North Yorkshire Council

Full Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18 March 2026 commencing at 10.30 am.

Councillor George Jabbour in the Chair. Councillors Chris Aldred, Karl Arthur, Alyson Baker, Philip Barrett, Philip Broadbank, Eric Broadbent, Barbara Brodigan, Andy Brown, Nick Brown, John Cattanach, David Chance, Liz Colling, Mark Crane, Felicity Cunliffe-Lister, Gareth Dadd, Melanie Davis, Caroline Dickinson, Michelle Donohue-Moncrieff, Stephanie Duckett, Keane Duncan, Kevin Foster, Richard Foster, Sam Gibbs, Caroline Goodrick, Hannah Gostlow, Bryn Griffiths, Tim Grogan, Michael Harrison, Paul Haslam, Robert Heseltine, David Hugill, Nathan Hull, David Ireton, David Jeffels, Tom Jones, Mike Jordan, Nigel Knapton, Peter Lacey, Andrew Lee, Carl Les OBE, Cliff Lunn, John Mann, Rich Maw, John McCartney, Heather Moorhouse, Andrew Murday, Simon Myers, David Noland, Bob Packham, Andy Paraskos, Yvonne Peacock, Clive Pearson, Heather Phillips, Kirsty Poskitt, Jack Proud, John Ritchie, Janet Sanderson, Mike Schofield, Karin Sedgwick, Tom Seston, Subash Sharma, Dan Sladden, Andy Solloway, David Staveley, Neil Swannick, Roberta Swiers, Malcolm Taylor, Andrew Timothy, Phil Trumper, Matt Walker, Arnold Warneken, Steve Watson, David Webster, John Weighell OBE, Greg White, Annabel Wilkinson, Peter Wilkinson, Andrew Williams and Robert Windass.

Apologies: Joy Andrews, Derek Bastiman, Lindsay Burr MBE, Sam Cross, Janet Jefferson, Steve Mason, Stuart Parsons, Steve Shaw-Wright, Monika Slater and Angus Thompson. .

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

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260 Minutes of the meetings held on 12 November 2025 and 13 February 2026 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 13 February 2026

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Council held on 12 November 2025 having been printed and circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

The vote was taken and the motion was declared carried.

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Budget Meeting of the Council held on 13 February 2026 having been printed and circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

The vote was taken and the motion was declared carried.

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 13 February 2026 having been printed and circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

The vote was taken and the motion declared carried.

261 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joy Andrews, Derek Bastiman, Lindsay Burr MBE, Janet Jefferson, Steve Mason, Stuart Parsons, Steve Shaw-Wright, Monika Slater and Angus Thompson.

262 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were made as follows:

Councillors Nigel Knapton and Cliff Lunn at Minute 268 as they were members of parish councils included within the review. Both councillors had been granted a dispensation enabling them to take part in the debate.

Councillors Nick Brown and Andrew Murday also declared interests in Minute 268.

Councillor Gareth Dadd in relation to the second homes premium, for which he had been granted a dispensation enabling him to take part.

Councillor Michael Harrison at Minute 267 as his employer was mentioned in the papers, for which he had been granted a dispensation enabling him to take part.

Councillor Karl Arthur at Minute 271(h) in relation to the Transforming Cities Fund as he worked for Network Rail.

263 Chair's Announcements

The Chair welcomed the Honorary Aldermen and members of the public and press who were present.

The Chair informed Members of the usual arrangements for the meeting.

The Chair informed members of the recent death of former North Yorkshire County Councillor David Ashton. Councillor Ashton had served as Leader of the Council from May 1997 until June 2001, and as Chair in 2002.

A minute's silence was held in memory of Councillor David Ashton.

The Chair reported that the Coast to Coast Path, which passed through the county, would shortly be launched as a designated National Trail. He also referred to the proposed designation of the Yorkshire Wolds as a National Landscape area and advised that the Council had written to Natural England in support. The Chair would be walking the Wolds Way National Trail in April in support of the proposed designation.

264 Statement by the Leader of the Council

The Leader, Councillor Carl Les, made a statement and answered questions under Council Procedure Rule 2.3 as Leader of the Council, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appeared at pages 39 to 40 of the agenda pack and in the Minute Book at pages 5291 to 5292.

265 Public Questions or Statements

There were no public questions or statements.

266 Notice of Motion referred back to Council - The Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Education regarding the SEND review

Council were requested to consider the recommendation of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee following consideration of a Notice of Motion which had been referred from the Council meeting on 17 December 2025 to the Scrutiny Board and then the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The motion stated:

Council notes that:

- In December 2024 the Government introduced the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, with an overall aim to better protect children and raise standards in education.
- The Government also announced £740 million in new funding to support SEND pupils and those needing alternative education within mainstream schools. Inclusion remains the overarching policy, so that our children and young people are educated together with their peers in their own community, where appropriate.
- The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system is under severe strain, with some families struggling to secure vital support for their children which is compounded by some schools and councils struggling to provide the necessary support.
- Children with SEND deserve the same opportunities as every child, including access to the support they need to thrive both in school and in life.
- Research commissioned by the Liberal Democrats has revealed that private equity backed SEND providers are making over £100 million a year in profits, with some achieving margins of over 20%.
- Many of these companies are backed by firms registered in tax havens or foreign sovereign wealth funds.

Council believes that:

- Profiteering from the needs of children with SEND is unacceptable and must end.
- Children with SEND are not commodities for profit and should never be treated as such.
- Resources must be directed into improving provision and outcomes for children, not into shareholder dividends or inflated executive pay.
- North Yorkshire Council should be supported to provide sustainable, high-quality inclusive SEND provision within both their mainstream and specialist settings; including by building and operating their own schools to accommodate those with the most complex needs if necessary.

Council welcomes:

- Government action to curb profiteering in children's social care. Through the
- Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, it has introduced powers to cap the profits of providers of illegal or exploitative children's homes, alongside enhancing financial transparency and greater enforcement by Ofsted.
- The Government review of the SEND and Alternative Provision system which is due to be published in the Autumn.
- The proactive work of hard-working officers in North Yorkshire Council to improve our SEND services.

Council resolves to:

- Call on the Government to eradicate the profits of private SEND providers, including sanctions against providers who breach this, with any profits returned to local authorities.
- Support further reforms to boost the SEND system, including strong financial oversight of providers, transparency, and new powers and funding for councils to build and manage local mainstream and specialist provision directly.
- Endorse the principle that Government SEND reforms must put children first—not corporate greed.
- Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Education to ask that the SEND review consider action in line with the above.

Proposer – Councillor Barbara Brodigan
Seconder – Councillor Andrew Timothy

The recommendations of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee were set out in the report of that Committee at page 43 of the agenda and were that:

That full Council considers the recommendations of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, namely to not uphold the Motion as written (see 2.3) regarding the request that the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State to ask that the SEND review consider a number of actions as outlined in the Motion.

The motion was moved by Councillor Caroline Goodrick and seconded by Councillor Cliff Lunn.

The mover of the original motion, Councillor Barbara Brodigan, then spoke in support of the notice of motion.

On a vote being taken 46 members voted for the motion, 31 voted against and there were 3 abstentions. The recommendation of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee was therefore declared carried and the motion was not upheld.

267 To consider the report and recommendations of the Executive and make decisions on them

The Executive had recommended three matters to Council for a decision, which were:

School Admission Arrangements for the School Year 2027/28

This item was dealt with at the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 13 February 2026

Revenue Budget 2026/27 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy

This item was dealt with at the Budget Meeting of Council held on 13 February

NYC Pay Policy for Senior Managers

The recommendation at page 48 of the agenda pack (page 5300 of the Minute Book) was moved and seconded.

On a vote being taken the motion was declared carried unanimously.

Resolved

That the North Yorkshire Council Pay Policy Statement on Pay Structure, Grading and Conditions for Senior Managers for the Period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 be approved for publication.

268 To consider the Consultation Results of the First Phase of the 2025/26 Community Governance Review and Approve Proposals for Stage 2 from Standards and Governance Committee

The recommendations at page 58 of the agenda pack (page 5310 of the Minute Book) were moved and seconded.

On a vote being taken 76 members voted for the motion and there were 4 abstentions.

Resolved

1) That the recommendation from Standards and Governance Committee to accept the results from the Stage 1 consultation process which took place following publication of the Terms of Reference in September 2025 be agreed.

2) That the draft recommendations as set out in Appendices 1-19 of the report be agreed and publicised as part of a second and final consultation commencing on 19 March 2026 for a further twelve weeks.

269 Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

The recommendations at page 396 of the agenda pack (page 5648 of the Minute Book) were moved and seconded.

Resolved

(a) Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Councillor John Ritchie was appointed to the vacant position of Vice Chair of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(b) Pension Fund Committee
Councillor Peter Wilkinson was appointed to the vacant position of Vice Chair of the Pension Fund Committee.

(c) Standards and Governance Committee
Councillor Melanie Davis was appointed Vice Chair of the Standards and Governance Committee.

(d) Audit Committee
Councillor Felicity Cunliffe-Lister stood down from the committee and Councillor Steve Mason was appointed.

(e) Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee
There remained a North Yorkshire Independent vacant seat and an unaffiliated independent vacant seat on this committee. No appointments were made.

(f) Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Planning Committee
Councillor Michael Harrison was appointed to the Conservative and Independents vacancy on the Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Planning Committee

(g) Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Councillor Felicity Cunliffe-Lister was appointed to the vacant Liberal Democrat and Liberal seat on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

270 Appointments to Committees according to political proportionality

The recommendations at page 401 of the agenda pack (page 5655 of the Minute Book) were moved and seconded.

(a) Scrutiny of Health Committee
Councillor Roberta Swiers to be appointed to the vacant Conservative and Independents seat
Councillor John Mann to be appointed to the Reform UK seat

(b) Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Karin Sedgwick to be appointed to the vacant Conservative and Independents seat

(c) Housing and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Cliff Lunn to be appointed to the vacant Conservative and Independents seat

(d) Development Plan Committee
Councillor David Jeffels to be appointed to the vacant Conservative and Independents seat

(e) General Licensing and Registration Committee
Councillor Peter Wilkinson to be appointed to the vacant Conservative and Independents seat
Councillor John Mann to be appointed to the Reform UK seat

(f) Strategic Planning Committee
Councillor Derek Bastiman to be appointed to the vacant Conservative and Independents seat

(g) Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Councillor John Mann to be appointed to the Reform UK seat

[Post meeting note: At the meeting Councillor John Mann was appointed to the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee in error. However, following the meeting the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services used his delegated powers to appoint Councillor Mann to the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure political proportionality across the overview and scrutiny committees, with the agreement of the Reform UK group.]

271 Statements of Executive Members and Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committees

The written statements of Executive Members and Chairs of the Scrutiny Board and Overview and Scrutiny Committees having been previously circulated were noted.

271(a) Executive Member for Culture, Arts and Housing - Councillor Simon Myers

Councillor Simon Myers, Executive Member for Culture, Arts and Housing, made a statement and answered questions. A summary of the key points which had previously been circulated and which appeared at pages 403 to 406 of the agenda pack and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 5657 to 5660)

271(b) Executive Member for Children and Families - Councillor Janet Sanderson

Councillor Janet Sanderson, Executive Member for Children and Families, made a statement and answered questions. A summary of the key points which had previously been circulated and which appeared at pages 407 to 408 of the agenda pack and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 5661 to 5662)

271(c) Executive Member for Managing our Environment - Councillor Richard Foster

Councillor Richard Foster, Executive Member for Managing our Environment, made a statement and answered questions. A summary of the key points which had previously been circulated and which appeared at pages 409 to 412 of the agenda pack and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 5663 to 5665)

271(d) Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills - Councillor Annabel Wilkinson

Councillor Annabel Wilkinson, Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills, made a statement and answered questions. A summary of the key points which had previously been circulated and which appeared at pages 413 to 414 of the agenda pack and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 5667 to 5668)

271(e) Executive Member for Finance and Assets - Councillor Gareth Dadd

Councillor Gareth Dadd, Executive Member for Finance and Assets, made a statement and answered questions. A summary of the key points which had previously been circulated and which appeared at pages 414 to 416 of the agenda pack and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 5669 to 5670)

271(f) Executive Member for Open to Business - Councillor Mark Crane

Councillor Mark Crane, Executive Member for Open to Business, made a statement and answered questions. A summary of the key points which had previously been circulated and which appeared at pages 417 to 420 of the agenda pack and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 5671 to 5674)

271(g) Executive Member for Corporate Services - Councillor Heather Phillips

Councillor Heather Phillips, Executive Member for Corporate Services, made a statement and answered questions. A summary of the key points which had previously been circulated and which appeared at pages 421 to 426 of the agenda pack and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 5675 to 5679)

271(h) Executive Member for Highways and Transportation - Councillor Malcolm Taylor

Councillor Malcolm Taylor, Executive Member for Highways and Transportation, made a statement and answered questions. A summary of the key points which had previously been circulated and which appeared at pages 427 to 432 of the agenda pack and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 5681 to 5686)

271(i) Executive Member for Health and Adult Services - Councillor Michael Harrison

Councillor Michael Harrison, Executive Member for Health and Adult Services, made a statement and answered questions. A summary of the key points which had previously been circulated and which appeared at pages 433 to 434 of the agenda pack and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 5687 to 5688)

271(j) Scrutiny Board (Chair: Councillor Karin Sedgwick)

The written statement of Councillor Karin Sedgwick having previously been circulated and which appeared at pages 435 to 436 of the agenda pack and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 5689 to 5690)

271(k) Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chair: Councillor Andrew Williams)

The written statement of Councillor Andrew Williams having previously been circulated and which appeared at pages 437 to 438 of the agenda pack and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 5691)

271(l) Scrutiny of Health (Chair: Councillor Andrew Lee)

The written statement of Councillor Andrew Lee having previously been circulated and which appeared at pages 439 to 440 of the agenda pack and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 5693 to 5694)

271(m) Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chair: Councillor David Staveley)

The written statement of Councillor David Staveley having previously been circulated and which appeared at pages 441 to 444 of the agenda pack and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 5695 to 5697). The Chair of the Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee then answered questions.

271(n) Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chair: Councillor Caroline Goodrick)

The written statement of Councillor Caroline Goodrick having previously been circulated and which appeared at pages 451 to 452 of the agenda pack and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 5699 to 5700)

271(o) Housing and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chair: Councillor Steve Shaw-Wright)

The written statement of Councillor Steve Shaw-Wright having previously been circulated and which appeared at pages 447 to 450 of the agenda pack and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 5701 to 5703)

271(p) Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chair: Councillor Barbara Brodigan)

The written statement of Councillor Barbara Brodigan having previously been circulated and which appeared at pages 451 to 452 of the agenda pack and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 5705)

272 Use of special urgency procedures since the last meeting of Council - Report of the Leader

The report on the Use of Special Urgency Procedures since the meeting of the Council on 12 November 2026 was considered and the recommendation at page 456 of the agenda pack (page 5710 of the Minute Book) was moved and seconded.

Resolved

That Council receives and notes the report.

273 Council Procedure Rule 10 Questions

The Chair of the Audit Committee agreed to provide a written response to a question from Councillor Andrew Timothy.

The meeting concluded at 12.40 pm.