposed measures (actions).
- 3.7 We have been considering how the LNRS will be delivered, and this has involved a workshop with DEFRA, followed by the submission of an 'ask' in respect of the funding and staffing needed to deliver the LNRS. We are expecting an announcement from DEFRA for the funding of FY '25-'25 soon. We convened a delivery workshop for our own local stakeholders in early December 2024 to begin early thinking around what LNRS delivery could look like in our area.

4.0 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN AND RESPONSES

- 4.1 To date, across our geography; we have engaged with over 1,500 stakeholders, including our online survey which took place between November 2023 and February 2024. Engagement events have included one to one interviews, in-person workshops with species and habitat specialists, member briefings, in-person workshops with youth councils, webinars, in-person workshops with landowners, land managers and farmers, online calls with NYC officers from related disciplines and presentations at local nature conferences. We also have a mailing list of 400 individuals who have requested to be kept up to date on progress with the LNRS.
- 4.2 Comments from stakeholders have been logged and where feasible actioned to inform the emerging LNRS.

5.0 NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 We are finalising our LNRS documentation and the building of our online nature recovery map and expect this all to be ready by the end of March at which point we are required to submit this 'pre-consultation' draft to our four supporting authorities for their consideration and sign off. (The LNRS regulations state they have 28 days to consider the pre-consultation draft and raise any objections (if any) during that time frame). Our four supporting authorities are: Natural England, City of York Council, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and North York Moors National Park Authority.

- 5.2 Subject to the sign off by the supporting authorities and by our own Executive Member, we intend to publish the draft LNRS documentation for a six-week statutory public consultation period from the end of May 2025.
- 5.3 The LNRS regulations requires responsible authorities to publish all responses to the consultation within a reasonable time of the consultation concluding. The purpose of this is for consultees to understand how their comments have informed changes to the LNRS in the form of the 'pre-publication' draft.
- 5.4 The LNRS regulations requires that the 'pre-publication' draft is submitted to our four supporting authorities for their consideration and sign off. We expect to submit the draft to them during August 2025 (The LNRS regulations state they have 28 days to consider the pre-consultation draft and raise any objections (if any) during that time frame).
- 5.5 Once sign off is received from our supporting authorities, the LNRS will be submitted to the NYC Executive for consideration and sign off as the published version. We expect to submit to the October 2025 NYC Executive.

6.0 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 6.1 The LNRS will contribute to the vision of the Council Plan (2024-2028) particularly in respect of building on our natural capital and supporting a good quality of life for all. The vision is underpinned by five ambitions and the LNRS will support place and environment by contributing to a clean, environmentally sustainable and attractive place to live, work and visit and by encouraging communities to work together to improve their local area. It will support economy by helping to reverse the decline in nature and in so doing contribute to sustainable tourism. It will contribute to health and wellbeing by supporting people to have a good quality of life and enjoy active and healthy lifestyles.

7.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 We have been required to follow the LNRS regulations and statutory guidance set out by DEFRA and so no alternative options have been considered.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising specifically from this report as it is for information only. The LNRS project is fully grant funded and the total grant available is £341k. Costs incurred for the remaining work on the LNRS are covered by this grant.
- 8.2 Along with other responsible authorities, North Yorkshire Council have contributed to the design of the delivery phase with DEFRA and await the forthcoming announcement on the funding for delivery for financial year 25/26. Funding for the subsequent three years will be announced at a later date.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 As the appointed responsible authority, North Yorkshire Council is legally required to prepare the LNRS.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report.

11.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Supporting nature is one of the three pillars of the NYC Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030 and within that theme there are seven priorities. The development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy seeks to support those priorities and therefore is expected to have a positive outcome for Climate Change and Nature.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 12.1 To note progress and outlined next steps in relation to the North Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS – LNRS webpage

[Local Nature Recovery Strategy | North Yorkshire Council](#)

Karl Battersby
Corporate Director – Environment
County Hall
Northallerton

12 February 2025

Report Author and presenter – Tim Johns, Policy Officer

North Yorkshire Council

Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee

17 March 2025

Climate Change Activity in the Richmond (Yorks) Area

Report of the Corporate Director Environment

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on recent climate change activities that have taken place in the Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee area.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report presents an update of the climate change activities that have taken place in the Richmond (Yorks) area. It highlights activity that has taken place in 2024 and provides an indication of expected activities in 2025. The following report includes information on support that NYC has provided to local activities to support the delivery of the climate change strategy. The purpose of the report is to provide an update, and there are no recommendations.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 North Yorkshire Council's Climate Change Strategy was approved by Executive in July 2023 in response to the declared climate emergency. The council's Climate Change Delivery Pathway (CCDP) was approved by Executive on 20 August 2024 and sets out how the Strategy will be delivered.
- 3.2 The council's overall progress on the climate change strategy is reported biannually to the Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee, alongside an annual progress report direct to Executive. The most recent Overview and Scrutiny report was made on 17 October 2024.

4.0 UPDATE ON RECENT CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVITY

- 4.1 Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee requested this update report to be included in the committee's work programme to provide a local view of climate change activity, for members' information.

4.2 Climate Change Strategy: Governance

4.2.1 Regional greenhouse gas emissions:

As reported at October's Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, regional greenhouse gas emissions across North Yorkshire were 5,714 ktCO₂e in 2022 (this is the most recently available data). This is an overall 31% decrease since 2005, and 5% lower than 2021.

4.2.2 Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority:

In the Richmond (Yorks) area, NYC proactively work with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and are providing a response to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan. Collaborative working is also underway to support regional climate change targets, such as the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority's Route map to carbon negative refresh.

4.2.3 North Yorkshire Council carbon footprint:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the 2023/24 operational carbon footprint (the first year of North Yorkshire Council’s operations) which was 31,663.98 tCO₂e. This includes fleet fuel consumption, heating, electricity, and certain “Scope 3” emissions which fall outside the direct control of the organisation but are a direct consequence of our operations, in this case business mileage in employee vehicles, and various transmission losses and “well to tank” emissions from supplied energy.

4.2.4 Carbon Disclosure Project:

In September 2024 the council for the first time submitted a response to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). This internationally recognised scheme is a voluntary reporting and accountability platform for local governments, investors, and companies to help them understand their impact and act. The council’s submission is now being independently assessed, and the results are awaited. It is anticipated that they will provide a benchmark score on our activity, including identifying areas for improvement.

4.2.5 Council Climate Scorecards:

The council has also provided information (principally via freedom of information requests) to the campaign group Climate Emergency UK for the completion of their Council Climate Scorecards process. A score and “league table” of all councils will be published in 2025.

4.2.6 Community engagement:

In the Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee area regular liaison has taken place between council officers and the wider community, for example:

- Richmond Climate Action Partnership (RiCAP) – officer time to support the information distributed through the Eco Fair held at Richmond School. Officers provided information on sustainable travel, air quality, and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The Eco Fair was attended by many organisations, including CPRE (The Countryside Charity), Buglife, North Yorkshire Rotters, Just the Job & Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).
- Officers have also supported community groups to administer funding through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Details on the community groups that have been supported are included in section 3.3.2.

4.3 Mitigation: reducing greenhouse gas emissions

4.3.1 Various place-based decarbonisation and climate mitigation projects are underway in the Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee area as a result of support and funding facilitated by North Yorkshire Council. Funding from the Devolution Deal Net Zero Fund has supported the following community buildings to decarbonise by funding solar PV:

- Kiplin Hall CIO
- Northdale

4.3.2 UK Shared Prosperity Fund – capital and revenue grants:

11 UKSPF grants have been awarded under the climate change programme within the Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee area, with a value of around £341,000 provided in funding. The businesses and communities that received funding are shown below.

Business

Name of organisation	Project
Rounton Coffee	Roasting Efficiency Project
HECK! Food Ltd	HECK! Food Solar Funding Project for Carbon Reduction
Tea Up Ltd	New Windows & Heat Exchanger
C Milner & Son Ltd	Sustainability Project

Name of organisation	Project
Crathorne Farms	Solar Extension
A R Wholesale Ltd	Solar Panels
Kitchings of Summerfield	Slurry Digestion Electricity Plant
Sayers Property Investments Ltd	Solar Panels
D T Dinsdale & Son	Farm Digester

Community

Name of organisation	Project
Northallerton Town Cricket Club	Insulation & Solar Energy Installation
Carperby Village Institute	Solar Panels Installation

4.3.3 UK Shared Prosperity Fund – community decarbonisation audits:

Specialist audits have been carried out for several community buildings, businesses and elderly people’s care homes under the support element of the UKSPF scheme and an earlier scheme (the Community Renewal Fund). These enabled groups to gain a clear understanding of decarbonisation measures needed for their buildings, some of which have led to successful funding bids. In Richmond (Yorks) area this funding was awarded to the following organisations:

- Gluten Free Kitchen
- Sashless Window Co
- Climate Action Stokesley & Villages
- Great Ayton Methodist Church
- Catterick, Richmond and Colburn Community Libraries
- DL10 4 DOGS
- Northallerton Town Council
- Hambleton Community Action
- Yorkshire Teachers Ltd t/a Principal Teachers

4.3.4 Photovoltaic (PV) panels:

Solar PV arrays have been installed as part of the SPF projects above. There are also solar panels at the following NYC locations:

- Mercury House & Old Lower School
- George Nickling House
- Richmond Pool
- Bedale Leisure Centre

4.3.5 Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs):

There is a network of public EVCPs in the Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee area. Chargers managed by NYC in former Hambleton area are offline, but it is expected that these will be brought back online through the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) project. The council will be going out to tender soon to engage a charge point operator for the LEVI project. This will provide charging points across the county, with a focus on delivering in areas where the market otherwise would not, by using public subsidy, while operating under a portfolio approach to ensure that the charge point operator is able to lever in private investment.

Additional EVCPs are scheduled to be installed as part of the Catterick town centre regeneration project.

4.3.6 Housing

Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2.2

The SHDF wave 2.2 fund has provided a £1,772,000 in grant funding, and NYC have match funded £2,045,107 to retrofit council owned housing stock. This programme will retrofit 150 homes, with 75 completed by March 2025 (6 in Richmond confirmed) and 75 completed by March 2026. Properties for completion before 2026 are currently being identified.

4.3.6.1 NYC have applied for the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund wave 3 and have a target to retrofit a total of 1406 homes. For Richmond, this includes 55 off gas homes, and 301 on gas homes. It is expected that a confirmation of how much funding will be awarded by DESNZ will be received in March 2025.

4.3.6.2 Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) 2 and Warm Homes Fund.

The Home Upgrade Grant was put in place to help homes without mains gas supply, with poor quality insulation or inefficient heating systems. Applications for the grant scheme closed on 30 September 2024. 94 properties across former Richmondshire (28) and former Hambleton (66) benefitted from measures installed by the programme. This includes insulation, air source heat pumps, electric storage heating and solar PV. Some house received multiple measures.

Yr2 to date (April 2024 to March 2025)	Richmondshire	Hambleton
Properties Complete	28	66
Measures Installed	64	130
Carbon Savings	92.27	209.02
Cost Savings	£24,065	£50,420
Value of works	£616,834.45	£1,246,771.83
Hard to treat	7	11
Number of properties EPC improvements to C or above	16	46

4.3.6.3 The delivery of HUG2 has been successful and the team have exceeded the initial target of delivery. This has allowed NYC to develop a strong pipeline of properties that can benefit from the new funding scheme, the Warm Homes Fund: Local Grant. NYC have requested £9.5million per year for three years across the county to upgrade privately owned homes for low-income households. The target is to upgrade 540 homes a year. NYC are awaiting a decision on the amount of funding allocated.

The Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) programme

4.3.6.4 The LEAD programme runs until March 2025 and it provides a home survey and a free home energy plan. In Richmond (Yorks), it was open in the following locations:

- Stokesley and villages, including:
 - East Harlsey
 - East Rounton
 - Great and Little Broughton
 - Hutton Rudby
 - Ingleby Arncliffe
 - Ingleby Greenhow
 - Kirkby
 - Middle-on-leven
 - Sexhow
 - Seamer
 - Skutterskelfe
- Great Ayton
- Potto

4.3.6.5 The project has carried out 151 home assessments out of a target of 175, and has provided advice to 274 people, which is over 24 over the target of 250.

4.3.6.6 In the Hambleton area, the LEAD project delivered 43 home reports.

Big Community Switch Scheme

Anyone who pays a household energy bill and who is interested in saving money by switching energy suppliers can register for free to the Collective energy switching. We are provided with countywide reports, that do not reflect localities. On the autumn auction (Oct/Nov) we had 868 residents registered and 108 accepted the offer, which was £129 below the Ofgem Price Cap, fixed for 12 months and based on 100% renewable electricity.

4.3.7 Local active travel improvements:

- Officers have supported active travel initiatives along Darlington Road in Richmond, supported by RiCAP. Air quality monitors are expected to be installed by NYC on 7th March and the climate change business partner for CYPs is working to engage schools along Darlington road to encourage active travel.
- The Catterick Town Centre regeneration project aims to create better links to the new town square, Princes Gate and Gough Road, and a cycle path link to Catterick Integrated Care Campus and Catterick South. The project aims to improve the paths and cycle ways.
- LCWIPs aim to provide a long-term strategic approach to identifying cycling and walking improvements at a local level. LCWIPs have been developed for the following areas:
 - Catterick and Catterick Garrison
 - Northallerton

4.3.8 Schools climate change engagement:

The council's energy team continues to provide learning sessions and teacher training and schools support on energy and climate change.

4.3.8.1 NYC engaged with Richmond Methodist School on clean air day in 2024 to run a poster competition. The prize was donated by Richmondshire Climate Action Partnership and school children illustrated ideas on their posters to increase active travel along Darlington road. Ideas depicted on the posters included walking buses, cycling, public transport and switching off car engines when waiting outside school. The judges were assisted in their decision making by the school's eco group. 65 poster entries were received, and winners were agreed based on their poster.

5.0 ADAPTATION: PREPARING FOR THE CHANGING CLIMATE

5.1 As a result of climate change, the Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee area can expect to see weather changes in line with wider regional projections, specifically, hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters. Extreme weather events such as intense rainfall and heatwaves are likely to become more frequent. That is why it is important to better understand the future impacts of climate change, to identify steps we can take to adapt to, or be better prepared and resilient to the effects of climate change for our communities and Council operations.

5.2 In 2024, there were 47 flood alerts issued for the Richmond (Yorks) AC area, with 20 flood warnings across Richmondshire.

5.3 Work to develop an Adaptation section of the CCDP will be concluded in 2025 and this is now the Climate Change Team's current focus for policy development. The Council is working alongside the Combined Authority who will be commissioning a comprehensive Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment for North Yorkshire. This will identify detailed geographical areas of risk for climate change and will provide an evidence base for developing an Adaptation Strategy.

6.0 SUPPORTING NATURE

- 6.1 These sections summarise the activities that the Parks and Grounds service have carried out to support biodiversity.
- 6.2 The Parks and Grounds team have planted perennial beds within the Friary Gardens and over 10,00 daffodils in various locations across the county. Over 20,000 bulbs have been planted at County Hall, but across the county the team have planted over 100,000. The Parks and Grounds service proactively encourage rewilding, where appropriate to support biodiversity. There is a programme of planned tree planting across Parks and Grounds in the Richmond (Yorks) area.
- 6.3 Additionally, the team are implementing biological control to treat pests and reduce the use of chemicals in glasshouse production for floral bedding displays.

7.0 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 7.1 The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and pledged to play its part in tackling the causes and impacts of climate change.
- 7.2 The activities outlined above contribute towards the council climate change strategy objectives, and deliver the following specific Council Plan ambitions:
- Place and Environment:
 - A clean, environmentally sustainable and attractive place to live, work and visit
 - A well connected and planned place with good transport links and digital connectivity
 - Communities are supported and work together to improve their local area
 - Good quality, affordable and sustainable housing that meets the needs of our communities
 - Economy
 - Economically sustainable growth that enables people and places to prosper
 - Culture, heritage, arts and sustainable tourism all play their part in the economic growth of the county
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - People are supported to have a good quality of life and enjoy active and healthy lifestyles
 - Reduced variations in health through tackling the root causes of inequality
 - People
 - In times of hardship, support is provided to those that need it most
 - Organisation
 - A carbon neutral council

8.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The recommendation is to note the information in this report, alternative options have not been considered.

9.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 As this report is for information only, there are no financial implications.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 As this report is for information only, there are no legal implications.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

12.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

12.1 This report outlines a number of positive carbon reduction and associated initiatives in the Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee area. A Climate Change Impact Assessment is not required as the recommendation is to note this for information only.

13.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 This report outlines some of the local activity being undertaken to address climate change, contributing towards the council's climate change strategy objectives. The activities described above enable the council as an organisation, as well as residents, communities and businesses in the Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee area, to make climate responsible choices.

14.0 RECOMMENDATION

14.1 It is recommended that the Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee notes the recent climate change activities which are outlined in this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

[North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy](#)

[Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee, report on the CCDP, 17 October 2024](#)

Karl Battersby
Corporate Director – (Environment)
County Hall
Northallerton
27 February 2025

Report Author – Hannah Nutsey, Climate Change Business Partner
Presenter of Report – Hannah Nutsey, Climate Change Business Partner

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

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North Yorkshire Council

Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee

Response to questions asked at the 16 September 2024 meeting.

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This document provides an update to questions asked regarding a previous report which was received at the 16th September 2024 Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee

Questions

Members highlighted the following in relation to the report:-

2.1 Question

Some discrepancies within the report relating to which Electoral Division certain features were located and, therefore, had been assigned to the wrong Councillor for contact in emergency situations. In response it was agreed to do an enhanced review to ensure that the correct areas and Councillors were identified in respect of this.

Answer

- An updated table has been provided at Appendix A.
- There maybe additional questions around specific areas covered within an Environment Agency warning or a Community Emergency Plan.
- If Elected Members wish to discuss the detail within the table then I encourage them to liaise with NYC Resilience and Emergencies Officer Jason Wainwright.

2.2 Question

A Member emphasised the need to ensure that local communities were fully aware of what was required of them during emergency situations and it had to be ensured that appropriate plans and communications were in place, through appropriate engagement. In response it was stated that a group was in place for the local launch of Community Emergency Plans however knowledge of those Plans was imperative. Engagement continued to be sought to ensure that progress was been made.

Answer

- Since the September Area Committee, Resilience and Emergencies Officer Jason Wainwright has been engaging with a number of Parish and Town Councils as well as Community Anchor Organisations who have approached the Council.
- An email was sent to all Parish Councils on 2nd October updating on how to access sandbags in an emergency as well as encouraging those who had yet to develop a plan.
- The Community Emergency Plans are completely voluntary and are often only taken up by those locations who are regularly affected by incidents. With this in mind the Council is developing an updated Community Resilience Policy to identify how to liaise with existing networks and partnerships so that there are key links build up in areas without Community Emergency Plans. These will be discussed at three Community Events. The session that covers the west of North Yorkshire will take place on March 20th at Bedale Hall.
- NYC has also developed its process on how it liaises with all Parish and Town Councils as well as Community Anchor Organisations in preparation for more severe weather events.

2.3 Question

Concerns were raised regarding a serious incident that had occurred in a local community of which the local Councillor had not been made aware. The local press, Parish Council and residents were seeking assurance via the Member but there was no information to be provide. He suggested that a 24 hour, seven days a week contact point was required to address such situations and assist with communications. In response it was stated that whenever a serious incident took place Silver Command were always contactable with details of the duty officer available in the Members Handbook. It was also stated that the contact number can be utilised both ways with Members informing Silver Command of an incident they have become aware of, which would be of assistance to their response.

Answer

- Elected Members are able to contact the NYC Silver Commander via the Resilience and Emergencies Duty Officer 24/7. This number is within the Elected Members Handbook but is not publicly available.

2.4 Question

A Member expressed her disappointment that some Plans developed and under development were not detailed in Appendix B to the report, which provided information on Flood warning sign up and Emergency Plans within the Constituency area. She considered that the omission of this information from the report was a disincentive to the local communities that had no acknowledgement of the Plans they had developed and for those that were in the process developing Plans. She asked for this to be taken account of, going forward, with a better reflection of what is actually taking place. Other Members concurred with the issues raised and suggested that the appendix required an update. There was also a requirement for Members to be fully prepared through appropriate planning for emergency situations. In response it was stated that work was being undertaken alongside clusters of Parish and Town Councils to provide more resilience.

Answer

- An updates table has been provided and if Elected Members have questions regarding its detail or develop then I encourage them to liaise with Jason Wainwright.

2.5 Question

A Member requested a copy of the flood warning plan for Stokesley as he noted that some flooding situations had occurred with no warnings issued. In response it was noted that the warnings would be issued by the Environment Agency in terms of river flooding, but not for surface water flooding. A copy of the report would be provided to the Member.

Answer

The following links can be utilised by Elected Members, residents and business to track the local flood risk in Stokesley but also wider North Yorkshire

- [Live feed to current river levels Stokesley](#)

[Stokesley, Middlesbrough - Find river, sea, groundwater and rainfall levels - GOV.UK](#)

- [Live feed to current river levels to other locations North Yorkshire](#)

[North Yorkshire - Find river, sea, groundwater and rainfall levels - GOV.UK](#)

- [Check fluvial \(river\) flood zones in Stokesley and other locations in North Yorkshire](#)

[Flood map for planning - GOV.UK](#)

- [Check surface water mapping for Stokesley](#)

[Surface water map - Check your long term flood risk - GOV.UK](#)

- [Check surface water mapping for other areas of North Yorkshire](#)

[Where do you want to check? - Check your long term flood risk - GOV.UK](#)

Background Documents: None

Report author – Matt Robinson, Head of Resilience and Emergencies

Flood warning sign up and Community Emergency Plans within Area Constituency Committee wards

Electoral_Div	Elected Member	Flood warning (FW) name	Properties in FW	% of residents signed up FW	Community Emergency Plan
Aiskew & Leeming	Councillor John Weighell	Other areas not affected by flood warning	TBC	TBC	Leeming CEP update in progress
Bedale	Councillor David Webster	Bedale Beck at Bedale	81	70.4	Old plan, out of date. Update or re-write new plan for Bedale required.
Bedale	Councillor David Webster	River Swale at Howe village and by Skipton Bridge	14	64.3	Old plan, out of date. Update or re-write new plan for Bedale required.
Bedale	Councillor David Webster	Other areas not affected by flood warning	TBC	TBC	No other plans to date, ongoing engagement required.
Catterick Village & Brompton-on-Swale	Councillor Carl Les	River Swale at Brompton-on-Swale	306	71.2	Old plan, out of date. Update or re-write new plan for Catterick Village required.
Catterick Village & Brompton-on-Swale	Councillor Carl Les	River Swale at Brompton-on-Swale caravan park and Brompton Lakes	4	50	Old plan, out of date. Update or re-write new plan for Catterick Village required.
Catterick Village & Brompton-on-Swale	Councillor Carl Les	River Swale at Catterick Bridge	10	30	Old plan, out of date. Update or re-write new plan for Catterick Village required.
Catterick Village & Brompton-on-Swale	Councillor Carl Les	Brough Beck at Catterick - Swale Pasture Lane and Oran Lane	53	88.7	Old plan, out of date. Update or re-write new plan for Catterick Village required
Catterick Village & Brompton-on-Swale	Councillor Carl Les	Brough Beck at Catterick - Low Green and the High Street	183	76.5	Old plan, out of date. Update or re-write new plan for Catterick Village required.
Catterick Village & Brompton-on-Swale	Councillor Carl Les	Brough Beck at Catterick - Mowbray Road and Brough Meadows	333	81.1	Old plan, out of date. Update or re-write new plan for Catterick Village required.
Catterick Village & Brompton-on-Swale	Councillor Carl Les	Brough Beck at Catterick - Kings Close and the High Street	61	77	Old plan, out of date. Update or re-write new plan for Catterick Village required.
Catterick Village & Brompton-on-Swale	Councillor Carl Les	Other areas not affected by flood warning	TBC	TBC	No other plans to date, ongoing engagement required.
Great Ayton	Councillor Heather Moorhouse	River Leven at lower Great Ayton	TBC	TBC	No Plan, to date, ongoing work with CAO to rectify
Great Ayton	Councillor Heather Moorhouse	River Leven at Great Ayton	TBC	TBC	No Plan, to date, ongoing work with CAO to rectify
Great Ayton	Councillor Heather Moorhouse	Other areas not affected by flood warning	TBC	TBC	No other plans to date, ongoing engagement required.
Hipswell & Colburn	Councillor Kevin Foster	River Swale at Richmond and Easby	34	76.5	No other plans to date, ongoing engagement required.
Hipswell & Colburn	Councillor Kevin Foster	Other areas not affected by flood warning	TBC	TBC	No other plans to date, ongoing engagement required.
Hutton Rudby & Osmotherley	Councillor David Hugill	River Leven at Hutton Rudby	TBC	TBC	Old plan for Hutton Rudby, requires update.
Hutton Rudby & Osmotherley	Councillor David Hugill	River Leven at Stokesley	TBC	TBC	Stokesley plan in progress, Flood group formed, and working with RET/EA
Hutton Rudby & Osmotherley	Councillor David Hugill	River Leven at Lower Stokesley	TBC	TBC	Stokesley plan in progress, Flood group formed, and working with RET/EA
Hutton Rudby & Osmotherley	Councillor David Hugill	Other areas not affected by flood warning	TBC	TBC	No other plans to date, ongoing engagement required.
Leyburn & Middleham	Councillor Karin Sedgwick	Other areas not affected by flood warning	TBC	TBC	Middleham parish plan & Leyburn in progress, ongoing work with CAO and stronger communities' group.
Morton-on-Swale & Appleton Wiske	Councillor Annabel Wilkinson	River Swale at Great Langton	45	88.9	No plan to date, ongoing engagement required.
Morton-on-Swale & Appleton Wiske	Councillor Annabel Wilkinson	Other areas not affected by flood warning	TBC	TBC	Kirkby Fleetham plan in progress
North Richmondshire	Councillor Angus Thompson	River Tees at Croft	TBC	TBC	Croft On Tees plan in progress
North Richmondshire	Councillor Angus Thompson	Gilling Beck at Gilling West	TBC	TBC	No plan to date, ongoing engagement required.
North Richmondshire	Councillor Angus Thompson	Other areas not affected by flood warning	TBC	TBC	No other plans to date, ongoing engagement required.
Northallerton North & Brompton	Councillor Steve Watson	Brompton Beck at North of Station Road in Brompton	106	84.9	Northallerton plan in progress
Northallerton North & Brompton	Councillor Steve Watson	Brompton Beck at South of Station Road in Brompton	270	64.1	Northallerton plan in progress

APPENDIX B

Northallerton North & Brompton	Councillor Steve Watson	Willow Beck at Low Gates	11	18.2	Northallerton plan in progress
Northallerton North & Brompton	Councillor Steve Watson	Turker Beck at Northallerton	308	78.9	Northallerton plan in progress
Northallerton North & Brompton	Councillor Steve Watson	Willow Beck at Northallerton	60	45	Northallerton plan in progress
Northallerton North & Brompton	Councillor Steve Watson	Confluence of Sun Beck and Turker Beck at Northallerton	TBC	TBC	Northallerton plan in progress
Northallerton North & Brompton	Councillor Steve Watson	Other areas not affected by flood warning	TBC	TBC	Northallerton plan in progress
Northallerton South	Councillor Caroline Dickinson	Confluence of Sun Beck and Turker Beck at Northallerton	112	43.8	Northallerton plan in progress
Northallerton South	Councillor Caroline Dickinson	Sun Beck at Northallerton	251	79.3	Northallerton plan in progress
Northallerton South	Councillor Caroline Dickinson	Willow Beck at Northallerton			Northallerton plan in progress
Northallerton South	Councillor Caroline Dickinson	Other areas not affected by flood warning	TBC	TBC	Northallerton plan in progress
Richmond	Councillor Stuart Parsons	River Swale Caravan Parks at Richmond and properties at Lownthwaite Bridge	53	71.7	NYC RET to revisit now housing development complete.
Richmond	Councillor Stuart Parsons	River Swale at Richmond and Easby	TBC	TBC	Richmond town and City Response Plan.
Richmond	Councillor Stuart Parsons	Other areas not affected by flood warning	TBC	TBC	Richmond town and City Response Plan.
Romanby	Councillor Peter Wilkinson	Willow Beck at Romanby	28	89.3	Part of Romanby plan
Romanby	Councillor Peter Wilkinson	Willow Beck at Water Treatment Works in Romanby	1	0	Part of Romanby plan
Romanby	Councillor Peter Wilkinson	Other areas not affected by flood warning	TBC	TBC	Part of Romanby Plan
Scotton & Lower Wensleydale division	Councillor Tom Jones	Other areas not affected by flood warning	TBC	TBC	Scotton Parish plan requires update. Patrick Brompton parish in progress
Stokesley	Councillor Bryn Griffiths	River Leven at Stokesley	TBC	TBC	Stokesley plan in progress, Flood group formed, and working with RET/EA
Stokesley	Councillor Bryn Griffiths	River Leven at Lower Stokesley	TBC	TBC	Stokesley plan in progress, Flood group formed, and working with RET/EA
Stokesley	Councillor Bryn Griffiths	Other areas not affected by flood warning	TBC	TBC	No other plans to date, ongoing engagement required.
Upper Dales	Councillor Yvonne Peacock	River Swale Caravan Parks at Richmond and properties at Lownthwaite Bridge	67	80.6	Richmondshire flood plan
Upper Dales	Councillor Yvonne Peacock	Widdale Beck at Appersett	25	64	No plan to date, ongoing engagement required.
Upper Dales	Councillor Yvonne Peacock	Arkle Beck at Reeth and Low Fremington	56	67.9	Upper dales inc Swaledale locality, Arkengarthdale plan in final draft, not yet submitted to RET
Upper Dales	Councillor Yvonne Peacock	Other areas not affected by flood warning	TBC	TBC	Muker and Keld plan in progress.

Richmond ACC Work Programme 2024-25 and 2025-26

Monday 17 June 2024 @ 10am

Let's Talk Food – Survey Feedback	To present the feedback from the latest 'Let's Talk' campaign - 'Let's Talk Food'.
Schools Educational Achievement & Finance Report	Annual Update – Amanda Newbold, Assistant Director – Education and Skills, Howard Emmett, Assistant Director – Strategic Resources, Janet Crawford, Assistant Director – Inclusion (Deferred from March meeting)
Highways, including the A684, Morton Flatts, River Swale Flooding	Update on the current position in relation to the highways across the constituency area – Nigel Smith, Head of Highway Operations & Jayne Charlton, Area Manager (Areas 1 & 2)
Integrated Passenger Transport – Stokesley	Details on the Integrated Passenger Transport provision for Stokesley to be outlined
Richmondshire Leisure Trust	Update on the position and work of Richmondshire Leisure Trust
Yorkshire Ambulance Service	Details of Yorkshire Ambulance response times (information only item)
Work Programme	To consider the Committee's Work Programme

Monday 16 September 2024 @ 10am

Council's Resilience & Emergency Planning procedures and response	Update on the Council's Resilience and Emergency Planning procedures and response – Matthew Robinson, Head of Resilience and Emergencies
Subsidised Educational Transport	To consider the implications of the recently adopted Policy on the Constituency area.
Northern Powergrid – Regional decarbonisation	To consider a presentation from Northern Powergrid regarding regional decarbonisation.

Parish Liaison, Local Devolution and Community Rights Team – Parish Liaison	To discuss the development of the relationship between the Council and local Parishes and the development of a liaison team.
Integrated Passenger Transport – bus services	To discuss bus services and their connectivity in the Committee area.
Highways - winter maintenance programme and gritting routes	To consider the Constituency area's winter maintenance programme and gritting routes
£50k Seed Funding - update	To consider an update on the development of proposals for the use of the ACs £50k seed funding.
Work Programme	To consider the Committee's Work Programme
Thursday 23 October 2024 @ 11am (additional meeting)	
£50k Seed Funding	To consider and endorse the scoping projects
Work Programme	To consider the Committee's work programme
Monday 18 November 2024 @ 11am	
Yorkshire Ambulance Service – response times	To discuss response times in the Constituency area with representatives of YAS
Community Safety Update	To consider an update from the Community Safety and CCTV Service, together with North Yorkshire Police on local community safety
Council's Resilience & Emergency Planning procedures and response	Update on the Council's Resilience and Emergency Planning procedures and response – Matthew Robinson, Head of Resilience and Emergencies

Electric Vehicle Charging points – connection to power supply	To discuss the connection of existing EVCs that have yet to be connected to a power supply
Work Programme	To consider the Committee’s Work Programme
Monday 13 January 2025 @ 10am Informal TEAMs Meeting	
Budget Proposals 2025 - 2026	Gary Fielding to present
Monday 17 March 2025 @ 10am	
Mayor of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority	Mayor, David Skaith – update and discussion on the opportunities to work together to improve connectivity, and better integrate local transport including rail.
Schools Educational Achievement & Finance	Annual Update – Jon Holden, Assistant Director, Education & Skills & colleagues (information item)
Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Timothy Johns – Senior Policy Officer - Sustainability
Climate Strategy Delivery	To discuss the delivery of the Climate Strategy in the Area Committee area
£50k Seed Funding	To provide details of the progress made on the projects agreed in November 2024
Work Programme 2024-25	To consider the Committee’s draft Work Programme for the coming municipal year
Monday 30 June 2025 @ 10am	
Stronger Communities Annual Report	To provide Members with an update on the Stronger Communities Programme and an overview of progress made in the Richmond (Yorks) Constituency area.
£50k Seed Funding	To provide details of the progress made on the projects implemented through the Seed Funding provided to the Committee
Draft Work Programme 2025-26	To consider the Committee’s draft Work Programme for the coming municipal year

Meeting dates for 2025-26:-

Monday 15 September 2025 at 10am

Monday 10 November 2025 at 10am

Monday 12 January 2026 at 10am (Budget Consultation)

Monday 2 March 2026 at 10am

Briefing – Lets Talk Active – TBC – A date for this briefing is required

Work Programme 2025-26

The aim is that issues for the future Work Programme will be grouped together to develop themed meetings (see below). This will not preclude other issues from being discussed at those meetings such as annual updates and matters of urgency but will assist in providing a focus for those meetings, going forward.

It is likely that issues of concern and interest to Members will arise throughout the year. Members should contact the appropriate Democratic Services Officer to enable these to be considered with the Chair and Group Spokespersons to determine whether they are to be included in the work programme.

Briefings on specific issues of interest can be factored into the work programme to take account of issues requiring an in-depth consideration and urgent matters.

Issues identified for future work programme	
Highways	
Utility Company Street Works	Information on what is required of utility companies when seeking access to their apparatus, for both planned and emergency works and what powers North Yorkshire council have.
Parking Charges	Overview of changes since LGR
Health and Social Care	
Mental Health	A report on how mental health issues are being addressed in the area.
Delayed Transfers of Care	Further review of work by Health and Social Care to reduce Delayed Transfers of Care following consultation – linked to the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Development of the Catterick Integrated Care Campus	Update on the development of the CICC
Education and Schools	
Small Schools	Review of educational outcomes at small schools – linked to the Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Review of the Home to School Transport Policy	To consider the review of the new Home to School Transport Policy.
Economic Development	
Catterick Levelling Up Bid	A presentation on the successful Levelling Up Bid and the current position of the project
Scotch Corner	An update on the issues at Scotch Corner Roundabout

