

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

16 JULY 2025

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Kex Gill

Good weather during May and June has enabled substantive earthworks progress to be made on site with the new embankment shapes now clearly visible from the existing A59 roadside. Together with advanced cut and fill operations to form the new roads bed, programmed opening date has now been brought forward two weeks to early June 2026. Another notable progression is backfilling of the watercourse beck diversion structures in the valley bottom with topsoil which are now blending back into the natural terrain, hiding the engineering works within. At the valley head the new highways entry point from the existing A59 at the North Moor Road junction is taking shape with a large retaining wall again clearly visible.

Meanwhile the export of unsuitable earthwork material to Skipton quarry is approaching two thirds complete.

Extra project management expertise has been brought in to strengthen the Council delivery team and several long running high value compensation events have been concluded, for which additional risk budget funding was approved at the Executive meeting on 13 May, however, there remains a risk of future challenge towards the implemented value of these claims.

Summer Activity Across Our Parks

The summer months are the busiest time of year for our parks and open spaces. To ensure the county looks its best, over 300,000 vibrant bedding plants, many grown in-house, have been planted to refresh displays in our principal urban areas. These colourful arrangements provide a bright and welcoming environment for both residents and visitors.

Throughout the summer, our parks will also host a wide range of events, including outdoor theatre, live music, food and drink festivals, and artisan markets featuring a variety of local stalls.

Markets Update

In May, we celebrated 'Love Your Market' week with a presence at Ripon Market and promotional activities for our charter markets via local radio, social media, and on-site promotions in our market towns.

As members will be aware, the Council made the difficult but necessary decision to cease the subsidised stall set-up service at Knaresborough and Ripon charter markets in December 2024. However, implementation was deferred until this summer to allow the respective town and city councils time to develop proposals for the devolution of market operations.

I am pleased to confirm that a business case for the devolution of Knaresborough Market will be submitted to the Executive for consideration in the Autumn (either September or October). Until then, no changes will be made to the current stall set-up arrangements

Transforming Cities Fund (TCF)

Skipton TCF continues with good progress. Works to the canal towpath at Gawflat swing bridge are now complete and works to the highway at Carleton Street, Gas Street, and

Blackwalk are scheduled to commence in late June. The replacement of Gallows Bridge is underway with local contractor JN Bentley undertaking fabrication and installation of the bridge, steps and parapets. Work on site for the bridge is scheduled to commence in October. Overall, the Skipton scheme remains within budget and programme.

In Selby, we are currently in the process of tender pricing, focusing on achieving the best value for the scheme. Stakeholder feedback is being actively incorporated into our plans wherever feasible, ensuring that community needs are met.

In Selby, contractor Galliford Try (GT) has submitted their final price and programme to deliver the scheme. Subject to contract entry authority being granted, works will commence thereafter, with contractor mobilisation and start on site scheduled for August 2025. Additional funding of £1.8m for the Selby scheme was awarded to the Council on 6 June by the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority (Y&NYCA) which will facilitate the delivery of previously descope elements of the scheme.

In Harrogate, the Council still awaits the Court's decision on the recent legal challenge relating to the Traffic Regulation Orders for the scheme. Subject to the outcome of the legal challenge, approval to proceed will be sought from the funding body WYCA and contract entry authority from the Council's Executive prior to commencing implementation of the works. NY Highways are the lead contractor for delivering the scheme.

Local Transport Grant Funding

I am pleased to advise members that NYC has been awarded £11.3M from a total pot of £15.4M of Local Transport Grant (LTG) funding, which the Government has made available through the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority. This is a new funding stream for delivery of transport projects in 2025/26 that improve safety, accessibility and availability of sustainable modes, as well as maintenance schemes, which provide a wider improvement benefit. Some of the projects for which funding is approved include Transforming Cities Fund, traffic signals and footway maintenance schemes. The Grant will also be used to fund development of a pipeline of transport schemes and projects, in readiness for future funding.

On that note, the recent Government Spending Review confirmed a £2.3 billion national investment in LTG over the period 2026/27 to 2029/30, which becomes a consolidated fund, incorporating the Integrated Transport Block. For York and North Yorkshire, the allocation next year is £20.4M rising steadily each year, to £27M in 2029/30. This longer-term multiyear LTG settlement is very welcome news, and it represents a significant increase in funding available for transport improvement projects.

Highway Maintenance Transparency Report

As members may recall, NYC was awarded an additional £15M of highway maintenance funding for 2025/26, a quarter of which is dependent on the Council making a range of information available to the public and Department for Transport. The first part of this is a summary document providing an overview of our performance and approach to highway maintenance. This was published on our website at the end of June. Officers are currently working on a more detailed response for the DfT, which is due for submission at the end of October and which will form part of an Environment Executive Member report in due course.

NYC Lane Rental Scheme – progress update

In an earlier update, good progress was being made towards completing an application to the Department for Transport for NYC to take on Lane Rental powers later in this financial year, the deadline for which was met and a fully compliant application was submitted in advance of the 31 March deadline. This was the culmination of over 18 months of project

development and preparation. The DfT is currently assessing our application, and we are in dialogue with their economists, providing clarification on some technical aspects of our proposed scheme. We should know in July whether we have been successful, which I hope and expect will be the case. In the meantime, the team continues to work on the detailed proposals required for us to take on Lane Rental powers, setting out a governance structure for how surplus funds will be managed and looking at how we can make the most of the opportunities that a Lane Rental scheme presents. Assuming a positive DfT announcement in July, an NYC Lane Rental Scheme should be live around December this year, and this will provide us with the ability to manage the impact of disruption from utility and other works, more effectively, on our busiest roads.

Countryside Access Service (CAS)

The Annual Report for 2024–25 was well received at May's North Yorkshire Local Access Forum, and highlights a productive year marked by staff restructuring, increased capital funding, and significant progress across public rights of way (PROW), definitive map work, and national trail projects. Despite staffing changes, CAS maintained strong performance, resolving over 1,700 network issues, and keeping 90.5% of the PROW network unobstructed. Volunteer contributions remained vital, with over 3,800 hours dedicated to inspections and maintenance.

Major achievements include continued development of the Coast-to-Coast National Trail, extensive bridge replacements and repairs, and improvements to urban paths and the Unsurfaced Unclassified Road (UUR) networks. CAS continues to collaborate with key stakeholders such as local Natural England, National Parks, National Landscapes and local Path Keeper Groups to maintain and enhance accessibility to the Countryside.

Parking policy and programmes update

A document called 'Parking principles' is currently in draft form. It is due to be considered by the Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 11 July 2025 ahead of the Executive at their August meeting. If adopted this document will provide the Council's policy framework for parking and set in motion a programme of Local Area Action plans for parking beginning in Whitby, Scarborough and Harrogate.

In late June/early July, Parking Services are installing new Pay and Display Machines in both Victoria and Jubilee multi storey car parks in Harrogate. The current barrier-controlled systems are at end of life and presented a business risk which the new machines will overcome. Procurement for the countywide machine replacement programme is being taken forward following the approval of £2.5m of capital investment in April.

Summer Highways Programme

We always aim to maximise the opportunity better weather brings when delivering our summer programme of highway works on our highway network of some 9275km (approximately 5,800 miles).

Warmer drier weather brings less overall risk of disruption to such projects, allowing us to programme carriageway and footway surfacing, surface dressing operations and works to our road and footway lighting assets with less likelihood of delay or the need to reschedule in these better months.

Alongside a number of highway resurfacing and other carriageway treatments, warmer temperatures enabled our annual surface dressing programme to begin on 2 April, starting with sites in the Selby area. This quick, efficient and cost-effective way of maintaining skid-resistant and waterproofing road surfaces helps prevent potholes and can extend the life of a road by up to ten years.

Progress has been good, with predominantly dry weather during the remainder of April and the following months, resulting in few changes to programmed dates and downtime kept to a minimum. The surface dressing programme will have been completed by the end of June, with some 185 miles of roads treated and around 24,000 tonnes of stone chippings used across the county as part of this activity.

As always, to avoid clashes and minimise disruption wherever possible, works that are undertaken by the council on the highway network through NY Highways are coordinated alongside activities carried out by third parties such as utility companies.

Where roads or footways are closed or traffic management is present [such as temporary traffic signals], this is for the safety of the workforce and highway / footway users. Advance notice boards and notification letters as appropriate are combined with advertising on social media as well as the Councils website and one.network website are useful sources of information for planned works. This will assist users of North Yorkshire's highway network in their journey planning and we ask that those highway users are understanding of the need to undertake these necessary works in order to maintain these essential routes.

Transport

Tripartite working continues between officers at MCA, CYC and NYC to deliver the public transport function across York and North Yorkshire. Whilst it is an MCA responsibility, the day-to-day provision of public transport has been delegated back to CYC and NYC for the time being due to the lack of available expertise in the MCA currently. Officers from all three organisations are working closely to deliver the current Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) priorities and work is ongoing to establish a workable long-term solution to public transport delivery and a joint BSIP.

Waste and Street Scene

Once again, the street cleansing service alongside colleagues in parks and grounds have stepped up to the challenge of Scarborough's Armed Forces Day. The team has worked tirelessly to prepare the town and respond to the challenge and burden placed on the Service from the (estimated) 20,000 visitors to this year's event. The team has worked hard to protect the environment and show the town off to its' best, from working with organisers on security measures to cleansing the beach and removing well over 50 tonnes of litter throughout the day. The service and collaborative approach embodies all we are trying to achieve as an organisation.

COUNCILLOR MALCOLM TAYLOR

one.network website hyperlink is: [Causeway one.network \(https://one.network/uk\)](https://one.network/uk)