



North Yorkshire Local Plan: our first conversation



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Introduction

This consultation is our first conversation on a new local plan for North Yorkshire. It is about the priorities and issues that the North Yorkshire Local Plan can help to address. The council is asking for your views on those local plan priorities and issues, what the places and spaces across the North Yorkshire Local Plan area will be like in the future and the how the new local plan can influence that.

As the local plan progresses there will be further opportunities to comment.

Throughout this document there are a number of questions to help capture your views and the next section explains how to respond.

Contact us

Online: northyorks.gov.uk/contactus

By telephone: **0300 131 2 131**

North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD

You can request this information in another language or format at northyorks.gov.uk/accessibility

Maps

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How to respond

The [Planning Policy Consultation Portal](#) is a dedicated part of the council's website for consulting on the local plan and other planning policy documents for North Yorkshire. It is our preferred route for receiving your responses. Using the online portal really helps us with the analysis and publication of responses, enabling more efficient and effective consideration of the issues raised and making it quicker and easier for you to also view comments

[Respond online - northyorks-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/](https://northyorks-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/)



Click on the 'Learn More' button for each open consultation for more details and to respond to questions.

Your response must reach us by midnight on Tuesday 15th July 2025.

You can find out more about the North Yorkshire Local Plan on the council's website - www.northyorks.gov.uk/localplan

If you do not respond via the portal you will need to let us know whether you are replying as an individual or submitting an official response on behalf of an organisation and include:

- your name
- your position (if applicable)
- the name of organisation (if applicable)

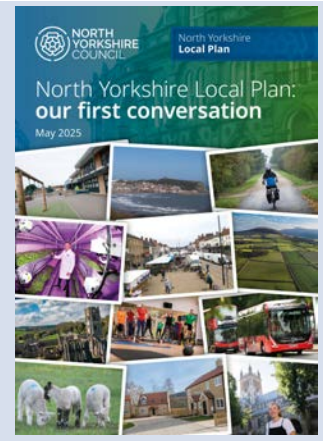
It would also help us if you could tell us whether you want to be kept informed of future local plan and planning policy consultations, and if you do, to provide an email address for us to contact you.

Please make it clear which question each comment relates to. If it is not clear we will not be able to take your comment into account.

Unfortunately, for this consultation we cannot accept anonymous comments.

Please be aware that by responding you agree that your name, organisation (if applicable) and comments will be publicly viewable. No other personal details will be made public. Your personal details will be processed in line with the [Planning Policy Privacy Notice](#).

1 What is this consultation about?



- 1.1** This is our first conversation about our new local plan which will guide future development and conservation of the area up to the year 2045. The consultation is open to anyone to respond. We are looking forward to hearing your views on what the vision for the area should be, the issues and matters that are important to consider and the approaches we could take. To guide the conversation, we have developed a series of questions for you to answer.

What is a local plan?

- 1.2** A local plan sets out a vision and overall strategy for the future development of an area together with planning policies to guide local decision making on planning applications. The Government requires all local planning authorities to prepare a local plan, in consultation with the community, to meet development needs for the future.
- 1.3** In addition to feedback received through public consultation, there are a number of other principal influences that the council must consider in drafting the North Yorkshire Local Plan (further information on these is set out in the glossary).
- National planning policy, legislation and guidance
 - A legal duty to engage with neighbouring local authorities and a range of public bodies
 - An assessment of the economic, social and environmental effects of the local plan (Sustainability Appraisal)
 - The impact on European nature conservation (Habitats Regulations)
 - The Public Sector Equality Duty
 - The Council's priorities

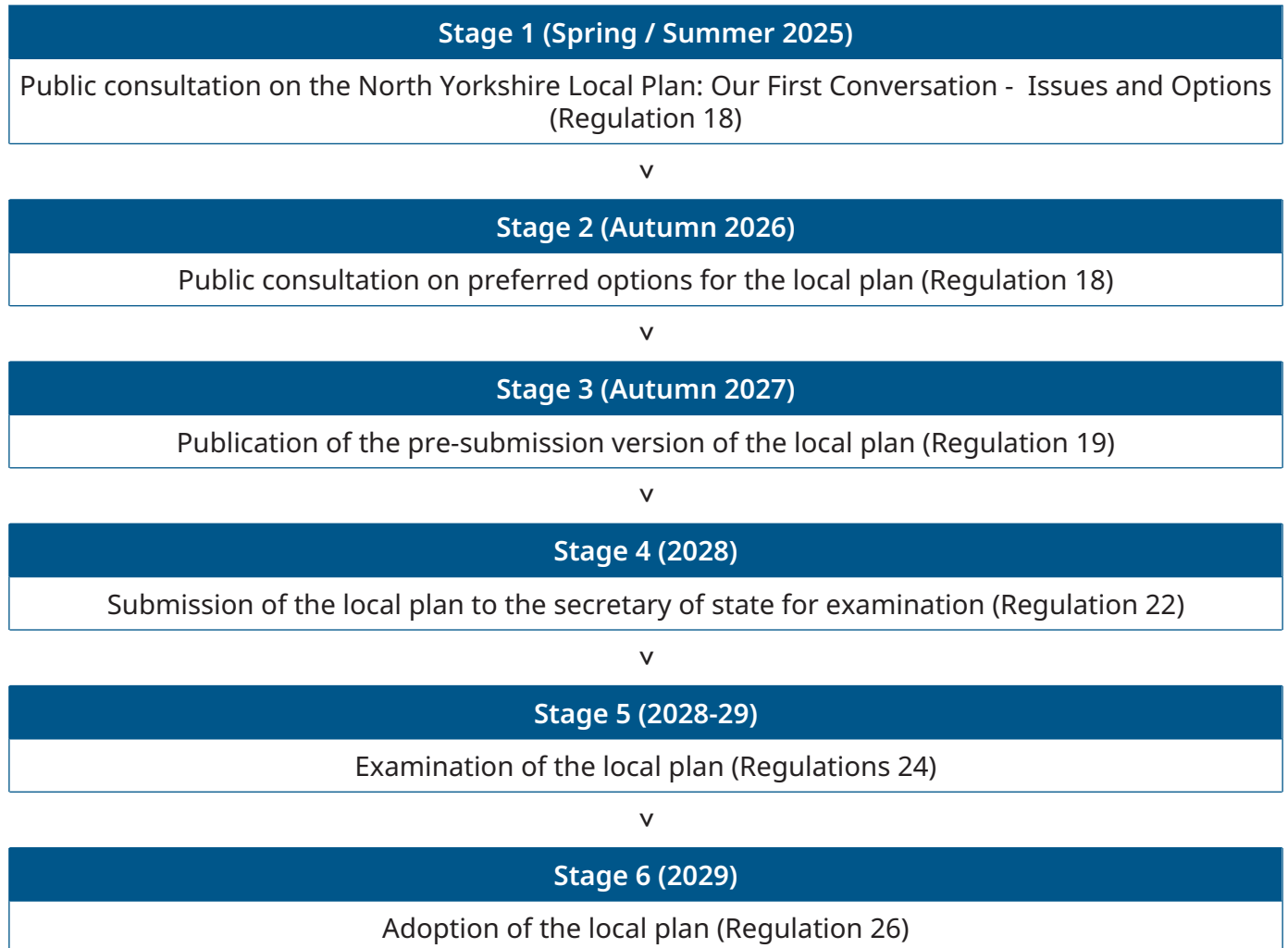
Planning Reforms

The Government is proposing to change the way in which local plans are prepared through national planning reforms. In future, it is expected that local plans will be more locally focused, shorter, quicker to prepare and updated more frequently. Confirmation is still needed about how the new plan making system will work, however plans will still need to be informed by a significant amount of evidence so that the policies contained within the local plan are clearly justified.

One significant change under the new reformed planning system will be the introduction of National Development Management Policies. These policies will cover planning considerations that apply regularly in planning application decision-making across the country, such as general policies for conserving heritage assets and preventing inappropriate development in areas of high flood risk. These more general policies will no longer need to be included in individual local plans.

Timetable for local plan preparation

1.4 The diagram below shows the timetable outlined in the adopted [Local Development Scheme \(LDS\) 2025](#). The LDS is a document we are required to produce which sets out our plan making timetable. At each stage we will check that the process is moving forward positively towards a new local plan and, if necessary, we will adjust the timetable



Scope of the consultation

- 1.5** The North Yorkshire Local Plan will relate to the area of North Yorkshire outside the North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Parks (the local plan area) and will set out the council's priorities for the development and use of land across that area up to the year 2045.
- 1.6** This consultation is about what the priorities or issues are for the local plan and is intended to start a conversation about what the places and spaces across the North Yorkshire Local Plan area will be like in the future and the how the new local plan can influence that.
- 1.7** This consultation does not contain any future policy wording as these will be developed and set out in subsequent drafts of the local plan. Feedback from this consultation will help in preparing local plan policies. A comprehensive local plan evidence base, is currently being prepared and will be made up of a number of reports and studies relating to the local plan area.

- 1.8** The local plan will allocate land to meet the future needs of the area. This consultation does not contain any proposed site allocations for housing or other uses. The council has issued a 'Call for Sites' to provide the opportunity for land owners, site promoters, developers or other interested parties to put land forward for consideration for development to meet these future needs. Details of the process can be found on the council's website - [Call for sites for the North Yorkshire Local Plan](#).
- 1.9** Throughout this document there are a number of questions to help capture your views on the key planning issues or priorities facing the area as a whole or specific places and settlements, and how they can be addressed through the local plan. You can respond to any or all of the questions.

Issues, questions and options

- 1.10** The aim of any local plan is to make clear what development is going to be delivered as well as when, where and how it will be delivered. There are a number of key matters or issues that need to be considered as part of the development of the new local plan for North Yorkshire. These cover requirements of national planning policy and regulations, as well as local matters that the local plan can respond to.
- 1.11** We have identified a number of priorities or key issues that we feel the North Yorkshire Local Plan should address. These have been identified from:
- National planning policy
 - Adopted local plans, that currently make up the statutory development plan for North Yorkshire
 - The North Yorkshire Council Plan
 - Other existing North Yorkshire strategies
 - The council's Let's Talk campaign
 - Early engagement with elected Members
 - Stakeholder engagement, including 'Duty to Cooperate' meetings with neighbouring councils, statutory consultees and other partners, infrastructure capacity study baseline meetings, and with parish and town councils
 - Workshops, the development industry, local business representatives and colleagues across the council
 - Early results of evidence base work
- 1.12** As well as developing an overall local plan vision and objectives, the following eleven key issues or priorities for the local plan have been identified:
- Delivering sustainable growth
 - Tackling climate change, flood risk & coastal change
 - Creating healthy and sustainable communities
 - Achieving natural environment resilience
 - Meeting specific housing needs
 - Creating a prosperous economy
 - Creating resilient centres
 - Ensuring sustainable transport and accessibility
 - Securing infrastructure to support growth
 - Achieving high quality design
 - Safeguarding the historic environment

- 1.13** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is the starting point in preparing a new local plan for North Yorkshire. For each issue the NPPF requirements are summarised and set out in purple boxes. There are also some 'Did you know?' facts included in yellow boxes throughout the document. The consultation questions, incorporating options for the new local plan, are set out in green boxes.
- 1.14** It is important to be aware that many of the issues or matters identified are not considered in isolation with many of them being interrelated with other issues or matters. This is particularly so on the matters of creating healthy and sustainable communities and tackling climate change.

Next steps

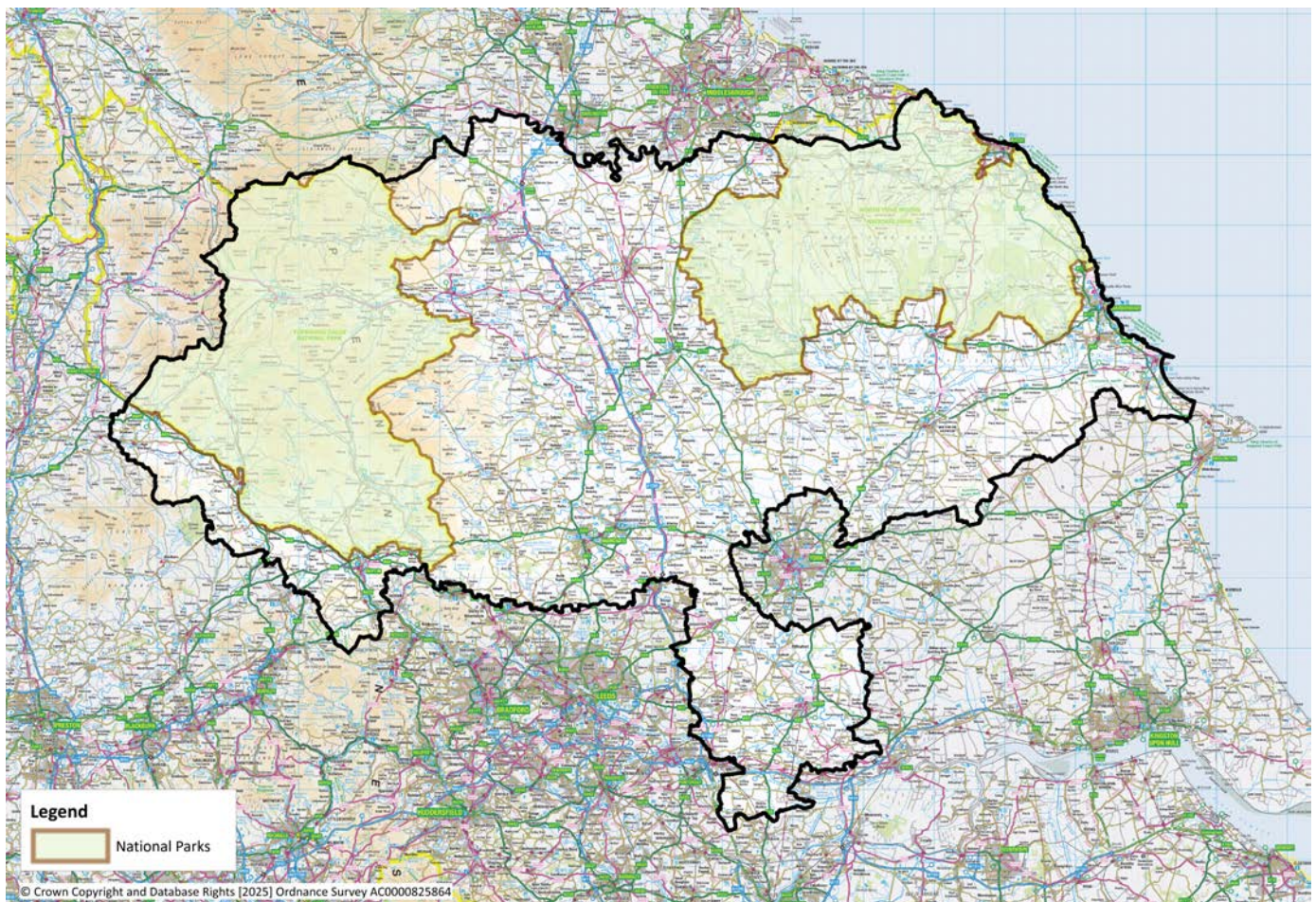
- 1.15** Following the close of this consultation we will consider everyone's comments to help draft the North Yorkshire Local Plan. A range of studies and evidence will be prepared which will help draft specific policies relating to each issue. The next stage is consultation on a draft local plan, which is planned for later in 2026.

2 About North Yorkshire



- 2.1** North Yorkshire Council was formed in April 2023 as a result of Local Government Reorganisation replacing the previous two-tier system made up of the former county council and seven district and borough authorities. A York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority has also been formed by the City of York Council and North Yorkshire Council. A devolution deal has been secured for the Combined Authority, which gives decision-making powers to local political leaders and provides funding to shape priorities at the local level.
- 2.2** North Yorkshire Council now oversees the largest area of any local government in England. For the planning service, it covers much of the county of North Yorkshire but not the National Parks of North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales. The City of York Council remains a separate council, as shown below.

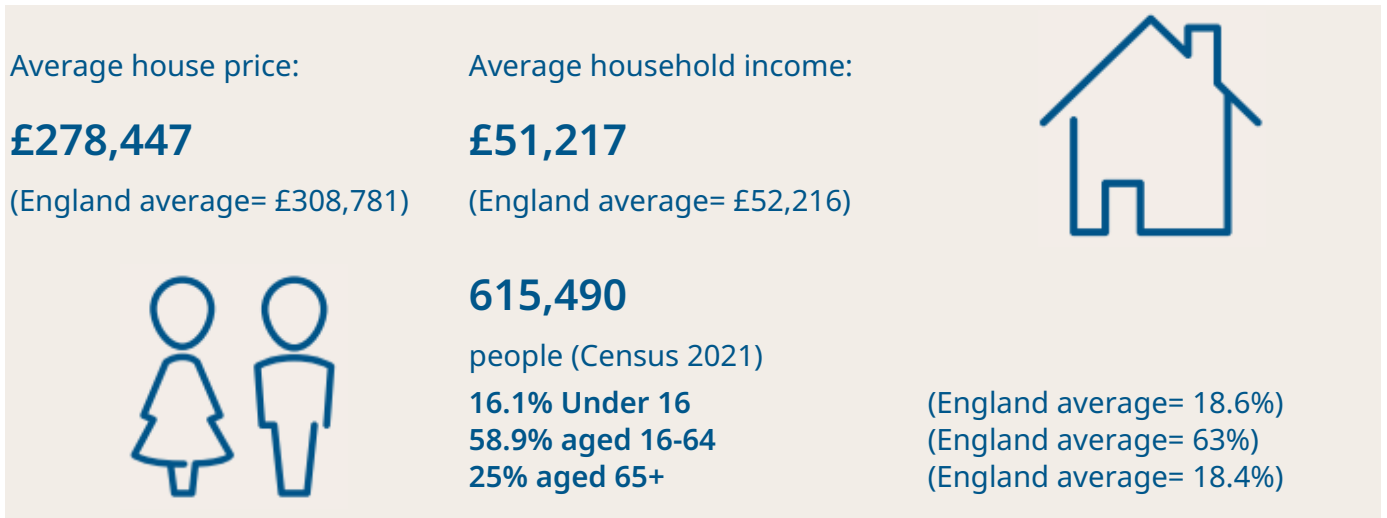
Figure 1 Plan area for the North Yorkshire Local Plan



North Yorkshire's People

- 2.3** North Yorkshire extends more than 3,090 square miles adjoining several major cities such as Leeds, Middlesbrough and York. We have a dispersed and largely sparse population of an estimated 615,400 people – just 77 people per square kilometre, compared with the national average of 434. However, a significant proportion of residents (65%) live within its urban areas,

which equate to only 2% of its land coverage. Alongside this, North Yorkshire has an increasingly aging demographic, with a high proportion of young adults leaving the county following university or for work.



Source: [North Yorkshire Council Plan 2025-2029](#)

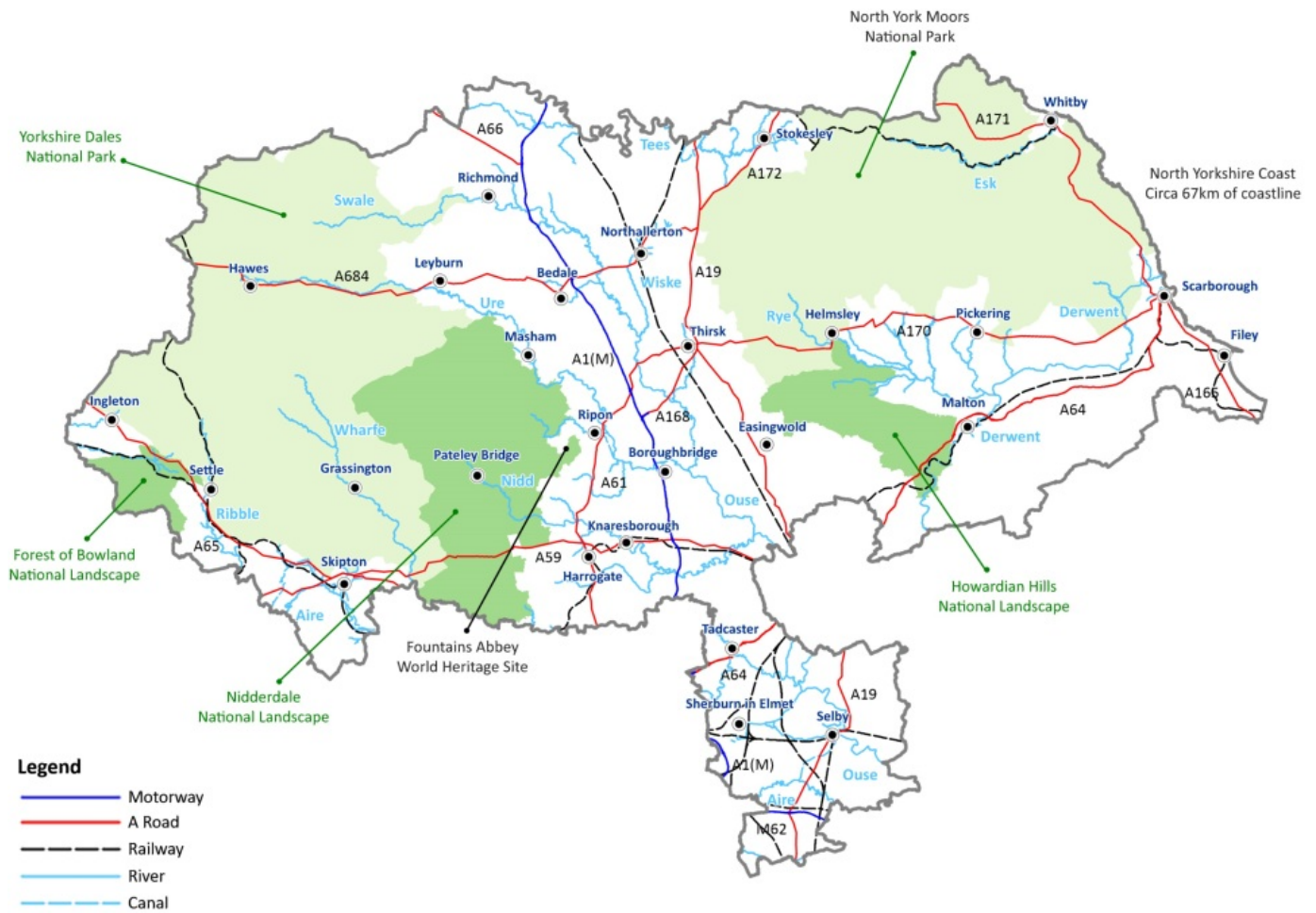
2.4 Nonetheless, the local plan area has an abundance of opportunities owed to its varied and vibrant local economies, the lifeblood of which is defined by over 32,000 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) which form 99% of all businesses locally. This can be accredited to the diverse and distinctive places which exist across the county.

North Yorkshire’s Distinctive Places

2.5 North Yorkshire offers a unique mix of high-quality urban, rural and coastal locations. All of these places differ greatly in their economic and social characteristics, which in turn influences their priorities and needs.

2.6 Notably, the county is renowned for its spectacular landscapes, rich cultural heritage, successful tourism sector and expanding green economies. From the bustling centres of Harrogate, Northallerton, Malton and Skipton, fine coastline of Scarborough and Whitby, to the abundant quintessential rural villages, many of its places make a contribution to North Yorkshire’s unique identity.

Figure 2 Overview of North Yorkshire



2.7 Both the [Council Plan 2025-2029](#) and the [North Yorkshire Council Economic Growth Strategy 2024-2029](#) provides the following overview of place typologies within the county:

 <p>Urban Centres Our two major centres, Harrogate and Scarborough. Each with diverse economies and populations. They are both magnets for residents, visitors and businesses and offer significant opportunities for growth and investment.</p>	 <p>Market Towns The 'jewels in our crown', our market towns are integral to our economic success. Each different in character, they offer vibrant culture and amenities, but must continue to adapt to meet the needs of people and business, and the move to a low carbon economy.</p>	 <p>Rural Areas The country's largest local authority by area includes two national parks and three national landscapes. The environment drives many sectors including tourism, agriculture and small and micro businesses and are home to varied communities.</p>	 <p>Costal Communities Our magnificent coastline attracts millions of visitors each year to a range of world class destinations. Also offers major opportunities in emerging industries such as offshore wind. As with rural areas, many communities face challenges around deprivation and access to opportunities.</p>
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- 2.8** Harrogate and Scarborough form the two major settlements in the county, being significantly larger than any other in terms of population size, dwelling numbers and access to services. Harrogate is the largest settlement, with over 73,000 residents, equating to approximately 12% of the total population, and is celebrated for its spa heritage, historic architecture and expansive urban green spaces, consistently named as one of the happiest places to live in the UK. The town benefits from strong transport links, including the rail network to York, Leeds and beyond. The A1(M) motorway, located to the east, facilitates movement between the north and south of England. Scarborough forms the second largest urban settlement, with over 60,000 residents. It plays a significant role in North Yorkshire's visitor economy, considered the 'Coastal Capital' of Yorkshire.
- 2.9** Beyond our major centres, a significant proportion of residents live across the region's key service, local and neighbourhood settlements, as outlined in the Settlement Hierarchy Background Paper. Ripon, one of the smallest cities in England, hosts a magnificent cathedral and serves as a gateway to the National Landscape area of Nidderdale, hosting the historic smaller settlements of Pateley Bridge and Masham, and surrounded by an abundance of picturesque, waterside walking routes and the World Heritage Site of Studley Royal Park. Northallerton is strategically located along the A1(M) and the East Coast Main Line, serving as a key transport and commercial hub for the county. Skipton, located along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, has an exceptional independent retail offering and hosts prominent cultural events year round. The surrounding area is home to charming villages such as Settle, Grassington, and Malham, surrounding the Yorkshire Dales with strong links to the wool industry.
- 2.10** North Yorkshire is also home to Catterick Garrison, which is the largest British Army Garrison in the world, spanning more than 971 hectares. The surrounding locale is characterized by rolling hills, lush valleys, and expansive moorlands, considered the most sparsely rural area in North Yorkshire. Areas in and around Selby are characterized by flat, low-lying agricultural landscapes, with a mix of market towns, villages and former industrial sites, reflecting the locales history in coal mining and transport. Whitby and Filey are important settlements along the coast, characterized by stunning scenery, sandy beaches and harbours. Iconic landmarks such as Whitby Abbey add historical charm. The locale boasts beautiful natural assets like Dalby Forest which is part of the North York Moors National Park, offering diverse recreational opportunities. At the fringe of the North York Moors we have the attractive market towns of Pickering, Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside which attract visitors in their own right and are a base for exploring the Moors and nearby Howardian Hills.
- 2.11** It is therefore undeniable that North Yorkshire is an attractive place to live, work and visit, and we recognise the diverse spatial characteristics among its settlements, which can help inform the strategic policies within the North Yorkshire Local Plan.

3 Developing a local plan vision and objectives



Developing a local plan vision

NPPF requirements:

The NPPF requires local plans to provide a positive vision for the future of each area.

- 3.1 The North Yorkshire Local Plan will have an overall vision, which is concise, distinctive to the North Yorkshire Local Plan area and measurable. It will be looking ahead to what the area will be like in 2045.
- 3.2 We need to identify what is important for the local plan area now, and how change, up to 2045, will be managed in the future. The vision will be a 'golden thread' that runs through the local plan which all policies, proposals and planning decisions will need to support.
- 3.3 The local plan vision should reflect the land use elements of the council's overall vision, ambitions and priorities for North Yorkshire, set out in the [Council Plan \(2025-2029\)](#) and other key plans and strategies.
- 3.4 The North Yorkshire Council Plan sets out the following vision and ambitions for North Yorkshire:

Our vision and ambitions

Our vision:

We want to harness the power of North Yorkshire's natural capital, unique communities and businesses, continuously improving our services to enable a good quality of life for all.

Our ambitions:

Support thriving places and empowered communities that live, work, visit and do business in North Yorkshire.

Develop more sustainable and connected places across North Yorkshire.

Ensure the people of North Yorkshire are safe, healthy and living well.

Maximise the potential of North Yorkshire's people and communities.

Supported by:

One Council with strong, local and customer-led services

- 3.5 We are proposing that the local plan vision should draw on the council plan vision and ambitions although it will need to be adapted to correspond with the land use focus of the local plan. For example, the scale and location for future growth will be a matter for the local plan to determine. It will need to reflect the different places that make up the local plan area and reflect the issues or priorities identified for the local plan to address.

Question: Developing a local plan vision

In order to develop a local plan vision that represents the different places within the North Yorkshire Local Plan area, what is important to you about your local area that should be reflected in the vision? Please specify the area.

Developing local plan objectives

- 3.6 A local plan should also set out a number of strategic objectives to ensure the vision becomes a reality. A series of objectives, specific to the area, will sit under the vision to explain and measure how it will be achieved. They will be prepared around the local plan issues or priorities and informed by the council plan vision and ambitions, as well as local plan sustainability objectives.
- 3.7 When drawing up and finalising the local plan objectives we will consider their compatibility with the sustainability appraisal objectives, which will assess the economic, social and environmental effects of the local plan and to monitor its impacts. The draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report is available for you to comment on alongside this consultation <https://northyorks-consult.objective.co.uk/kse>
- 3.8 As a starting point, the following draft strategic objectives have been prepared, based around the issues or priorities that have been identified for the local plan to help address. They will need further refinement to ensure they are specific to the North Yorkshire Local Plan area.

Draft local plan objectives

1. **Delivering sustainable growth:** Delivering sustainable development by determining an appropriate distribution of housing and economic growth, in a way that meets the needs of communities and businesses, delivers positive social and economic outcomes, and takes account of wider environmental considerations.
2. **Tackling climate change and flood risk & coastal change:** Positively address and improve resilience to climate change through mitigation and adaptation in new development, including managing flood risk, helping North Yorkshire to be as environmentally sustainable as possible and helping to achieve the ambition to be a carbon negative region by 2040.
3. **Creating healthy and sustainable communities:** Ensure new development and open spaces support health and wellbeing for all, reduce health inequalities and encourage active and healthy lifestyles.
4. **Achieving natural environment resilience:** Protecting, valuing, enhancing and building resilience in North Yorkshire's varied, high-quality and unique environments, including its natural landscapes, blue and green infrastructure and biodiversity.
5. **Meeting specific housing needs:** Ensure the housing needs of the area are met in terms of mix, housing types and affordability by providing a wide range of high quality and energy-efficient housing.
6. **Creating a prosperous economy:** Grow economically but sustainably, recognising our key employment sectors, including the rural and tourism economy and the influence North Yorkshire has nationally. Allow people and places to prosper by supporting the creation of high-quality jobs, attracting new businesses, retaining and enhancing existing businesses,

supporting opportunities to improve training and education and to retain skills and talent within North Yorkshire, and so providing an adaptable and prosperous economy.

7. **Creating resilient towns and centres:** Enabling North Yorkshire’s towns, and their centres in particular, to be places for economic and cultural activity with good access to services and facilities with opportunities for their vitality to be enhanced; seeking to sustain a network of local and neighbourhood centres that serve local needs; and enabling the viability and sustainability of smaller villages and countryside – in ways which protect the area’s heritage, character and identity
8. **Ensuring sustainable transport and accessibility:** Ensure development is supported by transport infrastructure, and maximise the provision of sustainable transport modes and active travel opportunities. The delivery of a high-quality network of walking and cycling infrastructure is essential to encourage a reduction in car trips and contribute to carbon reduction across the area.
9. **Securing infrastructure to support growth:** Ensure development is supported by essential infrastructure and services (most notably: schools, health facilities and utility provision) and promotes safe movement and more sustainable modes of travel by enhancing the opportunities for greener travel networks for walking, cycling and public transport.
10. **Achieving high quality design:** Ensure that new development delivers a high standard of design that reflects local character, contributes to local distinctiveness, contributing to cleaner, greener and safer places that have positive effects on health, wellbeing and quality of life of its residents.
11. **Safeguarding the historic environment:** Ensure that through new development and growth, North Yorkshire’s high quality historic environment is conserved and enhanced whilst recognising the opportunity to regenerate and improve our historic town and city centres for residents and visitors.

- 3.9 Progress on achieving the overall vision and final local plan objectives will be measured by regular monitoring of the local plan.

Question: Developing local plan objectives

1. Do you agree with these draft objectives for the local plan?
2. Are there any additional objectives that need to be included?

4 Delivering sustainable growth



- 4.1** The North Yorkshire Local Plan must provide a clear and effective 'spatial strategy' to ensure that the right developments are delivered in the right places, with the right supporting infrastructure, at the right time. Choices we make about how, where and when identified development needs are met have wide-ranging and cross-cutting impacts. The importance of this is clearly reflected in the draft 'strategic objectives' presented earlier in this consultation document.

NPPF requirements:

Local plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects.

The growth challenge - how much development do we need to plan for?

- 4.2** The Government has set a clear expectation that housebuilding across the country should be increased significantly, committing to the delivery of 1.5 million new homes nationally over the next five years. To help facilitate this growth agenda through the planning system, fundamental changes have been made to national policy.
- 4.3** The biggest change, is a new way of calculating area-based housing needs (called the 'Standard Method'), which is to be used by all planning authorities in the production of their local plans. The housing need figure for North Yorkshire (including the two National Park areas) is 4116 homes per year. For context, this level of housing development is considerably higher than the average annual delivery rates over the past five and ten-year periods (3145 and 2800 homes respectively).
- 4.4** This figure does not automatically become the annual delivery target for the local plan. It is for the council to develop its own target through the plan-making process. However, the expectation from government is that the figure of 4116 will be met in full. Any reduction would have to be clearly justified and all opportunities for meeting the need must be fully explored.
- 4.5** The local plan must also provide a strategy that proactively encourages sustainable economic growth. A "Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment" (HEDNA) has been produced to inform this approach. While the HEDNA highlights the challenges associated with aligning jobs and housing growth - a significant uplift in job creation would be required to support the larger resident population - it is also clear that the availability of suitability should not limit the opportunity to realise sustainable economic growth within North Yorkshire. As such, the HEDNA identifies the need for up to 8 hectares of land for office-based

uses, and around 420 hectares of land for the development of industrial and warehouse uses, over the emerging plan period. These figures broadly align with historical development trends, reflecting what has been delivered on the ground over recent years.

Question: How much development do we need to plan for?

What are your views on the amount of new housing and employment land (for office, industrial and warehouse uses) we may need to plan for?

Developing a spatial strategy - how, where and when can development needs be met?

4.6 An effective spatial strategy that delivers sustainable patterns of growth cannot be developed without a detailed understanding of the constraints and opportunities that exist across our geography. Ultimately, it requires important decisions to be made, building upon an understanding of where North Yorkshire *could* grow, to help establish how, where and when it *should* grow. The following key principles have been developed to further inform the decision-making process around the identification of a suitable and sustainable growth strategy.

- **Meeting underlying local development needs** - as far as possible, new homes and employment opportunities should be provided where they are needed. Information on the underlying needs across local communities is provided within the HEDNA, and summarised in the section above.
- **Reflecting and reinforcing the roles of settlements** - growth should be prioritised in settlements that provide a range of supporting services and facilities, accessible by a range of transport methods, and that are better able to meet development needs in a sustainable manner. See Other growth considerations for more information.
- **Addressing infrastructure constraints and opportunities** - siting development in areas of existing infrastructure capacity, or where development provides an opportunity for new and/or improved supporting infrastructure, so addressing current constraints and benefitting the wider community.
- **Sustainable transport opportunities** - locating development where it can readily access and benefit from existing or proposed sustainable transport infrastructure, thereby providing genuine choice in transport options and an alternative to private car usage where practicable.
- **Environmental considerations** - avoiding development in locations where the potential impact of development on designated sites for nature conservation could be harmful and there is no means to stop that harm, or where wider environmental factors would leave the development vulnerable (e.g. areas at high risk of flooding).

Question: Developing a spatial strategy

Are there any other factors that we need to take into consideration when identifying potential growth locations?

Providing a mix of sites

- 4.7** National policy is clear that local plans should bring forward sufficient land (sites), at a sufficient rate, to meet development needs over the plan period. It will require a mix of sites, at different scales, across all parts of the area, to be provided (allocated) within the local plan.

Did you know?

The council has issued a 'Call for Sites' to provide the opportunity for land owners, site promoters, developers or other interested parties to put land forward for consideration for development to meet these future needs. To date, over 1700 sites have been submitted. Details of the process can be found on the council's website - [Call for sites for the North Yorkshire Local Plan](#)

Housing sites

- 4.8** In terms of housing, whilst large sites will come forward in the medium to long term - owing to their longer 'lead in' and 'build out' timescales - smaller and medium sized sites will have an important role in meeting the supply of housing early in the plan period. The availability of these sites across North Yorkshire may ultimately necessitate allocations in settlements / areas towards the lower end of the Settlement Hierarchy (See Other growth considerations and Appendix B: Settlement hierarchy for more information).



Employment sites

- 4.9** Between allocations from extant local plans and established planning permissions, there is an effective pipeline supply of circa 480 hectares of land for the development of office, industrial and warehouse uses in North Yorkshire. While the current land supply outstrips the anticipated level of overall demand (420 hectares), this basic high-level analysis overlooks important local context.

- 4.10** For example, a significant amount of the land supply is located in the former Selby area, which is (in part) to meet a wider sub-regional need given the proximity to key transport networks such as the A1(M), A19 and M62. Similarly, the HEDNA highlights a relative lack of smaller employment sites attached to key settlements or that would extend existing industrial estates. Therefore, providing a mix of sites across all parts of the authority will be essential to delivering a positive strategy that encourages sustainable economic growth.



The role of new settlements in meeting development needs

- 4.11** National policy highlights that large numbers of new homes can often be best achieved through planning for larger scale developments, such as new settlements or significant extensions to existing villages and towns. This is provided they are well located and designed,

and are supported by the necessary infrastructure and facilities (including a genuine choice of transport modes). However, they are unlikely to deliver until the later parts of the plan period and beyond due to their complexity and long lead-in times.

- 4.12** Several sites have been submitted as part of the 'call for sites' exercise, which could potentially form new settlements or significant urban extensions. These range in size from those potentially capable of accommodating several hundred homes to those for several thousand. A robust methodology will be developed to assess the potential suitability of these sites in a consistent manner.

Question: New settlements

1. Do you agree that the potential for new settlements and/or significant extensions to existing built up areas should be explored through the local plan?
2. Beyond delivering a large number of new homes, please rank what you consider should be the top priorities that new settlements and/or significant extensions to existing built up areas should be:
 - provide the highest standards of design
 - deliver buildings that are highly energy efficient
 - meet energy needs through low-carbon and renewable technologies
 - provide a range of supporting infrastructure and key services, e.g. schools, healthcare, shops, access to green spaces, other community facilities, etc.
 - provide land for the creation of employment opportunities
 - provide a genuine choice in transport options, and/or
 - deliver other priorities (please specify in your response)

Other growth considerations

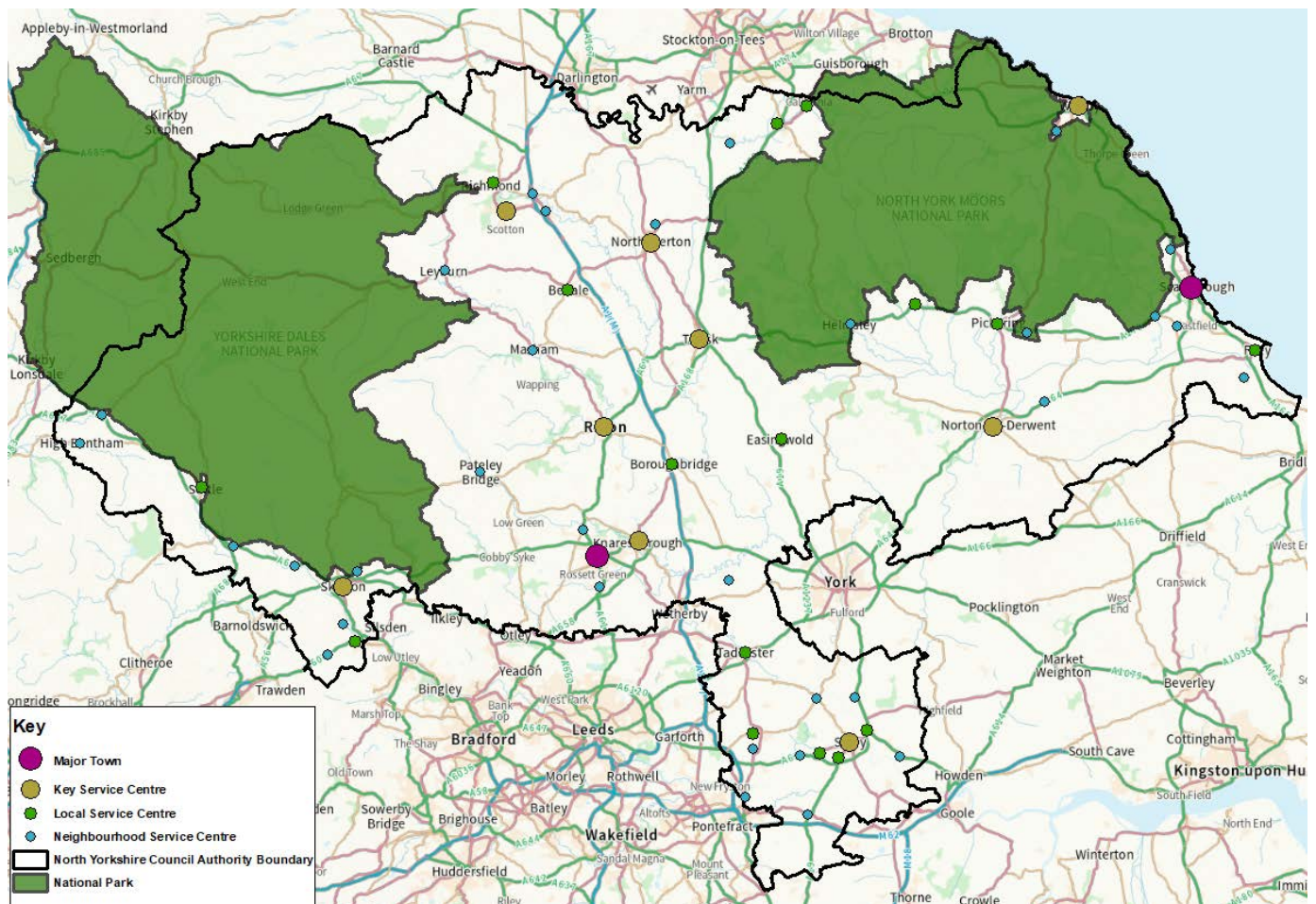
Settlement hierarchy

- 4.13** There are over 500 settlements within the North Yorkshire Local Plan area, extending from the major towns of Harrogate and Scarborough, with populations of 60-70,000 people, to countryside villages and hamlets, some of which have fewer than ten homes. The current role of every settlement in the county has been assessed, considering factors such as their size and the level of services and facilities they provide, to establish an effective hierarchy. The settlement hierarchy consists of the following categories:
1. **Major Towns**– these have significantly larger populations than all other towns in North Yorkshire and have a full range of services.
 2. **Key Service Centres**– these have a full range of services, and are usually described as the market towns of North Yorkshire.
 3. **Local Service Centres**– these have a good range of services and are usually the larger villages.
 4. **Neighbourhood Service Centres**– these would have a basic set of services and usually are the moderately sized villages.
 5. **Small Settlements**– these usually have just a few services (if any) and comprise of small villages.
 6. **Countryside**– any villages or hamlets that have a population of less than 300 are classed as being part of the countryside.

4.14 While this hierarchy is not itself a strategy for distributing development across the respective tiers, settlements within the higher tiers will generally be better able to accommodate additional development. To be clear, decisions around the distribution are to be made through the plan-making process, and potential growth options are presented at the end of this section.

4.15 A 'background paper' outlining the full hierarchy and assessment process has been published alongside this consultation document (<https://northyorks-consult.objective.co.uk/kse>). The settlements from the top four tiers of the hierarchy are shown on the map below. The full hierarchy showing all settlements in tiers 1-6 can be found in AppendixB: Settlement hierarchy. A number of settlements have been linked together in the hierarchy because of their proximity and the way residents of each settlement will use services from the other. This does not mean that settlements in this grouping would be merged together. The classification of settlements is based on their current role, services and facilities, and would not limit decisions regarding their future role as influenced by growth strategy options.

Figure 3 Indicative Settlement Hierarchy Map (Tiers 1 to 4)



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Question: Settlement hierarchy

1. Do you agree with the basis on which the tiers of the settlement hierarchy have been identified? (level of services and population). If not, what changes should be made?
2. Are there other factors that should be considered?

Development limits

- 4.16** Development limits are lines that are drawn around areas or settlements in the local plan (on the policies map) and they are then used alongside specific criteria to show where different types of development can take place. The general principle is that inside the boundary certain types of development may be acceptable, but outside of them development would only be allowed in very specific circumstances. These lines commonly follow the built-areas of settlements, but there are exceptions that may exclude areas where it has been decided that it is important to maintain spaces or gaps.
- 4.17** The use of development limits is not the only option. Criteria based policies can also be used to direct development. We will need to choose a consistent approach to apply across North Yorkshire. The following options will be explored:
- **Setting development limits for all settlements in tiers 1 to 5** - we could apply development limits to all settlements identified within tiers 1 to 5 of the settlement hierarchy. Once applied they provide a clear way to establish where development can take place.
 - **Setting development limits for some settlements** - we could explore identifying development limits for specific settlements, or those that sit within a certain tier of the settlement hierarchy, and apply a criteria based policy to those settlements without limits.
 - **Do not set development limits** - we could explore developing policies that set out a range of criteria to guide development for all settlements in the hierarchy. This criteria would have to be taken into account before development could be supported.
- 4.18** Two of the options highlighted above would require criteria based policy in lieu of development limits. This criteria could include such considerations as whether a development respects the form and character of the settlement, its impact on the natural environment or the wider landscape setting or the cumulative impact of development on local service provision.

Question: Development limits

1. Which of the following options do you think should be used to manage development around settlements within the hierarchy?

- Setting development limits for all settlements in tiers 1 to 5.
- Setting development limits for some settlements (if choosing this option please specify which tiers or settlements this should apply to).
- Do not set development limits.
- Other options (please specify).

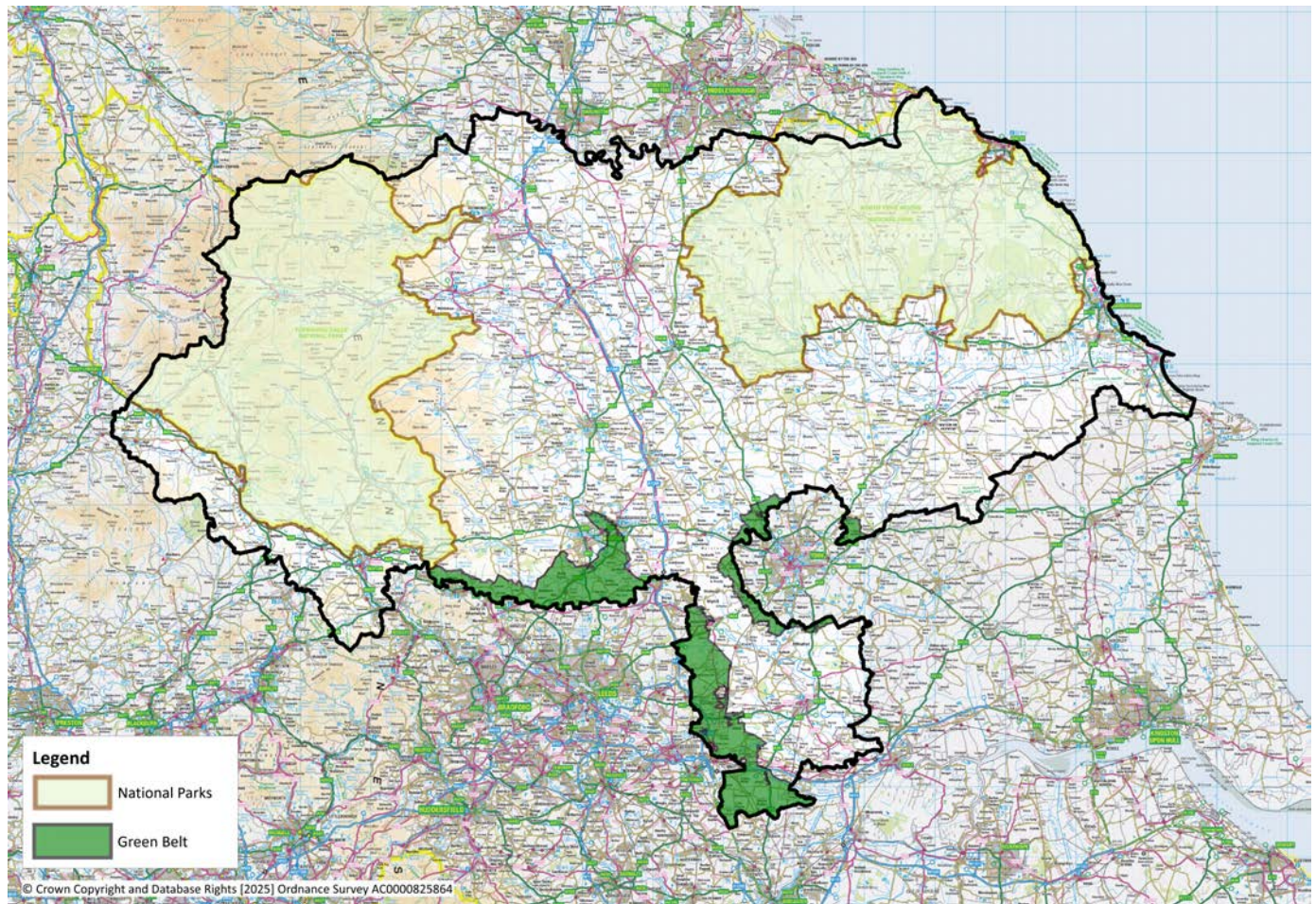
Please can you state your preferred option from those above.

2. If we define development limits in some or all of North Yorkshire's settlements, what factors should be considered when deciding where to draw them?

3. We have set out some examples of criteria (see example criteria above) that could be used in a policy if we do not define development limits in some or all of North Yorkshire's settlements. If development limits are not defined, what do you consider important to include within a criteria based policy?

Green Belt

Figure 4 Designated Green Belt Map



- 4.19** As shown on the map above, the North Yorkshire Local Plan area includes land on the outer edges of two designated Green Belts, namely: the "South and West Yorkshire Green Belt" and the "York Green Belt".
- 4.20** Green Belt is a planning policy designation - defined in strategic planning documents, such as local plans - which seeks to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open. To achieve this, national policy restricts the types of development that can take place therein, and is clear that their boundaries should only be altered through the plan-making process where 'exceptional circumstances' are fully evidenced and justified.
- 4.21** The new NPPF expanded the scope of exceptional circumstances to now include instances where a local authority cannot meet its identified development needs through other means, including bringing forward brownfield land, increasing the density of development and negotiating with neighbouring authorities. In such instances, authorities are required to review green belt boundaries, but should only make appropriate alterations - to release sites for development - where doing so would not fundamentally undermine the purposes of the remaining Green Belt.
- 4.22** At this early stage of the plan-making process there is uncertainty around whether a Green Belt review will be required for the North Yorkshire Local Plan; a definitive position will only be reached as the plan progresses. However, to ensure that any prospective review is undertaken efficiently, and to avoid potential delays to plan production at a later date, the council intends to undertake preparatory work to establish a clear methodology and approach. Neither this work, nor the triggering of more detailed review / assessment work, would automatically lead to boundary changes.

Developing growth options

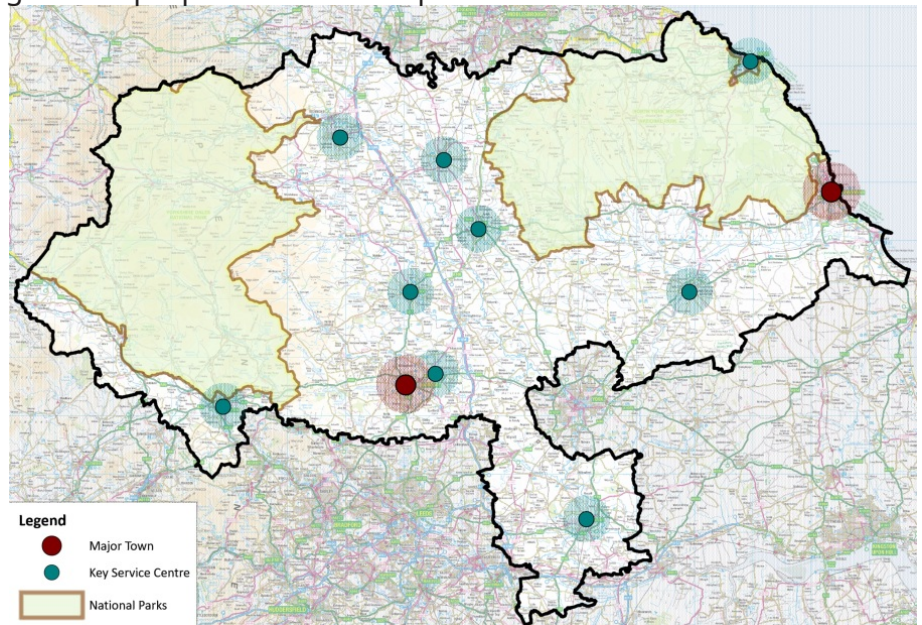
4.23 By bringing together the various considerations highlighted within this section, the following 'high level' options for delivering growth have been developed. These are presented for consultation purposes; to establish the views of local communities and stakeholders. These options are not intended to be mutually exclusive (i.e. only one option can be chosen). A combination of options are likely to be required to deliver the level of development needed.

a. Prioritising growth in and around main urban areas

4.24 This option would see a significant proportion of development needs met in our main urban areas, i.e. places within tiers 1 and 2 of the settlement hierarchy ([1] Major Towns and [2] Key Service Settlements).

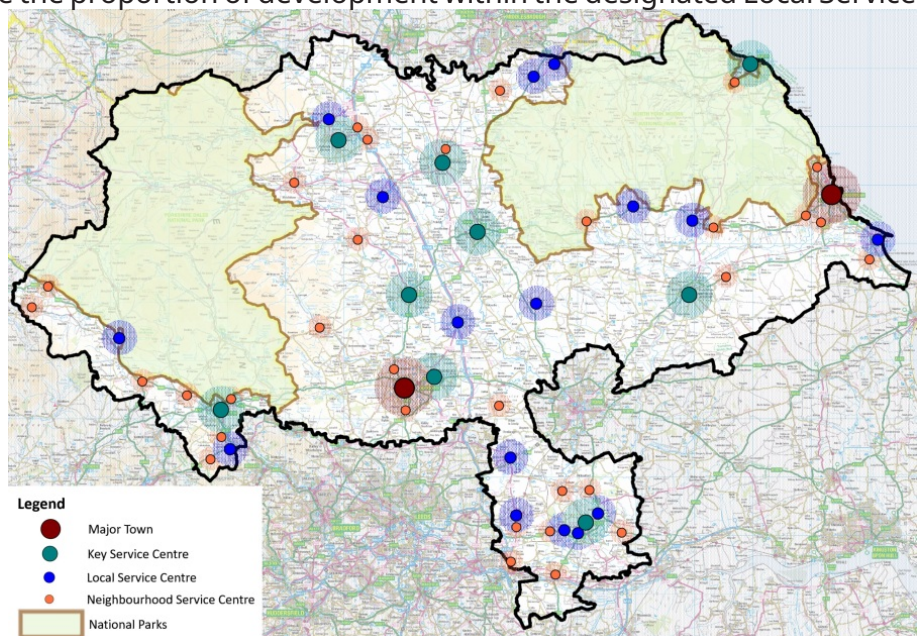
This would involve exploring the potential for increasing the density of development in central areas, particularly around sustainable transport hubs, while also assessing opportunities for outward expansion on the edges of settlements. By their nature, settlements

within the top 2 tiers of the hierarchy will be better able to accommodate development and meet the wider needs of new communities; they already provide essential supporting services and facilities. However, these locations may also be limited by infrastructure constraints that would need to be addressed alongside new development opportunities.



b. Achieving a greater proportion of development in larger villages

4.25 This option would increase the proportion of development within the designated Local Service Centres and Neighbourhood Service Centres (tiers 3 and 4 of the settlement hierarchy). Again, these settlements provide a range of supporting services and facilities and are generally able to meet the day-to-day needs of



local communities. The potential expansion of these villages could provide an opportunity to maintain or enhance their long-term vitality by establishing a greater 'critical mass' of service users.

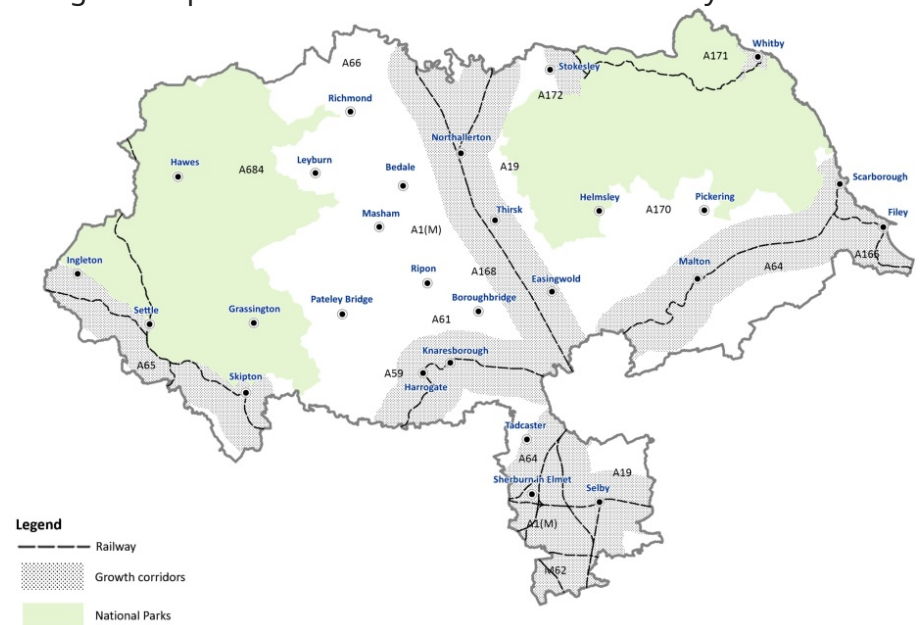
c. Dispersing development across a broader range of settlements, including smaller villages

4.26 This option would increase the spread of development needs across all settlements, including a greater proportion within the designated Small Settlements (tier 5 of the settlement hierarchy). In these predominantly rural villages, access to housing (particularly affordable housing) can be an issue and many areas have seen a decline in key services over recent years. Planning for growth in these locations could help to meet local housing needs, help guard against the further loss of facilities and services, bring opportunities for the delivery of new supporting infrastructure, and otherwise enhance or maintain the vitality of these important rural communities.



d. Growing locations that are well-served by existing and/or new high-quality sustainable transport links

4.27 This option would involve siting development in locations where it can readily access and benefit from existing or proposed sustainable transport infrastructure, thereby providing genuine choice in transport options and an alternative to private car usage. This could include delivering increased levels of growth alongside established rail corridors, utilising existing infrastructure and exploring opportunities for the creating of new stations in suitable locations. Similarly, opportunities for maximising the use of the bus network, in addition to capitalising



on the use of walking and cycling infrastructure, should be explored. This option will be reliant upon the production of related evidence and the identification of clear infrastructure delivery mechanisms.

e. Developing entirely new settlements

4.28 given their complexity and the long 'lead in' times associated with new settlements and significant urban extensions, this option would build upon (be in addition to) other growth strategy choices; they are unlikely to deliver until the later parts of the plan period. However, through effective planning they provide an opportunity to create sustainable communities, deliverable in the long-term, and to establish a pattern and legacy of growth that extends beyond the period of this local plan.

Question: Growth options

1. Which options should be considered to help us deliver growth in a sustainable manner?
 - a. Prioritising growth in and around main urban areas
 - b. Achieving a greater proportion of development in larger villages with a good range of supporting services and infrastructure
 - c. Dispersing development across a broader range of settlements, including smaller villages
 - d. Growing locations that are well-served by existing and/or new high-quality sustainable transport links
 - e. Developing entirely new settlements / communities
2. Are there any other growth options that should be considered?

5 Tackling climate change, flood risk & coastal change



- 5.1** Urgent action to tackle climate change is required now in order to both mitigate or reduce our contribution to climate change and to adapt to its impacts. The UK Government has set a legally binding target to reduce our carbon emissions to net zero by 2050. The [North Yorkshire Council: Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030](#) explains that North Yorkshire Council along with the City of York Council, is working towards an ambition of being carbon neutral across York and North Yorkshire by 2034 and carbon negative by 2040.

NPPF requirements:

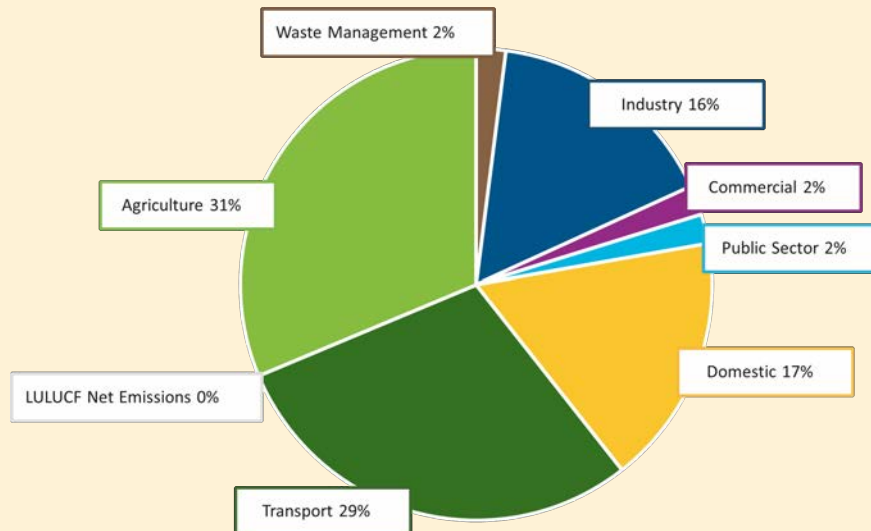
In line with the objectives and provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008, the NPPF requires local plans to take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating and drought from rising temperatures.

- 5.2** Given this legal and national context, addressing climate change will form a 'golden thread' running through the new North Yorkshire Local Plan. This is because measures taken in new development to mitigate and adapt to climate change can also bring benefits to health, quality of place and economic growth. For example investing in active travel, reducing traffic congestion and waste, increasing tree planting, reducing energy costs and creating new jobs in green technology sectors.

Did you know?

In 2021 North Yorkshire produced 6,391 kt CO₂e. The following diagram shows this figure broken down into 8 sectors

Figure 5 Greenhouse gas emissions for North Yorkshire



LULUCF - Land use, Land use Change and Forestry.

Source: [North Yorkshire Climate Change Strategy 2023](#)

Mitigating climate change

5.3 Climate change mitigation involves actions to reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions from human activities.

5.4 The new local plan can play an important role in helping to do this, for example by:

- **Reducing emissions from transport** by supporting a shift from North Yorkshire's high dependency on private vehicles towards sustainable and active travel, including public transport, walking and cycling as well as locating new development in sustainable locations, with good access to services, facilities and infrastructure including that relating to digital connectivity and use of electric cars.
- **Reducing emissions from new development** by ensuring that new buildings are built in the most sustainable way with the aim of being zero carbon in their operation, for example through using the most sustainable materials, meeting high energy efficiency standards, obtaining energy from renewable sources and incorporating heating/cooling systems and appliances that use low and zero carbon technologies.

The Government is planning to introduce the Future Homes Standard in 2025, requiring the construction industry to adopt new technologies, enhance skills, embrace sustainable practices for new builds and to achieve "Zero-Carbon Ready" housing.

- **Identifying locations and/or criteria-based policies for a range of renewable energy technologies**, including wind, solar, bioenergy, hydroelectric etc through domestic renewable energy projects, district networks, as well as large scale commercial renewable developments to help decarbonise the National Grid. Specific studies and evidence relating to this will inform the draft local plan.
- **Reducing emissions through retrofitting existing buildings** can often be delivered without the need for planning consent, however it will be important to consider how retrofitting can be supported through the planning system wherever possible, and particularly in relation to the consideration of historic buildings and places.
- **Supporting nature based solutions for carbon storage and carbon offsetting** for example through tree and hedge planting, the creation of green spaces in new developments, and through the restoration of ecosystems such as peat moorlands and marine kelp forests.
- **Carbon capture and storage (CCS)** linked to energy generation and industrial processes could offer another opportunity.



Did you know?

Peat moorlands are major carbon stores and it is estimated that northern Yorkshire's peatlands currently store 27,410,845 tonnes of carbon.

27% of England's blanket bog is in North Yorkshire. Blanket bog is an area of peatland formed in cool regions of high rainfall or humidity.

Source: [Yorkshire Peat Partnership](#)

Question: Mitigating climate change

The local plan could help to mitigate climate change by:

- reducing emissions from transport
 - reducing emissions from new development
 - identifying locations and/or criteria-based policies for a range of renewable energy technologies
 - reducing emissions through retrofitting existing buildings, where planning permission is required, and
 - supporting nature based solutions for carbon capture, storage and carbon offsetting
1. Are there any other ways the local plan should help to mitigate climate change?
 2. Are there any specific geographical areas in the local plan area that you feel are suitable for large scale, stand alone commercial renewable energy technologies to be located? Please state the area and types of renewable energy technologies that might be suitable.

Adapting to the effects of climate change

5.5 Climate change adaptation is the process of changing how we do things to make it easier to live with the impacts of our changing climate.

5.6 The council's Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030 requires adaptation measures that ensure North Yorkshire is better able to cope with and recover from extreme weather events, as well as those that support nature to become more resilient. The new local plan can play an important role in helping to adapt to climate change, for example through:

- **Built development** by requiring the use of materials that reflect sunlight and reduce solar gain as well as cooling features including openings to allow for natural ventilation; water efficiency measures to conserve water (All new homes already have to meet the mandatory national standard set out in the Building Regulations (of 125 litres/person/day). Where there is a clear local need, local planning authorities can set out local plan policies requiring new dwellings to meet the tighter Building Regulations optional requirement of 110 litres/person/day); landscaping and green infrastructure to provide shade and help reduce surface water run-off as well as the incorporation of renewable energy technologies, such as carbon storage, electric vehicle charging infrastructure including public charging facilities etc.
- **Reducing the risk of flooding in new developments** through developing and delivering a hierarchy of sites which prioritises those which have the least flood risk (informed by the council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment - SFRA), as well as requiring new development to incorporate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to manage flood and pollution risk by minimising surface water run off. SuDS are used to reduce flood risk, but can also provide biodiversity benefits and recreation opportunities too.
- **Coastal erosion and flooding** by avoiding inappropriate development in vulnerable areas and not exacerbating the impacts of physical changes to the coast. Identifying coastal change management areas (as required by the NPPF) and be clear what development will be appropriate in these areas, as well as making provision for any development and infrastructure that needs to be relocated away from these areas. The local plan will be informed by the River Tyne to Flamborough Head Shoreline Management Plan 2007 (SMP), which can help develop local plan policies that seek to ensure that new development does not exacerbate coastal erosion or landslips, and that it is not exposed to the risks of coastal erosion or coastal flooding.



Question: Adapting to the effects of climate change

The local plan could help to adapt to climate change by:

- building in sustainable design in new development.
 - locating new development in the lowest areas of flood risk and requiring sustainable draining systems.
 - avoiding inappropriate development in vulnerable coastal areas and not exacerbating the impacts of physical changes to the coast.
1. Are there any other ways the local plan should help to adapt to climate change?
 2. Do you support the application of the higher standard for reduced water usage of 110 litres/person/day in new homes?
 3. In the area where you live, are there any specific concerns that you would like to raise relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation? Please specify the area.
 4. Are there any other matters related to climate change mitigation and adaptation that should be considered when preparing the new local plan?

6 Creating healthy and sustainable communities



- 6.1 The local plan will have a key role in helping to ensure that new development supports health and wellbeing for all, reduces health inequalities and encourages active and healthy lifestyles. Ensuring we have healthy and sustainable communities links across many parts of the local plan, and so it is to be another golden thread running throughout the new local plan.
- 6.2 Health and wellbeing forms one of the five key themes identified in the [Council Plan 2025-2029](#), with a primary ambition for people to be supported in having a good quality of life and enjoying active and healthy lifestyles. The [North Yorkshire Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-2030](#) identifies a wide range of actions that the new local plan can help to achieve relating to the design of new developments and the environment.

NPPF requirements:

Planning policies should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which promote social interaction, are safe and accessible and enable and support healthy lives.

The NPPF recognises that access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision.

The NPPF allows land to be designated as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans, allowing communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them.

The NPPF is clear that development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality.

The NPPF requires local planning authorities to refuse applications proposing hot food takeaways and fast food outlets within walking distance of schools and other places where children and young people congregate, unless the location is within a designated town centre; or in locations where there is evidence that a concentration of such uses is having an adverse impact on local health, pollution or anti-social-behaviour.

Did you know?

Life expectancy at birth for men and women in North Yorkshire is generally significantly higher than the England averages, but at the local level life expectancy across the county varies widely.

Source: [North Yorkshire Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy](#).

At local authority level North Yorkshire is among the least deprived in England. It is ranked 125th least deprived out of 152 upper tier local authorities for the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). Scarborough is the most deprived part of North Yorkshire.

Source: Data North Yorkshire

Promoting health and reducing health inequalities

- 6.3** Existing health inequalities are experienced across North Yorkshire in a number of ways. The impact of climate change is also effecting peoples health, with a rise in unexpected deaths due to the extreme weather conditions, which has been most prevalent with older people and those in poverty, this may also in the future lead to a rise in diseases currently experienced in warmer climates. There are areas of fuel poverty (this is someone on a low income, that cannot keep their home warm at a reasonable cost). These areas have been identified in the HEDNA, and are "particularly concentrated in the districts of Richmondshire, Ryedale and Scarborough". Design has a key role to play in reducing health inequalities, for example access to green spaces, connectivity, accessibility, space standards and dementia friendly housing.
- 6.4** In some areas of North Yorkshire there is a concentration of hot food takeaways and fast food outlets which impacts on health as there is a correlation between high concentration of such uses and childhood obesity levels. Given the NPPF requirement relating to these uses, the local plan could play a role in identifying areas where hot food takeaways and fast food outlets should be resisted and evidence would need to be prepared in order to identify these areas.
- 6.5** Poverty and health issues are often linked, and the local plan can help in many ways to improve mental and physical health as well as looking to reduce the underlying causes of poverty. For example, at the higher level it can plan for economic growth in sectors where there are higher wages and support access to high quality education to help our residents to be better skilled and have better opportunity in employment. This is widely understood to be a key aspect of having the opportunity to make healthier lifestyles.

Did you know?

North Yorkshire has one of the fastest ageing populations in the country with 1 in 4 people in North Yorkshire being aged 65 and over in 2020, and this figure is set to increase in future years.

Source ONS Census 2021

- 6.6** There is a difference between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy, and increasing life expectancy in conjunction with improved health and wellbeing of all residents is a priority of the council. The new local plan can help to create living environments for people of all ages that encourages healthy lifestyles and supports social interaction by allowing spaces for children, young people and the elderly.

- 6.7** As well as delivering homes that are built to a standard to meet the needs of the community, including being adaptable to the needs of an increasingly elderly population, for example by requiring nationally described space standards in all new homes, or seeking a proportion of new dwellings that are built to standards which allow full wheelchair accessibility, or can be designed to ensure that homes stay warmer in winter and cooler in summer.
- 6.8** Active travel, including walking and cycling, can help to improve health and the local plan could provide opportunities for it through ensuring new development is located in places with good public transport links and by requiring the design of new developments to include safe walking and cycling routes.
- 6.9** The local plan can include policies requiring Health Impact Assessments (HIA) to be prepared by developers, which identifies and considers the health and wellbeing impacts (benefits and harms) of a proposed development. As with any policy in the local plan, this approach would need to be justified, and further work is required to establish the types of applications where we would look to require a HIA.



Question: Promoting health and reducing health inequalities

1. What health inequalities exist in your local area? Please specify the area.
2. How could the local plan help to promote health and reduce health inequalities?

Pollution and health

- 6.10** This section deals with the impact of pollution on health, whilst the wider issue of pollution relating to soil, air, water and land instability and contamination is covered as a part of the Achieving Natural Environment Resilience section.
- 6.11** The effects from air quality, water, soil and noise pollution can negatively impact the health of our residents and given the NPPF requirement that development should help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, the local plan will need to consider this.
- 6.12** Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts, such as contributing to the onset of heart disease and cancer, and is known to particularly affect the most vulnerable in society, such as younger and older people and those with lung or heart conditions. There are three designated Air Quality Management Areas within the plan area in Harrogate, Knaresborough and Selby, where air quality is poor and the council has actions plans in place to tackle this. Neighbourhood street tree planting can also help to improve air quality, help to lower street temperatures and exposure in extreme weather conditions whilst providing access to nature for wellbeing benefits.
- 6.13** Ensuring new development is located close to existing services and facilities with layouts to encourage more people to make journeys on foot, bicycle or use public transport, rather than the car, can have multiple benefits, including reducing carbon dioxide emissions from vehicles and improving people's health.

- 6.14** Noise pollution can be mitigated through using the right technologies to make equipment operate more quietly, and ensuring that developments which have the potential to create noise issues are located away from sensitive buildings.

Open space and community facilities

- 6.15** Access to open space and community facilities can make an important contribution to the physical and mental health of communities. They are wide ranging, can serve a local community or a wider area and are essential to the quality of life for local residents as they encourage social interaction, healthy lifestyles, improve the vitality of places, provide employment opportunities, and reduce the need for people to travel for services. As well as contributing to the health of communities, access to them can help to prevent some health issues and reduce pressure on public services. As required by the NPPF, the council will prepare evidence to assess the quality, quantity and accessibility of existing open spaces, sports and recreation facilities as well as the current and future demand and supply of them. From this work strategies and standards will be prepared to inform the local plan.
- 6.16** Communities are able to identify areas of land that are important to them and which should be provided special protection via designation as Local Green Space (LGS). The preparation of neighbourhood plans is an ideal way for local communities to identify and designate LGS.
- 6.17** The current approach in adopted local plans is to protect and enhance existing open spaces and facilities as well as providing new ones where there is a need (as set out in evidence), as it is recognised that they are essential to the quality of life for residents and this is something the new local plan can continue to do.



Questions: Open space and community facilities

1. What do you think of the availability and quality of open spaces and community facilities in your local area? Please specify the area.

The local plan could help to create healthy and sustainable places through new development with access to open spaces and community facilities by:

- locating new development in existing settlements where there are existing open spaces and community facilities.
 - through good design, achieving safe access from a development site to existing open spaces and community facilities via walking and cycling.
 - requiring new high quality public open spaces and community facilities on sites where there is a need.
2. Are there any other ways the local plan can help to create healthy and sustainable places with access to open spaces and community facilities?
 3. Are there any other matters relating to healthy and sustainable communities that should be considered when preparing the new local plan?

7 Achieving natural environmental resilience



- 7.1** North Yorkshire's high-quality environment, distinctive landscapes and natural beauty are recognised as a defining feature of the county, highly valued by residents and visitors and contributing to the area's rich sense of place.
- 7.2** The government's [25-year Environment Plan](#), which brought together the government's ambitions for the UK's natural environment, and subsequent [Environment Act \(2021\)](#) sets out mandatory targets and establishes a framework which will inform the local plan. These recognise that the natural environment is an irreplaceable resource that must be protected and valued and acknowledges its role in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

NPPF requirements:

Local plans are required to recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and local strategic policies must provide for conservation and enhancement of landscapes and biodiversity. They must also recognise and give appropriate protection to nature conservation sites and areas where priority species and habitats need to be conserved.

Planning policies are required to contribute to and enhance the natural environment by preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, as well as remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land.

- 7.3** The local plan has a key role to play in protecting, enhancing and building resilience in North Yorkshire's diverse, high quality and unique natural landscapes, blue and green infrastructure and the biodiversity within it. The plan also has a role to play in helping to control levels of soil, air, water and noise pollution and land instability.

Did you know?

The North Yorkshire Local Plan area has numerous landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity designations. This includes Studley Royal World Heritage site, as well as the Nidderdale and Howardian Hills National Landscapes and Yorkshire Wolds candidate National Landscape. In terms of biodiversity, there are 16 International level designations, over 100 national designations, and nearly 700 local designations, which aim to protect a wide range of scarce and protected species and habitats.

Source: NYC data

Biodiversity

- 7.4** There are numerous biodiversity and geodiversity designations within the plan area, which are protected for their local, national and European importance. At the international/European level they include the landscape-scale of the North Pennine Moors Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation designations, to the coastal environment of Beast Cliff SPA, to river environments (River Derwent SAC) and to individual sites such as Skipwith Common SAC. We also have to consider, as we produce the plan, any other European/international designations that the local plan may have the capacity to influence. This is assessed through the Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- 7.5** The [Environment Act \(2021\)](#) introduced a new law requiring new development sites to achieve a biodiversity net gain (BNG) of at least 10% from the pre-developed site value, to be calculated using a nationally set biodiversity metric. This is a minimum requirement, and the North Yorkshire Local Plan could set a more ambitious target, if it can be justified.
- 7.6** National planning policy sets out a preference for achieving BNG within a development site in the first instance. However, where this is not practical, it can also be achieved off-site, either on land owned by a developer or third party or via a national biodiversity credit system, where a developer can purchase off-site biodiversity units. The local plan will need to consider how to get the most out of BNG in terms of both on site and off site provision.
- 7.7** The Environment Act also introduced a requirement to prepare local nature recovery strategies (LNRS), which identify locations to improve nature and provide other environmental benefits for a specific area. North Yorkshire Council is the responsible authority for North Yorkshire and York LNRS and work on it will feed into the local plan preparation to help inform the requirement for plans to protect and enhance biodiversity.



Question: Protecting and improving biodiversity

What approaches should be incorporated in the new local plan to protect and improve biodiversity?

High quality landscapes

- 7.8** North Yorkshire's landscapes include coastal areas, wetlands, uplands and moorlands, river valleys, woodlands as well as formal landscapes created by our landed estates including Bolton Abbey, Castle Howard, Studley Royal Park, and Whitby Abbey.
- 7.9** Working landscapes associated with the rural economy have significantly shaped the North Yorkshire landscape character.
- 7.10** Our landscapes are also important for their 'Dark Skies' where there is a clear view of the night sky away from light pollution.
- 7.11** We also have a section of Heritage Coast, which extends beyond North Yorkshire's boundaries.
- 7.12** Although the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks are outside of the area to be covered by the North Yorkshire Local Plan, we have an important role to play regarding the land which borders the edge of the park areas (known as the setting) of these national parks.
- 7.13** North Yorkshire contains the National Landscapes (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) of Nidderdale, a small part of the Forest of Bowland, the North Pennines and the Howardian Hills, with the Yorkshire Wolds currently being considered for designation. Given that the NPPF requires great weight to be given to conserving and enhancing the landscape, scenic beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of these landscapes, the local plan will help to achieve that.
- 7.14** The council has a legal duty to seek to further the statutory purposes of protected landscapes, which are to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area and to increase the understanding and enjoyment by the public of the special qualities of the area.
- 7.15** Assessing the impact of proposed developments upon the landscape is a key part of the planning process. A landscape character assessment will be prepared as part of the local plan evidence base, which will identify the unique elements and features that make the landscape of North Yorkshire distinctive, map these as landscape character types and will be used to help ensure that development is sensitive to, and appropriate for, the landscape setting.



Enhancing the network of green and blue infrastructure

7.16 Our existing network of green and blue corridors and spaces is an important part of our natural environment. The North Yorkshire Local Plan can continue to protect, maintain, enhance and expand this network through the preparation of a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy for North Yorkshire. Blue and green infrastructure is often multifunctional in its uses and can help to mitigate the impacts of climate change and manage flood risk, enhance biodiversity through wildlife corridors, promote tourism and support healthy communities with good access to recreation and open space. We are keen to ensure that our blue and green infrastructure can become more connected to ensure that it can better deliver those multifunctional uses.



Question: Enhancing the network of green and blue infrastructure

The local plan could help to enhance the existing network of green and blue infrastructure by:

- protecting and enhancing the existing green and blue infrastructure network.
 - creating of new areas of green and/or blue infrastructure on sites allocated in the local plan for new development.
 - creating of new or improvement of existing green and/or blue infrastructure off site.
1. Are there any other ways the local plan should help to enhance the network of green and blue infrastructure?
 2. What types of green and blue infrastructure are valued in your local area? Please specify the area and what you value them for.

Pollution and ground conditions

7.17 The local plan has a role to play in ensuring that the pollutants which typically accompany new development, associated with increased traffic, burning fuel for heat, industrial processes, as well as the dust and noise generated during construction, are carefully controlled. Policies will need to ensure that development is suitable for its proposed use and is in an appropriate location taking account of ground conditions, any risks arising from land instability and contamination and the likely effects of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment.

7.18 The local plan will need to take into account the presence of the three designated air quality management areas (AQMAs) in the plan area and associated action plans, in Harrogate, Knaresborough and Selby, where air quality is known to be poor.

7.19 Poor water quality is an issue for the nation. The council is keen to improve water quality as a whole across North Yorkshire, and is working with a range of organisations and businesses to help this to happen. Whilst some water pollution is a result of run off from fields, there is

pollution from sewerage and industry. Nutrient pollution of water is a problem in the River Tees catchment due to the current condition of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area (SPA). Currently applications for development that could increase nitrogen discharge into the SPA cannot be approved.

7.20 There is a process known as 'nutrient neutrality' where any pollution from the proposed development is calculated and then 'neutralised' by adequate measures taken elsewhere to prevent pollution. Also through the planning system we look to apply measures to reduce the risk of the pollution of groundwater.

7.21 The planning system can plan positively for water supply and water quality through good design and mitigation, for example, by designing development that includes permeable surfaces and other sustainable drainage systems. We will work with water companies to ensure that new development is not resulting in increased levels of water pollution, and that ultimately incidents of water pollution become a thing of the past.

7.22 Our land is part of our natural capital which needs to be used in a way which allows long-term sustainable use of land. We need to protect and restore land which is vulnerable to being degraded and identifying contaminated and degraded land that is in need of restoration. The local plan will need to consider how to protect the best and most versatile farmland (Grades 1,2 & 3a); also protecting and restoring peatland and protecting mineral and stone resources so that they can still be extracted for industry and construction.



7.23 We also need to identify potentially unstable land; ensuring new development is not exposed to or contributes to coastal erosion or landslip, and take into account potential contamination from past uses.

Question: Pollution and ground conditions

1. In your local area what types of pollution are you most concerned about? Please specify the area and type of pollution.
2. In your local area are there any issues with land instability or contamination? Please specify the area.
3. Are there any other ways the local plan should help to control pollution and protect and restore ground conditions?
4. Are there any other matters related to natural environment resilience that should be considered when preparing the new local plan?

8 Meeting specific housing needs



- 8.1** The local plan has a key role to play in helping to meet the housing needs of communities across North Yorkshire, providing a range of high quality and energy-efficient housing.

NPPF requirements:

The size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies and these groups should include (but are not limited to) those who require affordable housing; families with children; looked after children; older people (including those who require retirement housing, housing-with-care and care homes); students; people with disabilities; service families; travellers; people who rent their homes and people wishing to commission or build their own homes.

Where a need for affordable housing is identified, planning policies should specify the type of affordable housing required (including the minimum proportion of Social Rent homes required).

The NPPF recognises that small and medium sized sites can make an important contribution to meeting the housing requirement of an area and that local planning authorities should support the development of rural exception sites, which are small sites used for affordable housing which would not normally be used for housing.

- 8.2** The Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) for North Yorkshire will provide information on the quantity and quality of housing land needed. The HEDNA together with local housing needs assessments also provides information on the housing needs of the area.
- 8.3** In line with the NPPF requirements for assessing housing needs, the sections below relate to specific groups and types of housing to be considered when preparing the new North Yorkshire Local Plan.

Did you know?

In North Yorkshire:

- there are a total of 274,381 households
- the average number of persons per household is 2.24, down from 2.33 in 2011
- the average house price is £284,000
- the average household income (after housing costs) is £28,448
- 18.7% of households rent privately
- the average rent is £730 per calendar month, and
- over 108,000 residents, from a total population of 619,500 are limited by health and disability.

Source: [North Yorkshire Council Housing Strategy 2024-2029](#).

Affordable housing

- 8.4** The provision of genuinely affordable housing, both for sale and rent, is an issue in North Yorkshire, especially taking into account the disparity between median house prices and median annual gross salaries across the county.
- 8.5** Affordable housing includes social and other affordable housing to rent as well as housing to buy, including discounted market housing such as shared ownership and rent to buy. The HEDNA suggests there will be a need for both social and affordable rented housing as well as shared ownership which could provide a reasonable route to home ownership.
- 8.6** The HEDNA explains that in the year to March 2024, the median house price across all dwellings types in North Yorkshire was £262,500, which is above the regional figure of £194,500 but below the national figure of £287,500. The affordability ratio, calculated by dividing house prices by gross annual workplace-based earnings, in North Yorkshire in the year ending September 2023 was 8.79. This exceeds both the regional (6.11) and national (8.26) ratios illustrating that a higher proportion of household income is spent on housing costs in North Yorkshire, making housing across North Yorkshire less affordable than that across the region or nationally. The HEDNA indicates that there is a need for 1,823 affordable homes per annum in North Yorkshire.
- 8.7** The HEDNA together with an assessment of viability of the whole local plan will help to determine the level of affordable housing need across North Yorkshire and this may vary depending on demand and viability.



Question: Affordable housing

1. Where you live, do you think there is a need for more affordable housing? Please specify the area. If yes, are there any specific types of affordable housing that should be prioritised?
2. How else could the local plan support the delivery of affordable housing?

Housing in rural communities

- 8.8** North Yorkshire is made up of many rural communities. In some cases, these areas have seen a decline in key services and have experienced affordability issues, which has resulted in housing becoming unsustainable and out of reach to certain sections of the community. The local plan can provide a positive policy framework that helps to address this issue, balanced against other considerations such as the impact on the character of our rural areas. A range of potential policy options exist, extending from strategic choices that actively promote housing growth in rural locations to maintain and enhance their vitality (see Other growth considerations above), to policies that ensure the affordable homes can be built to meet identified needs, as explored below.

- 8.9** The NPPF is clear that affordable housing should not be sought on sites of less than 10 units. The exception to this is in Designated Rural Areas, which include National Parks, National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and areas designated as 'rural' under the Housing Act 1985 where affordable housing contributions on developments of between six and nine units can be sought. North Yorkshire is considered to be largely rural, with many Designated Rural Areas, meaning that affordable housing contributions on small sites could be sought in many of our rural parishes. The list of Designated Rural Areas within North Yorkshire can be viewed at [The Housing \(Right to Acquire or Enfranchise\) \(Designated Rural Areas in the North East\) Order 1997](#)
- 8.10** In order to maximise affordable housing, the local plan could set out a specific policy approach for Designated Rural Areas.
- 8.11** Rural exception sites are small sites used for affordable housing in locations which would not normally be used for housing. Sites are normally adjacent to a rural settlement and seek to address identified local needs by accommodating households who are either current residents or have an existing family or employment connection. Some market housing can also be provided on these sites to help with the provision of affordable housing.



Question: Housing in rural communities

1. Should the local plan include a policy requiring affordable housing contributions on small sites within Designated Rural Areas?
2. Are there any other ways the local plan can ensure sustainability of rural settlements?

Addressing the housing needs of people with disabilities

- 8.12** It is important to ensure that our disabled residents can live independently where possible, in accessible homes, gardens and spaces that can be adapted to meet their individual evolving circumstances and needs. The local plan could support proposals to adapt or extend existing residential properties to meet changing needs, and to increase housing choice for these groups and ensure that their longer term care needs are better catered for.

Did you know?

31% of households in the North Yorkshire Council area contain someone with a disability, which is slightly lower than 34% for Yorkshire and Humber region and 32% for England. There is a higher proportion of households with a disability in coastal area of North Yorkshire (37%).

Source: HEDNA 2025

- 8.13** The HEDNA indicates that, in order to meet the projected increase in the population of those with disabilities, there is a need to increase the supply of accessible and adaptable dwellings and wheelchair-user dwellings across North Yorkshire by 2,750 dwellings.
- 8.14** Currently Building Regulations relating to accessible and adaptable dwellings (M4(2)) and wheelchair user dwellings (M4(3)) are optional. Following consultation in 2020 the government has indicated plans to mandate the current M4(2) requirement as a minimum standard for all new homes and has suggested that local planning policy should continue to tailor the supply of wheelchair user dwellings to local demand.
- 8.15** Therefore, subject to the standard M4(2) becoming mandatory, the local plan can consider policy options for requiring both standards M4(2) and M4(3) in a proportion of new dwellings.

Question: Addressing the housing needs of disabled people

The local plan could help to address the needs of people with disabilities by:

- supporting adaption or extension of existing residential properties to meet changing needs
 - considering the needs of people with disabilities in the design of private gardens and public spaces, and
 - increasing housing choice by providing specialist housing for disabled people
1. Are there any other ways the local plan can help address the needs of people with disabilities?
 2. If Building Regulation M4(2) relating to accessible and adaptable dwellings does not become mandatory, should the local plan require a proportion of new dwellings to meet this standard? Or should it cover all new dwellings?
 3. Would you support the local plan requiring optional standards for a proportion of wheelchair-user dwellings - M4(3) standard?

Addressing the housing needs of older people

Did you know?

North Yorkshire has a higher proportion of older people compared to the region and nationally with 26% of the population being aged 65 and over compared to a figure of 19% in both Yorkshire and Humber and England.

Source: HEDNA 2025

North Yorkshire's population is ageing with the number of people aged 65 and over predicted to grow by around third by 2040.

Source: [State of Healthy Ageing in Yorkshire and the Humber \(2023\)](#)

- 8.16** In order to meet the housing needs of North Yorkshire's ageing population, with higher levels of disability and health problems amongst older people, there is a need to ensure a wide range of residential options are available. The local plan can help by ensuring that new homes are built so they can adapt to residents' needs and allow older people to remain in their homes for longer; providing a choice of housing options to older people allowing opportunities to down size; and supporting residential annexes to allow families to support elderly residents to live semi-independently. The provision of specialist housing is also important in meeting

the needs of our ageing population, including age restricted-general market housing, retirement living or sheltered housing, extra care housing/housing with care, residential care homes and nursing homes and dementia-friendly housing and spaces across the plan area.

8.17 The local plan can help to meet the housing needs of older people by:

- locating developments specifically designed to meet the accommodation needs of older people in locations accessible by public transport or within walking distance of facilities such as shops, medical services and public open space
- supporting the development of housing to specifically meet the needs of older people i.e. retirement housing, assisted living, extra care etc, and
- providing a more diverse range of housing options on market housing sites to allow older people to stay in their homes for longer.



8.18 The HEDNA indicates that across North Yorkshire there will be a need for retirement living/sheltered housing and extra care/housing with care, as well as the need for some additional nursing and residential care bedspaces in the longer term. It identifies that for older people for the 2023-45 period there is a need for around 6,100 additional sheltered housing units and around 3,600 additional extra-care units. There is also a need for around 4,500 additional nursing and residential care bedspaces.

Question: Addressing the housing needs of older people

The local plan could support the development of housing that meets the needs of older people through:

- locating housing developments in places which have access to existing services and facilities
- the allocation of land for specific types of housing to meet the needs of older people e.g., retirement living, sheltered housing, extra care etc
- the development of new homes that can adapt to residents' needs and allow older people to remain in their homes for longer;
- the provision of a range of housing types which cater for the needs of older people i.e., smaller housing to allow for opportunities to downsize.

Are there any other ways the local plan can help to meet the needs of older people?

Addressing the housing needs of the gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople community

8.19 As required by the NPPF, the new local plan needs to assess the housing needs of the gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople community and consider a range of options to meet them. This will be done through the preparation of a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment for the whole of North Yorkshire, which will assess current and future needs in terms of pitches required, as well as help identify which options the local plan could set out to help meet the housing needs of this community. For example, through specific allocations of land to meet need and through criteria based policies to deal with any unforeseen need arising during the plan period.

Question: Gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople

How should the local plan identify and support sites to meet the housing needs of the gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople community?

Second homes and holiday homes

- 8.20** In certain parts of North Yorkshire, such as Scarborough and Whitby, there is a high proportion of second and holiday homes, due to the tourism offer in these places. Whilst they can support tourism and the local economy it is important that this is balanced with meeting the needs of the local community. High levels of second and holiday homes directly affects housing affordability, by pushing prices up in these sought-after locations. This can also make the delivery of new supported housing more difficult as it becomes too expensive for the land and or buildings. It also impacts on the availability of homes (particularly smaller properties or flats) to buy or to rent for local people, and also can, if the numbers are significant, impact on the social sustainability of communities more broadly as it reduces the demand for services and facilities in the area and can affect their delivery.
- 8.21** Currently there is no planning control of existing dwellings being used for holiday lets or second homes and only limited controls for newly built dwellings.
- 8.22** In April 2023, the government released a consultation proposing the introduction of a new use class (C5) for short term holiday lets, which would allow a change of use from the general dwelling use class (C3) to this new use class and vice versa without requiring planning permission. The proposal would then allow for this permitted change of use to be removed, where there is local concern around this issue. Local planning authorities can then use an Article 4 Direction to remove this permitted change of use. Alternatively, local and neighbourhood plans can also attach primary residence conditions on new properties in specific areas to ensure that they are only lived in as a permanent home, where the level of holiday lets and second homes are an issue, however this can effect the sales value of a property, and this can impact on economic viability of development for larger schemes.
- 8.23** Given that these proposals are yet to be introduced, how the new local plan can help with the issue of a high level of second and holiday homes in some parts of North Yorkshire is something that will need to be explored and developed.



Questions: Second homes and holiday homes

1. How can the local plan help tackle the issues associated with an increase in second and holiday homes in parts of North Yorkshire?
2. Are there any specific locations where measures for controlling the amount of second homes and/or holiday homes should be considered? If so please specify the location.

Self-build and custom housebuilding

- 8.24** We now have a single North Yorkshire wide self-build and custom housebuilding register which provides us with information about the level of interest in this type of house building (Find out more on the [North Yorkshire Council Self and Custom Build webpage](#)). We will need to ensure that for people who want to commission or build their own homes across the plan area, the local plan provides sufficient opportunity to access custom and self-build plots. This could be through including a policy which supports this type of housing building by developers, registered providers, landowners, individuals or groups, in suitable locations to address local demand and/or requiring self build plots to be provided on larger housing sites.
- 8.25** The HEDNA sets out that across North Yorkshire, between 2016 and 2024 there has been a total of 1,295 registered expressions of interest in a serviced plot of land for self build and custom house building in North Yorkshire, however during this period there has been a downward trend of interest, and this may be a reflection of individuals being on formerly multiple registers. Further analysis by the national association for the custom and self-build housing sector (NaCSBA) would indicate that there is a need for 829 self-build dwellings in a survey in 2020.

Questions: Self-build and custom build housing

The new local plan could help to support the delivery of self-build and custom build housing by:

- supporting this type of house building in suitable locations to address local demand, and
- requiring a proportion of self build plots to be provided on larger housing sites.

Are there any other ways the local plan can help to meet the needs of people wanting to commission or build their own homes?

Addressing other housing needs

Families with children and looked after children

- 8.26** The HEDNA tells us that the proportion of households with dependent children in North Yorkshire is 24% which is below the regional average of 28% and the national average of 29%, as recorded in 2021 and will provide details around the level of need for families with children.
- 8.27** There are notable differences between different types of households with married couples, with dependent children, seeing a high level of owner-occupation, whereas lone parents are particularly likely to live in social or private rented accommodation. In terms of couples with dependent children, only 13% are in privately rented households, suggesting fewer families with children are renting privately.
- 8.28** The housing needs of looked after children will be assessed through the council's Children's Social Care Sufficiency Strategy and work with the council's Children and Young People's Service. The current Strategy shows that at 31st March 2023 there was 448 Children in Care in North Yorkshire. There has been an increase of 4.2% over the past 5 years, which is a much smaller rate of growth than the 9% reported nationally.
- 8.29** The new local plan can help with the provision of the right types of housing to support households with children and looked after children, by having policies which respond to the level of need for different sizes and types of housing across the county.

Students

- 8.30** The HEDNA provides details of housing needs of students. Coventry University has a campus in Scarborough which has between 700 and 800 students and is keen to increase that figure to around 1,800 students. However, in order to do this it would need to be able to provide accommodation, as they would be looking to attract students who do not currently live in the area. The majority of students (80%) live in the local area with the remainder (20%) having moved to the area to study. The university has indicated that they would be looking for about 200 dedicated student bed spaces to support this expansion.
- 8.31** The local plan could include a policy that supports the provision of suitable student accommodation or through the allocation of suitable site(s) for this purpose in order to meet the university's aspirations.

Question: Addressing the housing needs of students

Do you think the local plan should support the provision of suitable student accommodation either through a policy or by allocating sites for this purpose to meet the aspirations of Coventry University?

Service families

Did you know?

There are 12,240 service personnel stationed in North Yorkshire, which makes up 89% of the total Ministry of Defence (MOD) presence within the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Source: MOD Statistics

- 8.32** There are two substantial military sites in the plan area. The Catterick Garrison main site has grown within the parishes of Hipswell, Scotton and Colburn since it was established in 1915, while Marne Barracks is at Catterick Village by the A1. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has announced its intention to increase the military presence at Catterick Garrison which is expected to result in an additional 4,900 military service personnel and dependents being based there by 2035. The MOD has ambitions to grow the town and achieve a mixed and balanced community which will support military operational needs, including delivering additional service family, accommodation, town centre regeneration and private sector housing. These ambitions are started to be realised through the development of the Catterick Garrison Town Centre including Princes Gate Shopping Park.
- 8.33** Other military sites include the Royal Air Force Station at Menwith Hill near Harrogate, which provides communications and intelligence support services to the United Kingdom and the United States, the Army Foundation College, near Harrogate which is the sole initial military training unit for British Army recruits aged between 16 and 17.5 years. There are the aerodromes of RAF Dishforth, RAF Fylingdales and RAF Leeming.
- 8.34** It is important that the new local plan helps to ensure the needs of service personnel and their families are met by supporting development, whilst also securing wider local benefits for the area. Their housing needs could be met through the provision of different types of affordable housing to rent or buy based on evidence of need.

Question: Other housing needs

1. In your local area or across the plan area how can the local plan help to meet the housing needs of service families? Please specify the area.
2. Have we identified the correct specialist housing needs that the local plan should consider?
3. Are there any other matters related to meeting the housing needs of specific groups that should be considered when preparing the new local plan? If so, please specify which group.

Housing standards

Housing standards

- 8.35** The majority of physical standards that new homes must adhere to are addressed through [building regulations](#), including reducing carbon emissions and energy efficiency measures. However, the new local plan can require [optional technical standards](#) which exceed the minimum standards required by Building Regulations relating to access, water, and space standards for new dwellings, if they are justified by evidence.
- 8.36** [Nationally described space standards \(NDSS\)](#) cover matters such as the size of rooms in new dwellings. The new local plan could consider requiring nationally described space standards in all new homes to help to ensure properties provide good quality accommodation which reflects the needs of potential occupants.

Question: Housing standards

1. Would you support the local plan requiring all new homes to meet the nationally described space standards?
2. Are there any other ways the local plan should help to raise the standards of new housing?

9 Creating a prosperous economy



- 9.1** We have already talked about the overall location and amounts of employment land in the Delivering Sustainable Growth section. The local plan also has a key role to play in providing a strategy around supporting the different parts (sectors) of the economy to help meet the economic needs of North Yorkshire. This would allow people and places to prosper by supporting the creation of high-quality jobs, attracting new businesses, retaining, protecting and enhancing existing businesses, supporting opportunities to improve training and education and to retain skills and talent within North Yorkshire, and so providing an adaptable and prosperous economy.
- 9.2** The HEDNA for North Yorkshire is also a key piece of evidence to inform the new local plan in terms of supporting the different sectors of economic activity in North Yorkshire, and helping those to respond to changes in their businesses.

NPPF requirements:

National planning policy is clear that planning policies and decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt and that significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development.

Planning policies should:

- set out a clear economic vision and strategy which encourages sustainable development
- set criteria, and identify strategic sites to meet anticipated needs over the plan period, as well as being flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan
- have particular regard to facilitating development to meet the needs of a modern economy, including by identifying suitable locations for uses such as laboratories, gigafactories, data centres, digital infrastructure, freight and logistics, and
- seek to address potential barriers to investment, including inadequate infrastructure, services or housing, or a poor environment.

Did you know?

North Yorkshire is home to over 32,000 businesses, almost 90% of which have fewer than 10 employees.

Source: [North Yorkshire Council Economic Growth Strategy 2024-2029](#)

As of 2023 total employment in North Yorkshire was 334,200 jobs. The greatest proportion of employment was in accommodation and food services at 35,100 jobs, followed by manufacturing with 32,200 jobs, retail at 28,000 jobs, administrative and support services (25,400 jobs) and Education (23,400 jobs).

Over the past 10 years jobs in manufacture of pharmaceuticals, manufacture of transport equipment, administrative and support services, land transport storage and post have seen the greatest growth.

In terms of the types of business we have in North Yorkshire, the greatest proportion are in the wholesale and retail sector (15.6%), followed by professional, scientific and technical services (13.3%), administrative and support service activities (12.1%) and then construction (10.8%).

Source: Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA)

Economic strengths and skills

- 9.3** North Yorkshire Council's [Economic Growth Strategy 2024-2029](#) is one of the pieces of evidence that will inform the local plan, as it helps us to understand North Yorkshire's economic strengths, challenges and opportunities.
- 9.4** The Economic Growth Strategy together with other evidence, including the HEDNA, tells us which types of business are expected to grow. Across North Yorkshire there are a wide range of specialised businesses that make up the economy, including tourism, renewable energy generation and agriculture-food & drink production, as well as more localised economic strengths, including finance, digital, mining & quarrying, advanced manufacturing/engineering, life sciences, logistics, defence assets, cyber and equine. Emerging economic specialisms include agricultural technology, net zero, energy generation & storage, green construction, life sciences/scientific research & development and physical science & engineering. They also set out that our economy includes world leading businesses, as well as a high proportion of small and medium businesses employing between 5 and 99 people.
- 9.5** As a result of these economic specialisms, North Yorkshire has:
- a strong and diverse economy, with a thriving, entrepreneurial business base, including many small and medium businesses
 - a highly skilled workforce and strong labour market
 - employment rates that exceed UK averages, but generally we have a low wage economy with 1 in 5 jobs in North Yorkshire paying below the real living wage
 - high levels of employment in lower value sectors and part time jobs in traditional manufacturing, agricultural, tourism and retailing sectors

- limited skilled job opportunities (due to below average wages)
- a highly connected location at the heart of the North, with major sites primed for development and strong connections to east coast ports and major cities such as York, Leeds and Bradford
- access to world class research and innovation assets linked to our strengths in food, energy and bio renewables with close links to universities in Leeds, York and beyond as well as research and development centres in neighbouring areas, and
- qualification levels which exceed UK averages, but a proportion of well qualified residents are employed outside North Yorkshire.

Source: North Yorkshire Council Economic Growth Strategy 2024-2029.

9.6 One of the aims of the Economic Growth Strategy 2024-2029 is to ensure that people in North Yorkshire have the skills they need to develop their careers and meet the needs of business, for example by better aligning post-16 technical education and training to local labour market needs. Skills shortage vacancies exist within sectors such as health and social care, engineering, manufacturing, agriculture, digital technology and the green economy and there is a need to upskill those further from the labour market and help them move into employment.



9.7 The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority has identified six high opportunity development sectors:

- Industrial Biotechnology – future energy, bio renewables, decarbonisation
- Healthy Ageing – biomedical research, care businesses, health and life science; MedTech
- Creative and Digital – technology innovation, AI, film and TV, software development
- Manufacturing – food manufacturing, vehicle assembly, precision engineering; the sector includes manufacture of metal products, electrical equipment, chemicals and coatings, packaging
- Rail – infrastructure engineering and consultancy, research and innovation, Network Rail HQ activities, rail engineers
- Agri-tech – agri-food and food-related research; automation, robotics and AI; controlled environment agriculture and vertical farming; artisan, vegan and specialist food and drink

Question: Economic strengths and skills

The local plan could help to support North Yorkshire's economy by:

- providing a mix of sites to meet the needs of different types of businesses
 - encouraging employment opportunities in higher skilled jobs
 - protecting existing employment land and business uses, and
 - ensuring there is the necessary infrastructure needed to support the economic growth.
1. Are there any other ways the local plan should help to support North Yorkshire's economy?
 2. Are there specific types of businesses, either across the plan area or in specific areas, that the local plan should help? If so, please indicate which types of businesses and area?

Tourism

9.8 The North Yorkshire local plan area has a diverse range of visitor destinations which attract tourists from across the UK and overseas, including different landscape types and designations and attractions including North York Moors, Bolton Abbey and Yorkshire Dales historic railways, Castle Howard and Bolton Abbey Estates, theme parks including Flamingo Land, Lightwater Valley as well as attractions along the coast. Additionally, the extensive footpath, cycleway and bridleway network is a key attraction. The range of visitor accommodation that exists is an important part of the tourist economy, including that provided by caravan sites located along the coast, camp sites, hotels, bed and breakfasts and holiday homes.



Did you know?

Our visitor economy employs 41,000 people and generates £1.5bn of economic output each year.

Source: North Yorkshire Council Economic Growth Strategy 2024-28.

- 9.9** Tourism has a vital role to play in the continuing economic success and development of North Yorkshire.
- 9.10** The North Yorkshire Council's Economic Growth Strategy 2024-2029 recognises that there are opportunities to promote the quality and distinctiveness of experience in our places, but at the same time there are challenges relating to ensuring tourism is as environmentally and socially sustainable as possible, ensuring there is the necessary workforce as well as the challenge of enhancing quality and pay of jobs.
- 9.11** The local plan can help to deliver these opportunities and address challenges, as well as include policies to deal with proposals for new or the expansion of tourism accommodation, attractions and facilities.

Question: Tourism

The local plan could support proposals for new tourist accommodation by:

- supporting new tourist accommodation where it meets criteria set out in policy
- identifying key areas for new tourist accommodation and restricting new tourist accommodation in specific locations, and
- the use of time limits for occupancy.

1. Are there any other ways in which the local plan can help to support tourism?
2. Are there any specific areas where new or the expansion of existing visitor attractions and facilities should be focused and encouraged? If so, please specify the area/s.

Rural economy

- 9.12** Farming and agricultural practices, land management, industry, tourism, culture, transportation, shops, pubs, community services, small businesses and self employment all contribute to the rural economy and help to maintain the sustainability, vitality and viability of our rural areas. Rural locations can provide their own unique type of business opportunities. But they can impose limitations too, including the often sensitive landscapes and quiet rural character of the countryside, being served by less sustainable transport links and poorer broadband/fibre connection availability in some locations, as well as a lack of suitable employment sites and premises needed to allow rural businesses to innovate and grow.

Picture 1



- 9.13** The local plan could encourage the growth of the rural economy by enabling enterprise, welcoming innovation and supporting economic development proposals that will benefit the local economy, whilst still protecting the environment and landscape and quality of life.

Question: Rural economy

The local plan could encourage and support the growth of the rural economy by:

- supporting proposals for new or the expansion of existing rural enterprises in the countryside, including farm diversification
 - supporting proposals for the conversion of existing buildings in rural areas to commercial/business uses, and
 - protecting existing live/work units as well as supporting proposals for new units.
1. Are there any other ways in which the local plan can help to support the rural economy?
 2. Are there any other matters related to creating a prosperous economy that should be considered when preparing the new local plan?

10 Creating resilient centres



- 10.1** North Yorkshire has a range of vibrant towns and centres of varying sizes, including the city of Ripon. Each has its own character offering a range of convenience and comparison retail opportunities for residents and visitors, provided by shops and markets within our main settlements, local neighbourhood shops, groups/parades of shops, as well as some dedicated retail parks. It is the case that shoppers travel out of North Yorkshire to access the wider retail offer provided by neighbouring cities such as York, Leeds, Bradford, Tees Valley centres etc, as well as increasingly shopping online.
- 10.2** The local plan has a role to play in helping North Yorkshire's towns and centres to be places for economic, social and cultural activity, helping to ensure their vitality and viability as well as helping to sustain a network of local and neighbourhood centres that serve local needs.

NPPF requirements:

The NPPF is clear that planning policies should support the role that town centres play at the heart of local communities, by taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation. Specifically planning policies should:

- define a network and hierarchy of town centres and promote their long-term vitality and viability
 - define the extent of town centres and primary shopping areas, and make clear the range of uses permitted in such locations
 - retain and enhance existing markets and reintroduce or create new ones where appropriate
 - allocate a range of suitable sites in town centres to meet the scale and type of development likely to be needed, looking at least ten years ahead
 - allocate appropriate edge of centre sites that are well connected to the town centre where suitable and viable sites are not available for main town centres uses, and
 - recognise that residential development often plays an important role in ensuring the vitality of centres.
- 10.3** A retail study for North Yorkshire will be a key piece of evidence to inform the local plan. It will assess the vitality and viability of North Yorkshire's retail centres as well as the future retail need in terms of quantity and quality. If new retail provision is needed, then the local plan is required to allocate a range of sites to meet the need identified.
- 10.4** In line with national policy, the new local plan will also need to promote a 'town centre first' approach giving preference to town centre uses (including retail, leisure, offices, arts, tourism uses etc) to be located within town centres wherever possible, helping to support town centres to remain a focus of activity and congregation, providing good access to services and facilities and to be more resilient to changes in retail habits.

Did you know?

Harrogate, Selby and Skipton have been allocated £38.27m in funding from the Transforming Cities Fund programme for projects related to new or improved cycling and walking infrastructure, improvements to bus and rail stations and improved public spaces. Construction is planned to take place between Spring/Summer 2025 and Summer 2027. More details can be found at [Transforming Cities Fund projects in Harrogate, Selby and Skipton | North Yorkshire Council](#)

Future of our centres

Changing role of our centres

- 10.5** The way we use our centres is changing. The impact of online shopping/banking and popularity of out-of-town retail parks, in addition to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic have led to decreased footfall and increased number of vacant units in our centres. However, they are increasingly becoming a community hub, a destination and a place for congregation both during the day and at night. They are used more flexibly for work, residential, leisure, entertainment, community and other social activities, alongside retail activity. This has been supported by the introduction of the E Use Class in 2020 giving more flexibility for premises falling within that use class to change without the need for planning permission. The range of different uses, extending throughout the day and into the evening is a positive way of retaining and promoting local distinctiveness, attracting visitors and residents, and supporting our high streets and centres to remain as centres for people to come to and be in.
- 
- 10.6** The new local plan will need to include policy approaches to help our towns and centres adapt to their changing roles and maintain the overall vitality and viability of them. The plan could also provide policies or allocations to help facilitate the regeneration of our centres where necessary.
- 10.7** In terms of out of town retail, we understand that it has a part to play in the overall retail offer of the plan area. But in some cases, it has had a negative effect on the health of existing retail centres and levels of pollution and carbon emission, given that they are mostly accessed by car. There continues to be pressure for non-food retail to be located in out-of-town locations in certain areas of North Yorkshire, and any proposal would have to meet the 'town centre first' approach set out in the NPPF. However, across the country generally, especially in cities and larger towns, signs of a reversal of the trend for out of centre retail parks have started to emerge and high land values mean that some lower quality out of centre retail parks are starting to be re-purposed for other uses such as gyms.
- 10.8** The increase in online shopping has resulted in high levels of door to door deliveries, which also has a negative effect on pollution and carbon emissions. A new approach is through the creation of 'last mile centres' which are central hubs located in areas that serve people who live in both urban and rural areas where retailers and logistics companies deliver certain, smaller goods within a certain time frame. This reduces the emissions from vehicles and may also result in people using active travel to collect their goods.

- 10.9** The new local plan could consider whether to actively encourage other uses in certain out of town retail locations, set out an overall policy approach for any out of town retail proposals coming forward or encourage the location of 'last mile centres' in specific locations.

Question: Changing role of our centres

1. Thinking about your local area, which towns and centres are good examples of places where there is a range of uses i.e., retail, residential, leisure, community, entertainment etc used during the day and night? Please tell us which ones.
2. Thinking about your local area, are there any towns or centres that could be improved? If so please tell us which ones and how?
3. Do you have any suggestions of ways the local plan could also help to maintain and enhance local retail and community facilities?

Retaining local retail and community facilities

- 10.10** The local plan will need to consider how best to encourage the retention of local retail and community facilities, which provide for the day to day needs of people in their local area, such as in villages and neighbourhood centres. When planning for significant new developments, including for housing and employment, we need to take account of the everyday retail and community needs of the local community, looking at how they can access their nearest neighbourhood shops and community facilities, preferably by walking or cycling.

Knaresborough Leisure and Wellness Hub



Question: Retaining local retail and community facilities

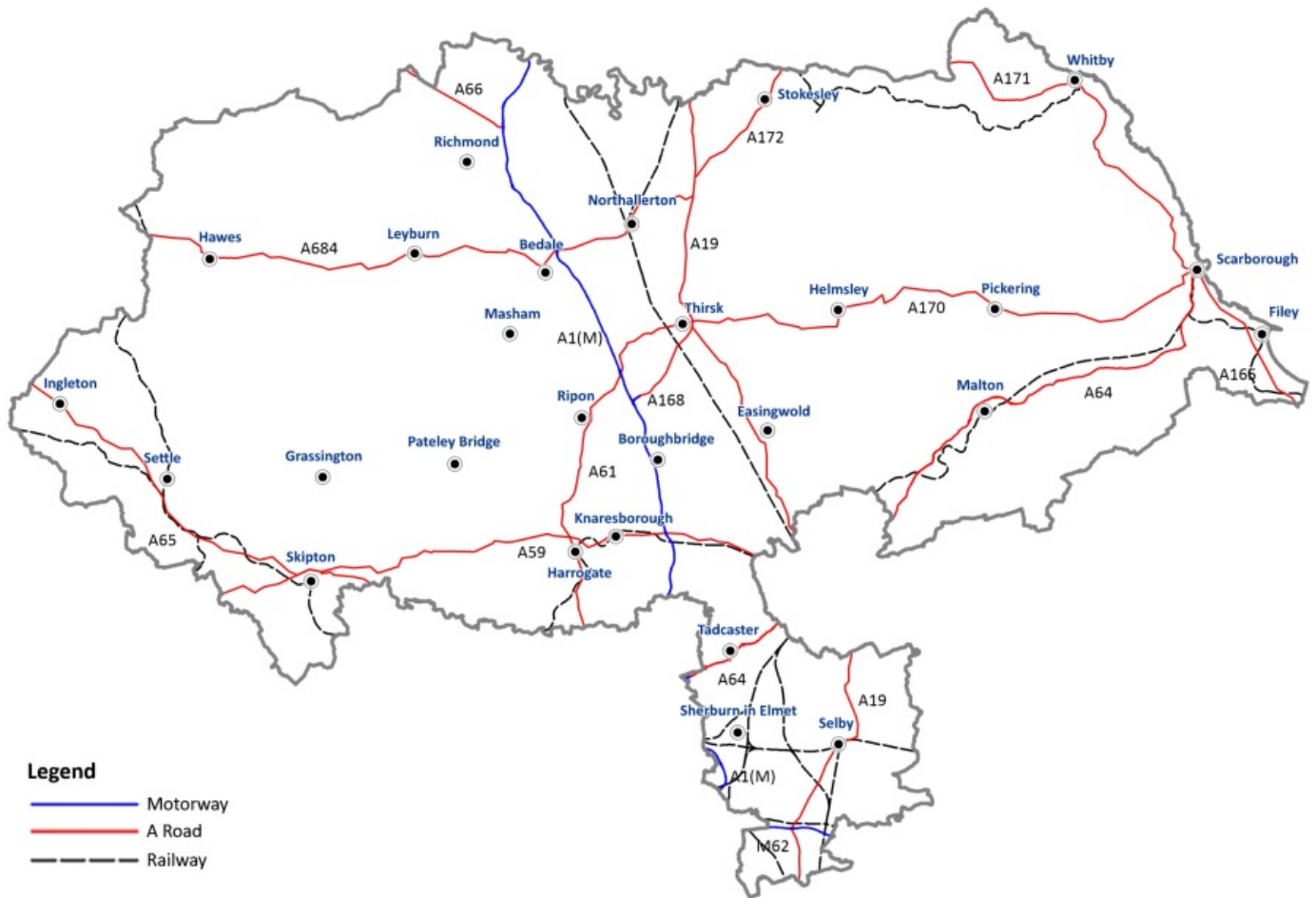
1. Are there any local retail or community facilities that are missing from your local area? If so, please tell us what is missing and where where you would like to see it located.
2. Do you have suggestions of ways the local plan could help to encourage the retention of local retail and community facilities?
3. Are there any other matters related to resilient towns and centres that should be considered when preparing the new local plan?

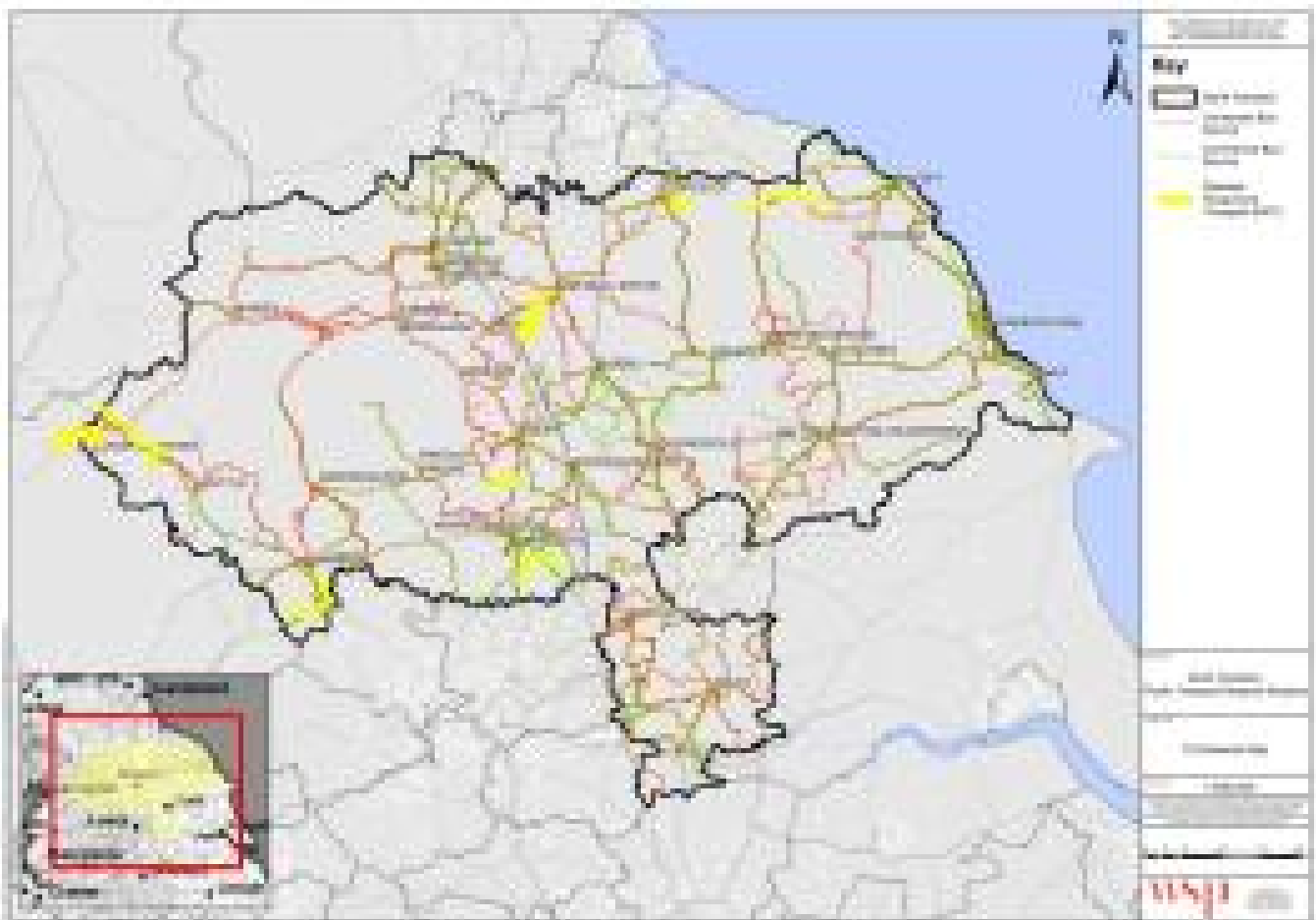
11 Ensuring sustainable transport and accessibility



11.1 The maps below show the main roads, railways and key bus networks within North Yorkshire.

Figure 6 Main roads and railways in North Yorkshire





- 11.2 Travel connects people to jobs, community services and facilities, recreation, friends and family - it has a huge impact on our lives. An efficient, reliable and safe transport network is essential for supporting the travel needs of existing communities, whilst also enabling opportunities for growth across the county. Physical infrastructure to support the operation of the transport network is therefore very important.
- 11.3 National Highways are the part of the government that plans, designs, builds, operates and maintains England's motorways and major A-class roads, known as the strategic road network (SRN) and are a statutory consultee in the planning system. North Yorkshire Council manages the public highways in North Yorkshire and is the Local Highway Authority, they also play a role in some bus services. Both will play a key role in the development of the local plan.
- 11.4 Together with the preparation of transport evidence, this process will help to identify suitable locations for new development. A spatial approach that actively promotes growth in areas that are well-served by existing and/or high-quality sustainable transport links has been identified earlier in this consultation document (insert link to growth options).
- 11.5 Network Rail own, operate, maintain and develop the railway tracks (and bridges etc.), as well as some of the largest stations. Stations in North Yorkshire are managed by train operating companies who also run the train services.
- 11.6 Bus services across North Yorkshire are provided by a number of operators offering a key network of local bus and school transport. In addition there are a number of community transport and flexible on- demand bus services available in areas that are not served by regular bus services.

NPPF requirements:

The NPPF is clear that transport issues should be considered at an early stage in preparing a local plan to identify transport solutions that deliver well-designed, sustainable and popular places.

Sustainable modes of travel such as walking, cycling or public transport should be encouraged and achieved through good design, layout and location of new development as well as through the consideration of the impact of development on transport networks, the environmental impacts of traffic and opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure.

The NPPF is clear that significant development should be focused in locations that are sustainable or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and providing a choice of travel options, which can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health. The NPPF does recognise that opportunities to maximise sustainable travel solutions does vary between rural and urban areas and this should be taken into account when preparing a local plan.

- 11.7** The local plan has an important role to play to help ensure development is supported by the correct transport infrastructure, whilst continuing to support and promote sustainable and active transport where possible. The planning system can be used to help improve accessibility and implement national planning objectives around reducing car use, and therefore carbon emissions, helping to tackle climate change.
- 11.8** The local plan represents one element of a wider suite of transport policies and strategies prepared by the Council and its partners which are intended to support each other, including but not limited to, the Local Transport Plan, the Bus Service Improvement Plan, local cycling and walking plans, the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Rollout Strategy, Routemap to Carbon Negative and the North Yorkshire Economic Growth Strategy.
- 11.9** Since its creation on 1st February 2024, the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority is the designated Local Transport Authority for the area and is responsible for preparing a single Local Transport Plan, which will provide the Mayor with widespread influence over transport policies in the area.
- 11.10** Across North Yorkshire, there is a high reliance on the private vehicle, with low public transport and active travel (walking and cycling) use. Below are some of the ways we want to reduce this dependency.

Public transport

- 11.11** One of the biggest challenges for public transport users is being able to use public transport solutions from the start of their journey, to their destination (their 'start-to-end' journey experience). The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority is committed to developing proposals for a network of travel hubs across the area which will integrate rail services, bus services and Park and Ride facilities to facilitate easy onward travel to destinations using more than one service or travel mode.

11.12



In terms of bus services, North Yorkshire has three distinct bus markets and commercial networks focused around Harrogate, Scarborough and Selby. The remaining areas of Craven, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Ryedale and associated settlements are more self-contained and lack any significant commercial network. North Yorkshire also has a strong seasonal tourism market with many bus operators providing additional services in the key tourism locations. There are also a number of community transport schemes in operation in more rural areas of North Yorkshire,

including ones that are demand driven e.g., 'dial a ride', that offer alternative modes of transport to the more traditional scheduled bus services.

11.13

In 2024 North Yorkshire Council published an update to the original 2021 [Bus Service Improvement Plan \(BSIP\)](#) which sets out its ambitions for bus use in the county until 2030. Going forward the York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority are responsible for preparing and delivering a single Bus Service Improvement Plan in 2025 and delivering bus services across the area.

11.14

In terms of rail services, North Yorkshire has 46 railway stations across the county, providing both local access, and access to strategic rail routes including the East Coast Main Line, linking North Yorkshire to London and Edinburgh. The council and its partners including the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority will work in partnership with Network Rail and train operators to achieve a better, more sustainable transport network. If a proposed new development is located near to a railway station, there are opportunities for the developer, the council and the rail companies to work together to identify what improvements and enhancements could be delivered to improve the travel and transport options supporting the development. A recent example of this is the proposed new settlement of Maltkiln, located within walking distance to Cattal station on the Harrogate rail line. Such an approach provides a realistic alternative to using the private car to access York Station and beyond, as well as travelling directly to Harrogate and onwards to Leeds.



Question: Public transport

The local plan could help to encourage the use of public transport by:

- focusing new development within areas with good public transport links
 - ensuring new development is designed to include safe access to existing public transport links via walking and cycling
 - on large mixed use sites, requiring masterplans to be prepared setting out a comprehensive strategy for development including consideration of public transport use, and
 - requiring developers to prepare travel plans to show how a development encourages public transport use.
1. Are there any other ways the local plan can encourage the use of public transport?
 2. Are there any other matters related to sustainable transport and accessibility that should be considered when preparing the new local plan?

Active travel

11.15 Active travel is travelling that involves some personal activity, such as cycling, wheeling and walking. It is a more environmentally-friendly way of traveling as it can reduce air and noise pollution, reduce carbon emissions as well as reduce congestion. It can also play a part in helping to increase physical activity and healthier lifestyle choices.

11.16 As a primarily rural authority, a key challenge to promoting active travel is the geography of the county, the distance between facilities and challenging the convenience of the private vehicles by securing routes which are safe, convenient and attractive for all users. To support this there are already a number of local cycling and walking infrastructure plans in place across the county (see [local cycling and walking infrastructure plans](#)). The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority will work with the City of York and North Yorkshire Councils to source funding for the expansion of a safe and secure active travel network that encourages day to day walking and wheeling for commuting and leisure purposes, including safe storage facilities for cycles.



Question: Active travel

The local plan could encourage an uptake in active modes of travel and a reduction in car travel by:

- focusing development in areas with good public transport links
- ensuring new development is designed to include safe walking and cycling routes
- allocating sites for a mix of uses providing opportunities for people to walk or cycle between them e.g., housing and retail
- on large mixed use sites, requiring masterplans to be prepared setting out a comprehensive strategy for development including consideration of active travel, and
- requiring developers to prepare travel plans to show how a development encourages active travel

Are there any other ways the local plan should encourage active travel and help reduce car travel?

12 Securing infrastructure to support growth



- 12.1** The local plan has a key role to play in ensuring that new development is supported by essential infrastructure and services to support sustainable development.

NPPF requirements:

The NPPF sets out the requirement for local plans to include strategic policies that make sufficient provision for the following types of infrastructure to support sustainable development:

- **Physical:** transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management.
- **Social:** facilities relating to health, education and cultural infrastructure.
- **Environmental infrastructure:** network of green and blue corridors within and between settlements, including parks, gardens, woodlands, countryside, rivers, lakes and canals.

Plans should be shaped by early engagement with infrastructure providers and should make sufficient provision for a range of infrastructure.

- 12.2** An infrastructure capacity study will be prepared which will help to understand what existing infrastructure is available, and whether it needs to be improved or increased in order to support proposed future growth across North Yorkshire. This is developed through engagement with infrastructure providers. An infrastructure delivery plan will also be prepared, providing a prioritised list of strategic infrastructure needed to successfully deliver the local plan, the timescales for delivery, estimated costs and details of how the infrastructure will be funded and who is responsible for provision. Both documents will inform and sit alongside the local plan.
- 12.3** We will also prepare a green and blue infrastructure strategy to help ensure that we deliver this infrastructure through the allocations we make in the local plan- and identify opportunities for making further connections to corridors within our existing built environment, and out into the open countryside.

Did you know?

In terms of infrastructure relating to education, North Yorkshire Council has a total of 355 schools including: 284 primary schools, 42 secondary schools, 10 special schools and 19 others comprising infant and junior schools, nurseries and pupil referral units.

Source: North Yorkshire Council



12.4 A number of specific issues relating to infrastructure in North Yorkshire have been identified below:

Accessibility of services

- 12.5** Difficulty in reaching services and facilities is a key concern for residents, with different levels of provision identified in different parts of the county. We know that the rural nature of North Yorkshire means that many people living outside of the main urban areas must travel some distance, often by car, to access the facilities and services they need. The new local plan has a role to play in providing communities with new infrastructure, needed for new development.
- 12.6** Poor digital connectivity in certain parts of the county has also been identified as a concern. Again, the new local plan can play a role in helping to improve mobile coverage and access to 'super-fast' fibre broadband.

Timing of infrastructure delivery

- 12.7** There is a need for the delivery of new infrastructure to align with new development, as it is not often possible to deliver new infrastructure in advance of the development. New infrastructure should be delivered in a timely way so that it absorbs the impacts of new development and be appropriately located.

Securing Infrastructure

- 12.8** The necessary infrastructure to support new development may need to be provided either on a development site itself e.g., services such as water supply, wastewater disposal sustainable drainage, digital connectivity, transport and active travel requirements, and open space, or it can also be off-site via developer contributions e.g., towards health care, education facilities, community spaces and strategic transport infrastructure. Having a clear and robust local plan policy setting out the approach for developer contributions will be important. This will be informed by a local plan viability assessment, which is prepared to understand the costs of infrastructure and to understand what infrastructure can be funded by developer contributions.



- 12.9** At present infrastructure is funded by developer contributions received by a combination of legal agreements known as section 106 agreements and community infrastructure levy (CIL) payments in those areas of North Yorkshire where CIL is adopted. Our annual [Infrastructure Funding Statement](#) summarises information on CIL and other developer contributions. The local plan will need consider what approach is suitable for North Yorkshire in seeking developer contributions for off site infrastructure requirements.

Question: Securing infrastructure

Are there any other matters related to securing infrastructure to support growth that should be considered when preparing the new local plan?

13 Achieving high quality design



- 13.1** North Yorkshire's rich and varied built, natural and historic environments are a significant part of what makes our area such an attractive place to live, work and visit. Creating and delivering well designed, sustainable new places and buildings will be central to ensure that we complement those existing environments and places. The local plan will help to ensure that new development delivers a high standard of design that reflects local character, contributes to local distinctiveness, promotes diverse and multi-generational communities contributing to cleaner, greener and safer places that have positive effects on health, wellbeing and quality of life of its residents.

NPPF requirements:

Local and neighbourhood plans should set out a clear design vision and expectations in policies, so that applicants have as much certainty as possible about what is likely to be acceptable.

All local planning authorities should prepare design guides or codes consistent with the principles set out in the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code, and which reflect local character and design preferences.

The NPPF Glossary defines design guides and design codes as:

Design guide: A document providing guidance on how development can be carried out in accordance with good design practice, often produced by a local authority.

Design code: A set of illustrated design requirements that provide specific, detailed parameters for the physical development of a site or area. The graphic and written components of the code should build upon a design vision, such as a masterplan or other design and development framework for a site or area.

Did you know?

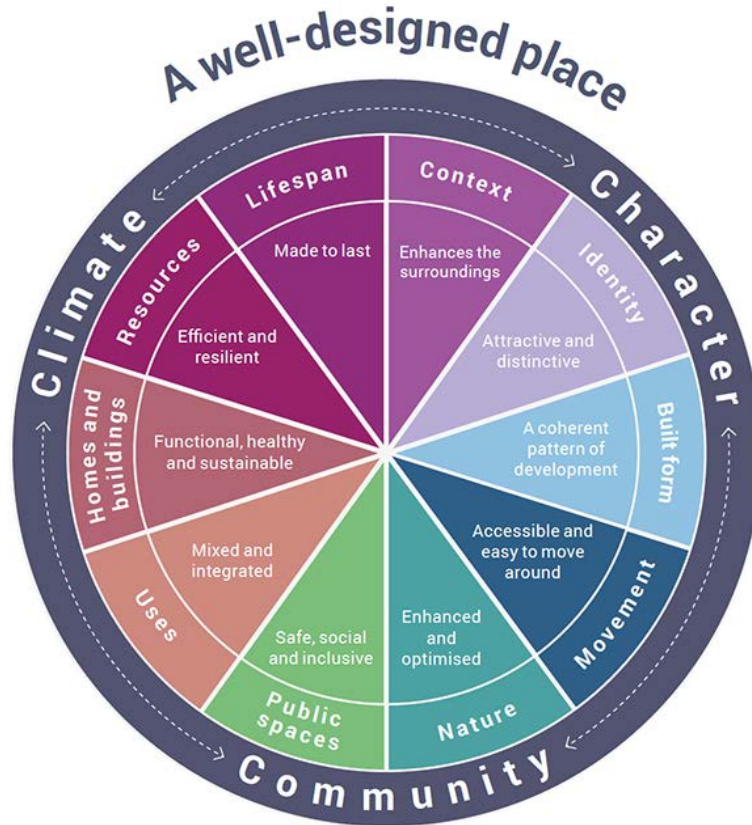
North Yorkshire has award winning regeneration schemes and housing awards, celebrating excellence in design and placemaking, including recently The Alice Hawthorn Inn at Nun Monkton which in 2022 won the RIBA Yorkshire Award, RIBA Sustainability Award and the RIBA National Award. It was congratulated for exuding quality in a simple, unfussy and robust way, fit for our times.



13.2 Design is much more than what a place looks like, it is made up of a series of elements. The government has identified 'ten characteristics of well-designed places' which are set out in the [National Design Guide](#) and cover aspects that combine to create the character of a place, help to nurture and sustain a sense of community, and work positively to address environmental issues, and are illustrated below:

Ten characteristics of well-designed places

Figure 7 - Ten characteristics of well-designed places



Source: [National Design Guide, 2021](#)

13.3 As required by the NPPF, the local plan will need to set out an overarching design vision. In addition we are required to prepare design guides and codes that will address the ten characteristics of well designed places set out above, which will reflect local character and design preferences. They will be used to deliver high-quality design consistently across North Yorkshire.

13.4 We then need to consider whether more locally specific design codes should be prepared to complement that North Yorkshire wide guide. These may relate to specific areas, sites or for specific types of land use e.g., residential or employment etc.

13.5 It is important that the overall design vision, design guides and codes are developed with local communities so it is important to understand what it is that people value about where they live and what they think could be improved, in terms of design, and this has shaped the questions below.



Question: Achieving high quality design

1. Thinking about the area where you live, and the buildings, streets and spaces within it:
 - In a few words what is the one thing that you most like about where you live?
 - In a few words is there one thing you would like to change about where you live?
2. In your local area or across the plan area please provide examples of features or design that have helped to create well designed developments. Please specify the area.
3. Are there any other matters related to achieving high quality design that should be considered when preparing the new local plan?

14 Safeguarding the historic environment



- 14.1** The local plan has a key role to play in helping to ensure that through new development and growth, North Yorkshire's high quality historic environment is conserved and enhanced whilst also recognising the opportunity to regenerate and improve our historic town centres for residents and visitors.

NPPF requirements:

Local plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. This must include the ability to sustain or enhance the significance of heritage assets, by allowing viable uses consistent with their conservation.

Local planning authorities should maintain or have access to a historic environment record, which should contain up-to-date evidence about the historic environment in the area and be used to assess the significance of the heritage assets as well as used to predict the likelihood unidentified heritage assets will be discovered in the future.

Did you know?

There are currently just over 9000 listed buildings in the North Yorkshire Local Plan area. These are then broken down into over 8000 grade II, over 400 grade II* and over 200 grade I listed buildings.

North Yorkshire Council area contains 258 conservation areas, 760 scheduled monuments, 39 registered parks and gardens, such as Hackfall Wood and Castle Howard, 5 registered battlefields including Towton, the World Heritage Site of Studley Royal Park and Fountains Abbey, and over 33,500 monuments within the Historic Environment Record (HER).

Sources: North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record

- 14.2** North Yorkshire has a rich and varied historic environment which defines the area, creates unique and distinctive places and a sense place. From rich maritime history, to brewing industry and rail, the decisions and actions from the past have inspired a tapestry of architectural styles throughout the North Yorkshire. Evidence, in the form of a historic environment record, ensures that we have information to understand North Yorkshire's heritage and what is significant about our heritage assets and why we need to protect/enhance them. This is very important, as our heritage is essentially finite - once it is lost, it cannot be replaced.

14.3 Designated heritage assets are world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, protected wreck sites, registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields and conservation areas (which protect trees within those area). Our plan area contains many of these assets and we have a duty to protect them.



14.4 North Yorkshire also has a wealth of



non-designated heritage assets, including buildings, monuments, sites/areas of archaeological sensitivity, historic parks and gardens or other designated landscapes that, as a result of their local significance, merit consideration in planning decisions. We also keep a record of these in the Heritage Environment Record (HER). The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (Oct 2023) strengthens the importance of the HER, making it a requirement to have it, and to use it to strengthen the protection of heritage assets in the making of planning policy, looking at allocations for development and to making decisions on planning applications.

14.5 The HER is continually updated as we understand more about our archaeological record, just because we do not have a record does not mean there is no archaeology, only that nothing has been encountered yet.

14.6 In terms of protecting and enhancing the historic environment there are many ways that the planning system can help to achieve this including:

- maintaining and facilitating digital access to the HER
- identifying non designated heritage assets through a local list
- preparing conservation area appraisals to understand the features which are important in conservation areas and steps to protect and enhance those features
- identify heritage assets at risk and consider appropriate measures to safeguard their special architectural or historic interest
- ensuring new development is encouraged to contribute to and complement the character and local distinctiveness of an area or location by understanding that local distinctiveness and contributes positively to the character and appearance of our historic environment
- creating Article 4 Directions in areas which have features that need protecting. These remove or restrict permitted development rights from a site or area, meaning planning permission is required, and
- encouraging the sensitive and creative reuse of heritage assets.

14.7 The HER, conservation area appraisals, local lists and heritage assets at risk registers (where available) are some of the local evidence that helps us to understand our heritage environment and will be key in the development and justification of local plan policies relating to heritage.

Question: Safeguarding the historic environment

1. Do you think we have addressed the key themes and issues relating to the Historic Environment?

2. Is there anything else that the local plan can do to protect and enhance the historic environment?

15 Delivering the Local Plan



- 15.1** Ensuring that the local plan is deliverable is an essential part of this process. The document has set out land use issues, many of which could be addressed through the delivery of development (typically housing) and the associated on-site delivery of infrastructure, higher building standards and financial contributions. New housing development remains a top priority of Government and the increased levels of housing that the plan will seek to deliver could offer opportunities to deliver the following (not an exhaustive list):
- Infrastructure including open space, education capacity, investment into primary health care, transport infrastructure and more
 - Affordable homes
 - Homes that are of a specific space standard (in accordance with nationally described space standards)
 - Accessible, adaptable and wheelchair accessible homes
 - The need to be energy efficient in terms of future energy requirements and construction
 - Carbon emission 'offsetting' measures, e.g. areas for enhanced tree planting or natural habitat creation
 - Buildings that are designed to be more water efficient
- 15.2** All of these are priorities in their own right and those listed under the first bullet point will normally be mandatory requirements for developers to deliver. The remainder of the requirements are optional, however, the local plan could set out which of these areas should be prioritised when considering development proposals.
- 15.3** The national planning practice guidance (NPPG) states that plans should set out the contributions expected from development. This should include the levels and types of affordable housing required, along with other infrastructure (such as that needed for education, health, transport, flood and water management, green and digital infrastructure). These policy requirements should be informed by evidence of infrastructure and affordable housing need, and a proportionate assessment of viability that takes into account all relevant policies, and local and national standards, including the cost implications of the Community Infrastructure Levy (if that is being applied) and Section 106. Policy requirements need to be clearly set out so that they can be accurately accounted for in the price paid for land.
- 15.4** The preparation of the local plan will determine the levels of affordable housing that will be sought across North Yorkshire as well as any other adopted requirements from the options listed in this section, though as stated this is not necessarily an exhaustive list. To understand locally what is important the following question asks for you to rank your preferences in terms of what development should aim to deliver.

Question: Local plan delivery- priorities for the development plan to address

If you put the usual or mandatory requirements to one side (contributions towards education and schools, open space provision, local health providers, etc), please rank what you consider should be the top priorities that development should, where possible, contribute towards:

- the delivery of affordable and social housing

- the provision of homes that meet specific space standards and have larger room sizes than have recently been delivered (meeting the nationally described space standards)
- the provision of accessible, adaptable and wheelchair accessible homes
- the need to be more energy efficient in terms of future energy requirements and construction techniques
- implementing carbon offsetting measures that could include tree planting and natural habitat creation (exceeding the current mandatory 10% increase in biodiversity net gain)
- higher quality design
- incorporating greater water efficiency into buildings, and/or
- other priorities (please specify in your response).

16 Your city, town or village



- 16.1** To help us in considering how the local plan could reflect local aspirations and priorities, we would like you to tell us about any specific issues in your local area.

Question: Your city, town or village

Please be aware that with the following two questions we are not consulting on sites and any comments which make reference to sites will not be considered. We will be consulting on sites at a later date (currently scheduled for 2026)

1. Are there any specific issues in your city, town, village or local area that the local plan could help to address? Please tell us what the issue is, which settlement it affects and how you think the new local plan could help to address the issue.
2. Is there anything else you wish to bring to our attention relating to the new North Yorkshire Local Plan at this early stage?

A: Glossary

- A.1** We want to compile an easy to understand explanation of what the terms used in planning policy mean. This is based on the glossary that is included in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with some additional terms added to reflect those used in this consultation document. However, if there are more terms that you think we should explain, please let us know by using the question box below.

Affordable housing

Housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers); and which complies with one or more of the following definitions (This definition should be read in conjunction with relevant policy contained in the Affordable Homes Update Written Ministerial Statement published on 24 May 2021. As noted in NPPF footnote 31, however, the 25% minimum delivery requirement for First Homes no longer applies.):

- a. **Social rent:** meets all of the following conditions: (a) the rent is set in accordance with the Government's rent policy for Social Rent; (b) the landlord is a registered provider; and (c) it includes provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.
- b. **Other affordable housing for rent:** meets all of the following conditions: (a) the rent is set in accordance with the Government's rent policy for Affordable Rent, or is at least 20% below local market rents (including service charges where applicable); (b) the landlord is a registered provider, except where it is included as part of a Build to Rent scheme (in which case the landlord need not be a registered provider); and (c) it includes provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision. For Build to Rent schemes, affordable housing for rent is expected to be the normal form of affordable housing provision (and, in this context, is known as Affordable Private Rent).
- c. **Discounted market sales housing:** is that sold at a discount of at least 20% below local market value. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Provisions should be in place to ensure housing remains at a discount for future eligible households.
- d. **Other affordable routes to home ownership:** is housing provided for sale that provides a route to ownership for those who could not achieve home ownership through the market. It includes shared ownership, relevant equity loans, other low cost homes for sale (at a price equivalent to at least 20% below local market value) and rent to buy (which includes a period of intermediate rent). Where public grant funding is provided, there should be provisions for the homes to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for any receipts to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision, or refunded to Government or the relevant authority specified in the funding agreement.

Air quality management areas

Areas designated by local authorities because they are not likely to achieve national air quality objectives by the relevant deadlines.

Ancient or veteran tree

A tree which, because of its age, size and condition, is of exceptional biodiversity, cultural or heritage value. All ancient trees are veteran trees. Not all veteran trees are old enough to be ancient, but are old relative to other trees of the same species. Very few trees of any species reach the ancient life-stage.

Ancient woodland

An area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. It includes ancient semi-natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS).

Archaeological interest

There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.

Article 4 direction

A direction made under [Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning \(General Permitted Development\) \(England\) Order 2015](#) which withdraws permitted development rights granted by that Order.

Best and most versatile agricultural land

Land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification.

Brownfield land

See Previously developed land.

Brownfield land registers

Registers of previously developed land that local planning authorities consider to be appropriate for residential development, having regard to criteria in the Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Registers) Regulations 2017. Local planning authorities will be able to trigger a grant of permission in principle for residential development on suitable sites in their registers where they follow the required procedures.

Build to Rent

Purpose built housing that is typically 100% rented out. It can form part of a wider multi-tenure development comprising either flats or houses, but should be on the same site and/or contiguous with the main development. Schemes will usually offer longer tenancy agreements of three years or more, and will typically be professionally managed stock in single ownership and management control.

Climate change adaptation

Adjustments made to natural or human systems in response to the actual or anticipated impacts of climate change, to mitigate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.

Climate change mitigation

Action to reduce the impact of human activity on the climate system, primarily through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Coastal change management area

An area identified in plans as likely to be affected by physical change to the shoreline through erosion, coastal landslip, permanent inundation or coastal accretion.

Community forest

An area identified through the England Community Forest Programme to revitalise countryside and green space in and around major conurbations.

Community right to build order

An Order made by the local planning authority (under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) that grants planning permission for a site-specific development proposal or classes of development.

Community-led developments

A development instigated and taken forward by a not-for-profit organisation that is primarily for the purpose of meeting the housing needs of its members and the wider local community, rather than being a primarily commercial enterprise. The organisation is created, managed and democratically controlled by its members. It may take any one of various legal forms including a community land trust, housing co-operative and community benefit society. Membership of the organisation is open to all beneficiaries and prospective beneficiaries of that organisation. The organisation should own, manage or steward the homes in a manner consistent with its purpose, for example through a mutually supported arrangement with a Registered Provider of Social Housing. The benefits of the development to the specified community should be clearly defined and consideration given to how these benefits can be protected over time, including in the event of the organisation being wound up.

Competent person (to prepare site investigation information)

A person with a recognised relevant qualification, sufficient experience in dealing with the type(s) of pollution or land instability, and membership of a relevant professional organisation.

Conservation (for heritage)

The process of maintaining and managing change to a heritage asset in a way that sustains and, where appropriate, enhances its significance.

Council Priorities

The North Yorkshire Local Plan will help to deliver parts of the [Council Plan \(2025-2028\)](#) particularly with respect to delivering the land use elements of this key corporate policy. The North Yorkshire Council Plan sets out our vision and ambitions for North Yorkshire and the approach we are taking to achieve them.

Decentralised energy

Local renewable and local low carbon energy sources.

Deliverable

To be considered deliverable, sites for housing should be available now, offer a suitable location for development now, and be achievable with a realistic prospect that housing will be delivered on the site within five years. In particular:

- a. sites which do not involve major development and have planning permission, and all sites with detailed planning permission, should be considered deliverable until permission expires, unless there is clear evidence that homes will not be delivered within five years (for example because they are no longer viable, there is no longer a demand for the type of units or sites have long term phasing plans).
- b. where a site has outline planning permission for major development, has been allocated in a development plan, has a grant of permission in principle, or is identified on a brownfield register, it should only be considered deliverable where there is clear evidence that housing completions will begin on site within five years.

Design code

A set of illustrated design requirements that provide specific, detailed parameters for the physical development of a site or area. The graphic and written components of the code should build upon a design vision, such as a masterplan or other design and development framework for a site or area.

Design guide

A document providing guidance on how development can be carried out in accordance with good design practice, often produced by a local authority.

Designated heritage asset

A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation.

Designated rural areas

National Parks, National Landscapes and areas designated as 'rural' under Section 157 of the Housing Act 1985.

Developable

To be considered developable, sites should be in a suitable location for housing development with a reasonable prospect that they will be available and could be viably developed at the point envisaged.

Development plan

Is defined in section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and includes adopted local plans, neighbourhood plans that have been made and published spatial development strategies, together with any regional strategy policies that remain in force. Neighbourhood plans that have been approved at referendum are also part of the development plan, unless the local planning authority decides that the neighbourhood plan should not be made.

Duty to Cooperate

Legal requirement on the Council to engage with neighbouring authorities and certain major public bodies and infrastructure regulators to ensure strategic cross-boundary and regional needs are catered for, where appropriate and possible.

Early years

The provision of childcare (including education) for a young child, meaning a child from birth to the September after the child turns 5.

Edge of centre

For retail purposes, a location that is well connected to, and up to 300 metres from, the primary shopping area. For all other main town centre uses, a location within 300 metres of a town centre boundary. For office development, this includes locations outside the town centre but within 500 metres of a public transport interchange. In determining whether a site falls within the definition of edge of centre, account should be taken of local circumstances.

Environmental impact assessment

A procedure to be followed for certain types of project to ensure that decisions are made in full knowledge of any likely significant effects on the environment.

Essential local workers

Public sector employees who provide frontline services in areas including health, education and community safety – such as NHS staff, teachers, police, firefighters and military personnel, social care and childcare workers.

General aviation airfields

Licensed or unlicensed aerodromes with hard or grass runways, often with extensive areas of open land related to aviation activity.

Geodiversity

The range of rocks, minerals, fossils, soils and landforms.

Green infrastructure

A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity.

Grey belt

For the purposes of plan-making and decision-making, 'grey belt' is defined as land in the green belt comprising Previously Developed Land and any other parcels and/or areas of Green Belt land that make a limited contribution to the five Green Belt purposes (as defined in para 140 of the NPPF), but excluding those areas or assets of particular importance listed in footnote 7 of the NPPF (other than land designated as Green Belt).

Habitats Regulations

Requires the Council to consider the protection of European nature conservation sites, which are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protected Areas (SPAs), Ramsar Sites and areas secured as sites compensating for damage to a European site. This is done through a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to test whether development plans or project proposals could significantly harm the designated features of a European site. This process is a legal requirement for all plans or proposals that affect land use. European sites within and around North Yorkshire Local Plan area can be viewed using [Natural England's mapping](#)

Habitats site

Any site which would be included within the definition at regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 for the purpose of those regulations, including candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and any relevant Marine Sites.

Heritage asset

A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).

Heritage coast

Areas of undeveloped coastline which are managed to conserve their natural beauty and, where appropriate, to improve accessibility for visitors.

Historic environment

All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.

Historic environment record

Information services that seek to provide access to comprehensive and dynamic resources relating to the historic environment of a defined geographic area for public benefit and use.

Housing delivery test

Measures net homes delivered in a local authority area against the homes required, using national statistics and local authority data. The Secretary of State will publish the Housing Delivery Test results for each local authority in England annually.

International, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity

All international sites (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, and Ramsar sites), national sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) and locally designated sites including Local Wildlife Sites.

Irreplaceable habitat

Habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity. They include ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, blanket bog, limestone pavement, sand dunes, salt marsh and lowland fen.

Local Development Order

An Order made by a local planning authority (under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) that grants planning permission for a specific development proposal or classes of development.

Local Enterprise Partnership

A body, designated by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, established for the purpose of creating or improving the conditions for economic growth in an area.

Local housing need

The number of homes identified as being needed through the application of the standard method set out in national planning guidance.

Local nature partnership

A body, designated by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, established for the purpose of protecting and improving the natural environment in an area and the benefits derived from it.

Local planning authority

The public authority whose duty it is to carry out specific planning functions for a particular area. All references to local planning authority include the district council, London borough council, county council, Broads Authority, National Park Authority, the Mayor of London and a development corporation, to the extent appropriate to their responsibilities.

Local plan

A plan for the future development of a local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. A local plan can consist of either strategic or non-strategic policies, or a combination of the two.

Main town centre uses

Retail development (including warehouse clubs and factory outlet centres); leisure, entertainment and more intensive sport and recreation uses (including cinemas, restaurants, drive-through restaurants, bars and pubs, nightclubs, casinos, health and fitness centres, indoor bowling centres and bingo halls); offices; and arts, culture and tourism development (including theatres, museums, galleries and concert halls, hotels and conference facilities).

Major development (Other than for the specific purposes of paragraphs 182 and 183 in the NPPF)

For housing, development where 10 or more homes will be provided, or the site has an area of 0.5 hectares or more. For non-residential development it means additional floorspace of 1,000m² or more, or a site of 1 hectare or more, or as otherwise provided in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.

Major hazard sites, installations and pipelines

Sites and infrastructure, including licensed explosive sites and nuclear installations, around which Health and Safety Executive (and Office for Nuclear Regulation) consultation distances to mitigate the consequences to public safety of major accidents may apply.

Mansard roof

A type of roof that is characterised by two slopes, the lower steep and the upper shallow. It is generally regarded as a suitable type of roof extension for buildings which are part of a terrace of at least three buildings and at least two stories tall, with a parapet running the entire length of the front façade (reference: Create Streets, 2021, Living Tradition).

Minerals resources of local and national importance

Minerals which are necessary to meet society's needs, including aggregates, brickclay (especially Etruria Marl and fireclay), silica sand (including high grade silica sands), coal derived fly ash in single use deposits, cement raw materials, gypsum, salt, fluorspar, shallow and deep-mined coal, oil and gas (including conventional and unconventional hydrocarbons), tungsten, kaolin, ball clay, potash, polyhalite and local minerals of importance to heritage assets and local distinctiveness.

Mineral consultation area

a geographical area based on a Mineral Safeguarding Area, where the district or borough council should consult the Mineral Planning Authority for any proposals for non-minerals development.

Mineral safeguarding area

An area designated by minerals planning authorities which covers known deposits of minerals which are desired to be kept safeguarded from unnecessary sterilisation by non-mineral development.

National landscapes

Areas legally designated as areas of outstanding natural beauty under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

These are the Government's statement for national planning policy and the guidance on its implementation. To be found sound at independent Examination, a local plan must comply with paragraph 36 of the NPPF which states that a local plan should be (a) positively prepared to meet objectively assessed need, (b) justified by an appropriate strategy and proportionate evidence, (c) effective, in other words the plan should be deliverable and (d) consistent with National Policy

National trails

Long distance routes for walking, cycling and horse riding.

Natural flood management

managing flood and coastal erosion risk by protecting, restoring and emulating the natural 'regulating' function of catchments, rivers, floodplains and coasts.

Nature recovery network

An expanding, increasingly connected, network of wildlife rich habitats supporting species recovery, alongside wider benefits such as carbon capture, water quality improvements, natural flood risk management and recreation. It includes the existing network of protected sites and other wildlife rich habitats as well as and landscape or catchment scale recovery areas where there is coordinated action for species and habitats.

Neighbourhood development order

An Order made by a local planning authority (under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) through which parish councils and neighbourhood forums can grant planning permission for a specific development proposal or classes of development.

Neighbourhood plan

A plan prepared by a parish council or neighbourhood forum for a designated neighbourhood area. In law this is described as a neighbourhood development plan in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Non-strategic policies

Policies contained in a neighbourhood plan, or those policies in a local plan that are not strategic policies.

Older people

People over or approaching retirement age, including the active, newly retired through to the very frail elderly; and whose housing needs can encompass accessible, adaptable general needs housing through to the full range of retirement and specialised housing for those with support or care needs.

Open space

All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity.

Original building

A building as it existed on 1 July 1948 or, if constructed after 1 July 1948, as it was built originally.

Out of centre

A location which is not in or on the edge of a centre but not necessarily outside the urban area.

Out of town

A location out of centre that is outside the existing urban area.

Outstanding universal value

Cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations. An individual Statement of Outstanding Universal Value is agreed and adopted by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee for each World Heritage Site.

People with disabilities

People have a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment, and that impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. These persons include, but are not limited to, people with ambulatory difficulties, blindness, learning difficulties, autism and mental health needs.

Public Sector Equality Duty

The Equality Act 2010 requires the council, as a public body in preparing the local plan, to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty by taking into account the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act; advancing quality of opportunity and fostering good relationships between people who share or do not share a protected characteristic. Protected characteristics are: age, disability, sex, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief, pregnancy or maternity and marriage or civil partnership. Under the Act, North Yorkshire Council also includes the characteristics of people in rural areas, people on a low income and carers. The assessment of equalities matters within the local plan will be embedded within the Sustainability Appraisal of the local plan, alongside the production of an Equalities Impact Assessment at each stage of the process.

Permission in principle

A form of planning consent which establishes that a site is suitable for a specified amount of housing-led development in principle. Following a grant of permission in principle, the site must receive a grant of technical details consent before development can proceed.

Planning condition

A condition imposed on a grant of planning permission (in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) or a condition included in a Local Development Order or Neighbourhood Development Order.

Planning obligation

A legal agreement entered into under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal.

Playing field

The whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.

Post-16

Young people who are over compulsory school age but under 19, or aged 19 or over and for whom an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan is maintained.

Previously developed land

Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. This excludes: land that is or was last occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings; land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill, where provision for restoration has been made through development management procedures; land in built-up areas such as residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and land that was previously developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape.

Primary shopping area

Defined area where retail development is concentrated.

Priority habitats and species

Species and Habitats of Principal Importance included in the England Biodiversity List published by the Secretary of State under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

Ramsar sites

Wetlands of international importance, designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention.

Reasonable future scenarios (for assessing potential highways impacts)

A range of realistic transport scenarios tested in agreement with the local planning authority and other relevant bodies (including statutory consultees where appropriate), to assess potential impacts and determine the optimum transport infrastructure required to mitigate any adverse impacts, promote sustainable modes of travel and realise the vision for the site.

Renewable and low carbon energy

Includes energy for heating and cooling as well as generating electricity. Renewable energy covers those energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment – from the wind, the fall of water, the movement of the oceans, from the sun and also from biomass and deep geothermal heat. Low carbon technologies are those that can help reduce emissions (compared to conventional use of fossil fuels).

Recycled aggregates

aggregates resulting from the processing of inorganic materials previously used in construction, e.g. construction and demolition waste.

Rural exception sites

Small sites used for affordable housing in perpetuity where sites would not normally be used for housing. Rural exception sites seek to address the needs of the local community by accommodating households who are either current residents or have an existing family or employment connection. A proportion of market homes may be allowed on the site at the local planning authority's discretion, for example where essential to enable the delivery of affordable units without grant funding.

Safeguarding zone

An area defined in Circular 01/03: Safeguarding aerodromes, technical sites and military explosives storage areas, to which specific safeguarding provisions apply.

Secondary aggregates

aggregates from industrial wastes such as glass (cullet), incinerator bottom ash, coal derived fly ash, railway ballast, fine ceramic waste (pitcher), and scrap tyres; and industrial and minerals by-products, notably waste from china clay, coal and slate extraction and spent foundry sand. These can also include hydraulically bound materials.

Self-build and custom-build housing

Housing built by an individual, a group of individuals, or persons working with or for them, to be occupied by that individual. Such housing can be either market or affordable housing. A legal definition, for the purpose of applying the Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015 (as amended), is contained in section 1(A1) and (A2) of that Act.

Setting of a heritage asset

The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.

Significance (for heritage policy)

The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. The interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting. For World Heritage Sites, the cultural value described within each site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value forms part of its significance.

Special areas of conservation

Areas defined by regulation 3 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 which have been given special protection as important conservation sites.

Special protection areas

Areas classified under regulation 15 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 which have been identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds.

Site investigation information

Includes a risk assessment of land potentially affected by contamination, or ground stability and slope stability reports, as appropriate. All investigations of land potentially affected by contamination should be carried out in accordance with established procedures (such as BS10175 Investigation of Potentially Contaminated Sites – Code of Practice).

Site of special scientific Interest

Sites designated by Natural England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Spatial development strategy

A plan containing strategic policies prepared by a Mayor or a combined authority. It includes the London Plan (prepared under provisions in the Greater London Authority Act 1999) and plans prepared by combined authorities that have been given equivalent plan-making functions by an order made under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (as amended).

Stepping stones

Pockets of habitat that, while not necessarily connected, facilitate the movement of species across otherwise inhospitable landscapes.

Strategic environmental assessment

A procedure (set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004) which requires the formal environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Strategic policies

Policies and site allocations which address strategic priorities in line with the requirements of Section 19 (1B-E) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Strategic policy-making authorities

Those authorities responsible for producing strategic policies (local planning authorities, and elected Mayors or combined authorities, where this power has been conferred). This definition applies whether the authority is in the process of producing strategic policies or not.

Sustainability Appraisal

Legal requirement to assess the economic, social and environmental effects of the local plan and to monitor its effects. It will help to assess different local plan policy options to determine which are the best ones for the plan area as well as helping to identify how to reduce any harmful effects from the plan. The first stage of the sustainability appraisal process is the preparation of a Scoping Report which helps to identify the SA objectives and framework to be used in the appraisal of the local plan.

Supplementary planning documents

Documents which add further detail to the policies in the development plan. They can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues, such as design. Supplementary planning documents are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the development plan.

Sustainable drainage system

A sustainable drainage system controls surface water run off close to where it falls, combining a mixture of built and nature-based techniques to mimic natural drainage as closely as possible, and accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change. The type of system that would be appropriate will vary from small scale interventions such as permeable paving and soakaways that can be used in very small developments to larger integrated schemes in major developments.

Sustainable transport modes

Any efficient, safe and accessible means of transport with overall low impact on the environment, including walking and cycling, ultra low and zero emission vehicles, car sharing and public transport.

Town centre

Area defined on the local authority's policies map, including the primary shopping area and areas predominantly occupied by main town centre uses within or adjacent to the primary shopping area. References to town centres or centres apply to city centres, town centres, district centres and local centres but exclude small parades of shops of purely neighbourhood significance. Unless they are identified as centres in the development plan, existing out-of-centre developments, comprising or including main town centre uses, do not constitute town centres.

Transport assessment

A comprehensive and systematic process that sets out transport issues relating to a proposed development. It identifies measures required to improve accessibility and safety for all modes of travel, particularly for alternatives to the car such as walking, cycling and public transport, and measures that will be needed deal with the anticipated transport impacts of the development.

Transport statement

A simplified version of a transport assessment where it is agreed the transport issues arising from development proposals are limited and a full transport assessment is not required.

Travel plan

A long-term management strategy for an organisation or site that seeks to deliver sustainable transport objectives and is regularly reviewed.

Vision-led approach

An approach to transport planning based on setting outcomes for a development based on achieving well-designed, sustainable and popular places, and providing the transport solutions to deliver those outcomes as opposed to predicting future demand to provide capacity (often referred to as 'predict and provide').

Wildlife corridor

Areas of habitat connecting wildlife populations.

Windfall site

A site not specifically identified in the development plan.

Question: Glossary

Are there other terms you think we should define?

B: Settlement hierarchy

B.1 The following table shows the indicative settlement hierarchy from tiers 1 to 6. Within each of the individual tiers the settlements are presented alphabetically and not in any order. See Other growth considerations for more details.

Table 1 Indicative Settlement Tiers

Settlement Tier	Settlement
Tier 1 - Major Towns	Harrogate, Scarborough
Tier 2 - Key Service Centres	Catterick Garrison with Scotton, Knaresborough (inc. Scriven), Malton, Norton & Old Malton, Northallerton & Romanby, Ripon, Selby, Skipton, Thirsk & Sowerby, Whitby
Tier 3 - Local Service Centres	Barlby & Osgodby, Bedale with Aiskew, Boroughbridge (inc. Langthorpe and part of Milby parish), Brayton, Cross Hills, Easingwold, Filey, Glusburn & Sutton-in-Craven, Great Ayton, Kirkbymoorside, Pickering, Richmond, Settle & Giggleswick, Sherburn in Elmet, Stokesley, Tadcaster, Thorpe Willoughby
Tier 4 - Neighbourhood Service Centres	Byram & Brotherton, Brompton (former Hambleton area), Brompton on Swale, Burniston, Catterick Village, Cawood, Cononley, Cowling, East & West Ayton, Eggborough, Embsay, Gargrave, Hambleton (former Selby area), Hellifield, Helmsley, Hemingborough, High Bentham, Hunmanby, Hutton Rudby, Ingleton, Killinghall, Leyburn, Masham, Pannal & Burn Bridge, Pately Bridge (inc. Bridgehouse Gate), Riccal, Rillington, Seamer and Irton, Sleights, South Milford, Thornton-le-Dale, Tockwith
Tier 5 - Small Settlement	Aldbrough St John, Alne, Ampleforth, Arkendale, Asenby, Bagby, Barkston Ash, Barlow, Barton, Beadlam & Nawton, Beal, Birstwith, Bishop Monkton, Borrowby, Brafferton & Helperby, Burneston, Burnt Yates, Burton in Lonsdale, Burton Leonard, Burton Salmon, Camblesforth, Carleton, Carlton, Carlton Miniott, Carthorpe, Church Fenton, Cliffe, Cloughton, Crakehall, Crayke, Dacre Banks, Dalton near Thirsk, Darley, Dishforth, Drax, East Cowton, East Harlsey, Ebberston & Yedingham, Escrick, Exelby, Fairburn, Farnhill & Kildwick, Ferrensby, Follifoot, Former Church Fenton Airbase, Glasshouses, Goldsborough, Great Broughton, Great Ouseburn & Branton Green, Green Hammerton, Gristhorpe, Hampsthwaite, Hensall, Hovingham, Huby (near Harrogate), Huby, (nr Easingwold), Hunton, Huthwaite, Kellington, Kirby Hill, Kirk Deighton, Kirk Hammerton, Kirk Smeaton, Kirkby Malzeard, Knayton, Leavening, Leeming, Leeming Bar, Linton-on-Ouse, Little Ribston, Long Marston, Long Preston, Low Bentham, Low Bradley, Lower Dunsforth, Markington, Marton cum Grafton, Melmerby, Melsonby, Middleham, Middleton, Minskip, Monk Fryston & Hillam, Morton-on-Swale, Newton-on-Ouse, North Duffield, North Stainley, Rainton, Raskelf & The Green, Scorton, Scotton, Scruton, Sessay, Sharow, Sherburn, Sheriff Hutton, Shipton, Sinnington, Skipwith, Slingsby, Snainton, South Kilvington, Spofforth, Staveley, Staxton & Willerby, Stillington, Summerbridge, Sutton-on-the-Forest, Swinton, Terrington, Thornton in Craven, Tollerton, Topcliffe, Ulleskelf, Welburn, Westow, Whitley, Whixley, Wistow, Womersley
Tier 6 - Countryside	Acaster Selby, Acklam, Ainderby Quernhow, Ainderby Steeple, Aislaby, Aldborough, Aldfield, Aldwark, Allerston, Allerton Mauleverer, Alne Station, Amotherby, Angram, Appleton Roebuck, Appleton Wiske, Appleton-le-Street with Easthorpe, Aske, Askwith, Baldersby, Baldersby St James, Balk, Balne, Barden, Barton-le-Street, Barton-le-Willows, Barugh (Great and Little), Beckwithshaw, Bedlam, Bellerby, Beningbrough, Beverley, Bickerton, Biggin, Bilbrough, Bilton in Ainsty, Birdsall, Birkin, Bishop Thornton, Bolton Abbey, Bolton on Swale, Bolton Percy, Brandsby, Brawby, Brearton, Bridge Hewick, Brompton-by-Sawdon, Broughton, Broughton, Bulmer, Burn, Burrill, Burythorpe, Buttercrambe with Bossall, Caldwell, Carlton Huthwaite, Castley, Cattal, Catterton, Catton, Cawton, Chapel Haddlesey, Clapham, Claxton, Cleasby, Cliffe, Clint, Colton, Coneysthorpe, Coneythorpe, Coniston Cold, Constable Burton, Copgrove, Copt Hewick, Coulton, Cowesby, Cowthorpe, Crambe, Crathorne, Cridling Stubbs, Croft on Tees, Cropton, Cundall, Dacre, Dalton, Richmondshire, Dalton-on-Tees, Danby Wiske, Deighton, Denton, Downholme, Draughton, Dunkeswick, Easby, Easby, East Appleton, East Hauxwell, East Layton, East Marton, East Rounton, East Witton, Eastby, Ellerbeck, Ellerton-on-Swale, Ellingstring, Elslack, Eppleby, Eryholme, Fadmoor, Farlington, Farnham, Farnley, Felixkirk, Finghall, Firby, Flawith, Flaxby, Flaxton, Flixton, Folkton, Forcett, Foston, Foxholes, Fryton, Galphay, Ganton, Garriston, Gate Helmsley, Gateforth, Gatenby, Gayles, Gillamoor, Gilling East, Gilling West, Richmondshire, Grantley, Great Busby, Great Edstone, Great Fencote, Great Langton, Great Smeaton, Great Thirkelby, Greenhow, Grewelthorpe, Grimston, Habton, Hackforth, Halton East, Halton West, Harmby, Harome, Harton, Healaugh, Heck, Heslerton - East & West, High & Low Hutton, High & Low Marishes, High Ellington, Hirst Courtney, Holme, Hopperton, Hornby, Hornby Arrathorne, Howe, Howsham, Huddleston with Newthorpe, Hudswell, Hunmanby Gap, Hunsingore, Hutton Conyers, Hutton Sessay, Huttons Ambo

Settlement Tier	Settlement
	<p>- The Huttons, Ingleby Arncliffe, Kelfield, Kellingley , Kepwick, Kettlesing Bottom, Kilburn, Kildwick Grange, Killerby, Kirby Grindalythe, Kirby Hill, Richmondshire, Kirby Misperton, Kirby Wharfe with North Milford, Kirby Wiske, Kirkby Fleetham, Kirkby Overblow, Kirkby-in-Cleveland, Kirkham, Kirklington, Langcliffe, Langthorne, Langton, Laverton, Lead, Leathley, Lebberston , Lingerfield, Little Ayton, Little Fencote, Little Fenton, Little Ouseburn, Little Smeaton, Little Thirkelby, Littlethorpe, Lofthouse, Londonderry, Long Drax, Lothersdale, Low Ellington, Low Laithe, Low Worsall, Lumby, Manfield, Marske, Marton , Marton le Moor, Maundby, Mickley, Middlesmoor, Middleton Tyas, Middleton-on-Leven, Moor Monkton, Moulton, Muston , Myton-on-Swale, Nesfield, Nether Silton, Newby, Newby , Newby Wiske, Newland, Newsham, Newton Kyme, Newton le Willows, Newton Morrell, Newton-on-Rawcliffe, Nidd, Normanby, North Cowton, North Deighton, North Rigton, Norton le Clay, Norwood, Nosterfield, Nun Monkton, Nunnington, Oswaldkirk, Oulston, Over Dinsdale, Over Silton, Overton, Oxton, Patrick Brompton, Pickhill, Picton, Pockley, Potto, Preston under Scar, Primrose Valley, Ramsgill, Rathmell, Ravensworth, Redmire, Reighton , Ripley, Roecliffe, Royal Oak, Ruston , Ryther cum Ossendyke, Salton, Sand Hutton, Sandhutton, Sandsend , Sawdon , Sawley, Saxton, Scackleton, Scagglethorpe, Scampston, Scrayingham, Seamer, Settrington, Shaw Mills, Sicklinghall, Sinderby, Skeeby, Skelton On Ure, Skewsby, Skipton on Swale, Snape, South Duffield, South Otterington, South Stainley, Speeton , Spennithorne, Sproxton, Stanwick St John, Stapleton, Stapleton, Steeton, Stillingfleet, Stonegrave, Streetlam, Stubbs Walden, Studley Rodger, Stutton , Sutton Howgrave, Sutton-under-Whitstonecliffe, Tame Bridge, Temple Hirst, Theakston, Thimbleby, Thirlby, Thirn, Thixendale, Tholthorpe, Thorganby, Thormanby, Thornborough, Thornton Steward, Thornton Watlass, Thornton-le-Beans, Thornton-le-Clay, Thornton-le-Moor, Thornton-le-Street, Thorpe Bassett, Thrintoft, Timple, Towton, Tunstall, Uckerby, Upper Dunsforth, Upsall, Warthill, Wath (near Ripon), Weaverthorpe, Weeton, Welbury, Well, Wensley, West & East Lutton, West Appleton, West Haddlesey, West Hauxwell, West Layton, West Lilling, West Marton, West Rounton, West Tanfield, Wharram-le-Street, Whenby, Whitwell-on-the-Hill, Wigglesworth, Wighill, Wilsill, Wilton, Winksley, Wintringham, Wombledon, Wormald Green, Wrelton, Wykeham , Yafforth, Yearsley, Youlton</p>

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