

North Yorkshire Council

Scrutiny Topic Registration Form

<p>What is the broad topic area?</p> <p>Active Travel Programme – Harrogate and Knaresborough. The focus is on accelerating delivery of walking and cycling infrastructure, addressing delays, and improving coordination through the fast-tracking of the Active Travel Team.</p>
<p>What are the ambitions for the review <i>What is the request trying to achieve, and why? What will change?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify reasons for delays and barriers to implementation of Active Travel schemes.• Explore how fast-tracking the Active Travel Team can accelerate delivery• Recommend process improvements and lessons learned for future schemes.• Enhance transparency and communication with residents.
<p>What remit would you propose for your topic <i>What should be included & excluded?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The review will focus on Harrogate and Knaresborough schemes, while considering wider lessons applicable across North Yorkshire. It will examine dependencies such as the Active Travel Team’s establishment, stakeholder engagement, and coordination with Active Travel England.
<p>How would the review be in the public or Council’s interest? <i>What tangible benefits would come from the topic?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active Travel is a high-profile issue for residents, with strong interest in improving walking and cycling infrastructure. The review supports council values of transparency and accountability, addresses public concerns about delays, and ensures effective use of resources to deliver sustainable transport solutions.
<p>Supporting Information <i>Any other information you feel might be useful background to the submission of this topic for consideration - supporting documentation may be attached.</i></p> <p>Report and Draft minutes of the discussion held at the Harrogate and Knaresborough AC on 27 November 2025 which prompted the request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Officer’s Report</u>• <u>Item 06a - Active Travel Appendix A - Delivery Programme</u>• <u>Item 06b - Active Travel Appendix B - March 2025 Update</u>• <u>Item 06c - Active Travel Appendix C - EIA Screening</u>• <u>Item 06d - Active Travel Appendix D - Climate Change Impact Assessment</u> <p><i>Jasmin Gibson (Improvement Project Delivery Manager) presented a report which updated the committee on progress and expected delivery of Active Travel schemes across Harrogate and Knaresborough, following a request in March.</i></p> <p><i>Members raised a range of issues relating to active travel and traffic calming measures. Support was expressed for the use of sinusoidal cushions, with suggestions made for a 20 miles per hour limit outside Oaklands Infant School on Hookstone Road. Questions were asked about the timing of implementation following consultation, and how differences between traffic calming</i></p>

types would be explained to the public. Officers confirmed that Phase 2 designs were being progressed for consultation the following year, with Yew Tree Lane included and Whinney Lane to be considered separately. It was noted that a 20 miles per hour limit had been introduced on the residential street adjacent to Oaklands Infant School, with further improvements planned, and that explanatory material for the public would be developed. The need to accelerate delivery of schemes in Harlow Hill, Panel Ash, and Hookstone was emphasised, particularly in light of housing growth in West Harrogate, and officers explained that design complexity and consultation requirements were influencing timescales.

Members sought updates on wider active travel projects, including the Bilton to Hornbeam Park cycle route, the A59 missing link, and the Knaresborough missing link, as well as the Wetherby Road junction near Sainsbury's. Officers reported that £150,000 of ATF5 funding, with match funding from the traffic signals team, had been allocated to the Wetherby Road junction to add pedestrian facilities, with delivery required by March 2027. On the A59 missing link, it was explained that design challenges remained due to the listed bridge, and further discussions with Active Travel England were planned. The importance of local knowledge in route planning was acknowledged, and officers committed to continuing stakeholder engagement.

Questions were also raised about the promised active travel team and its role in addressing policy barriers and coordinating work. Officers confirmed that the team remained a priority but had been delayed by network strategy restructures; development was planned for the following year within the network strategy team. It was noted that active travel schemes had progressed successfully during the year, particularly in Harrogate, and that collaboration with Active Travel England continued. Members highlighted the need for clarity on funding responsibilities between Active Travel England and the Combined Authority, and officers undertook to provide a detailed written response to all outstanding questions from the public and members.

Resolved: That:

- a) The Area Committee write to Councillor Malcolm Taylor (Executive Member for Highways and Transportation) and Karl Battersby (Corporate Director Environment), requesting that the delivery of the Active Travel programme in Harrogate and Knaresborough be fast tracked.*
- b) The Area Committee request a report be taken to the Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider this matter.*
- c) The report be noted.*