

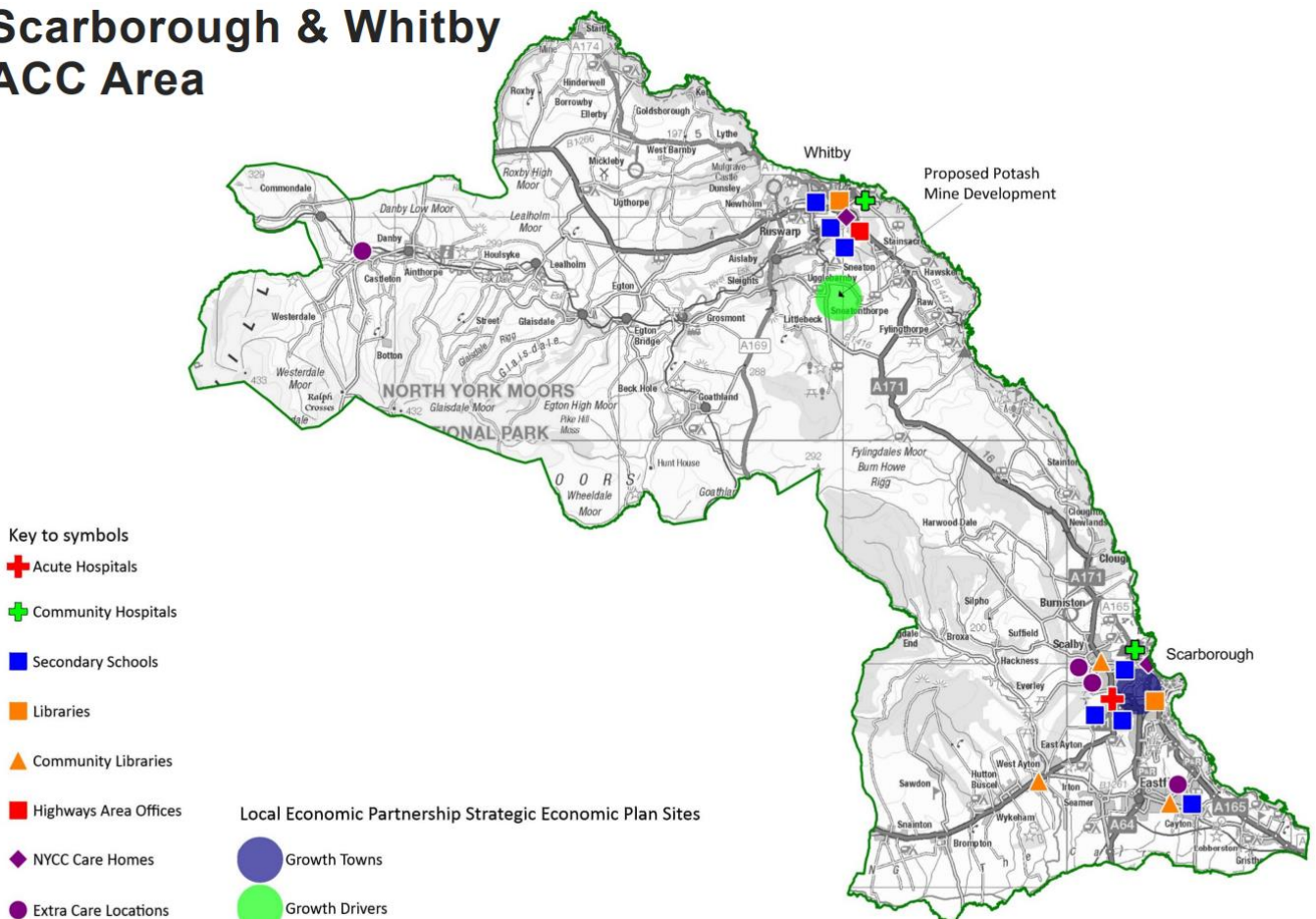
# Scarborough and Whitby Area Committee Annual Report 2025/26

5 June 2026

## Membership

Councillors Liz Colling (Chair), David Chance (Vice-Chair), Derek Bastiman, Eric Broadbent, David Jeffels, Janet Jefferson, Rich Maw, Clive Pearson, Heather Phillips, John Ritchie, Tom Seston, Subash Sharma, Neil Swannick, Roberta Swiers, and Phil Trumper

## Scarborough & Whitby ACC Area



## Introduction

Area Committees (ACs) are a forum for visible local democracy and accountability, where members of the public and local groups can raise specific issues which affect the local area. ACs can also act as consultees for the development of plans and policies which affect the area and monitor performance data to ensure services are being delivered effectively and efficiently. ACs can provide meaningful scrutiny of local issues within their area, complementing the strategic work undertaken by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The Annual Report 2025/26 provides a summary of the committee's activity over the last year and an overview of what has been achieved.

## The work of the committee

There were five formal meetings of the committee in 2025/26. Here is a summary of the committee's business over these five meetings:

- Received a petition and welcomed the council's commitment in respect of the failed community football pitch at Scarborough Sports Village to deliver a timely solution, to minimise the income loss and to reduce the impact on all users, including Scarborough Athletic Football Club.
- Commended the three final reports arising from the committee's Project Development Fund programme on (i) the feasibility of a safe sea swimming space in Scarborough, (ii) the feasibility of an artificial nesting site for seabirds (kittiwakes) and (iii) a comprehensive study of offshore economic opportunities which provided a strong evidence base for future council strategies.
- The annual community safety reports of the Police and the council's Community Safety Team showed that locally crime had followed the national trend for the last financial year, with reductions in recorded crime across most categories with some exceptions such as shoplifting and possession of weapons.
- Whitby Cliff lift was considered twice by the committee: in September, the committee backed a petition to save the lift and recommended that Anglo American be invited to carry out a further inspection after the winter in the new year before the council decided upon the lift's future. The results of Anglo American's inspection were brought back to the committee in March when members expressed strong support for reinstating the lift, highlighting its importance as a heritage asset, for accessibility, and to Whitby's visitor economy. While recognising the council's financial pressures, the committee recommended that the Executive commission up-to-date technical surveys, prepare robust costings for repair and maintenance, and develop a full business plan before any decision is taken on decommissioning or repair.
- Considered a petition seeking a reduction of the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on New Bridge, Whitby because of serious concerns about road safety on the bridge, particularly for children walking to nearby schools. The committee recommended to the Executive Member for Highways and Transportation that in light of the urgency of this matter an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order be introduced for New Bridge, Whitby reducing the speed limit from 40mph to 20 mph and that during the 18 month period of the ETRO the necessary consultations and other work be undertaken to make the change in speed limit permanent.
- Considered the results of the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order restricting overnight motor caravan parking at Sandsend and Scarborough North Bay. Members supported targeted permanent restrictions where appropriate, while urging a strategic, county-wide approach to address displacement into residential areas through the forthcoming parking review.
- When consulted on the new draft Harbours Strategy, members emphasised the importance of strong communication, transparency and engagement with all harbour users, noting the need to harness local maritime knowledge and experience.
- An extraordinary meeting held in Scarborough on 23 March 2026 focused on bathing water quality in Scarborough's North and South Bays. Members considered extensive evidence from local stakeholders, the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water, council officers and Professor Darren Grocke of Durham University, whose research identified Scalby Beck as a dominant source of pollution affecting both bays and agreed a series of recommendations including further scientific studies, sand testing, strengthened planning policies, enhanced partnership working between the council and Environment Agency and improved accountability to support sustained improvements in bathing water quality.
- Received updates by the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire on the developing work of the Combined Authority and the implications for the local area; on the work of Public Health in the county and local area including their preventative programmes and initiatives to promote healthy ageing and with young people; on the Scarborough Cross-Council Task Force which had been set up to ensure a coordinated approach to tackling a range of key priorities in the town; on the Playing Pitch Strategy, Built Sports

Facilities Strategy and Leisure Investment Strategy commending the planned investment in Whitby Leisure Centre to become a flagship Active Wellbeing Hub; on the work of the Localities Team and the Resilience and Emergencies Team; and the annual rural crime report from North Yorkshire Police which showed that overall rural crime was on the decline, a trend since 2020.

Taking into account the above, two notable achievements by the committee were:

- The committee's vociferous support for reinstating Whitby Cliff Lift, highlighting its importance as a heritage asset, for accessibility, and to Whitby's visitor economy was instrumental in persuading the Executive not to decommission the lift, and instead to commission an up to date survey, including full costings for potential reinstatement, and to work with Whitby Town Council and community representatives to develop options based on accurate evidence.
- Use of the committee's convening power to bring stakeholders together including local businesses, Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency to review progress made in improving bathing water quality in Scarborough South and North Bay through a single day scrutiny review. This extraordinary meeting resulted in a series of recommendations to the council on such matters as sand testing, impact of street cleansing (guano), and collaboration with the Environment Agency on the new Gull Strategy.

There were four Mid-Cycle Briefings (MCBs) in 2025/26. The MCBs enable the committee chair, vice chair and group spokes to develop the committee work programme, develop the programme of informal briefings for the committee, review issues to see whether they are appropriate for a discussion at the committee and agree the agenda for the next meeting. Officers were also invited to address the MCBs on:

- Future consultation with the Area Committee on the new parking strategy
- Bathing water quality update
- Local bus services

In addition, there were 10 informal briefings and updates to the members (typically held remotely via MS teams each month) which helped to inform the work of the committee by providing context and background on issues in the area. Matters covered were:

- Local Plan Issues and Options document consultation
- Briefing by Regeneration and Tourism officers to prepare for the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire's attendance
- Beyond Housing's work in the area and investment, repair and regeneration plans
- Two Scarborough Plan for Neighbourhoods (Pride in Place) updates
- Cemetery provision in Scarborough and Whitby
- North Bay Masterplan update
- Regulation of HMOs in the local area
- Proposed High Street Rental Auction pilot in Scarborough Town Centre
- Scarborough 400 commemorations update
- Campaign to promote Pension Credit in the Scarborough and Whitby area

### **Public participation**

A key element of the work of the committee is engagement with local people and organisations and listening to concerns raised. In 2025/26, there were 30 public questions and statements. These covered issues including:

- Levels of recorded theft in Scarborough and Whitby
- Home to School Travel Policy in the Upper Esk Valley
- Empty homes in Scarborough
- Holding regular meetings in Whitby
- Whitby Cliff Lift
- Parking at Scarborough Pride
- Replacement of Whitby whalebones
- New Harbours Strategy
- Extending the bathing water monitoring period in Scarborough
- The principal factor affecting bathing water quality in Scarborough
- Accuracy of data of Combined Sewer Overflow discharges in Scarborough

- Provision of water quality testing kits to local sea swimming/surfing groups

Except the meeting held in Whitby on 2 March 2026, all the Area Committee meetings were livestreamed.

The number of views per meeting ranged from 144 to 385 with an average of 224.

Recordings of the meetings are available here - [Live meetings | North Yorkshire Council](#)

### **Engagement with the local MP**

In 2025-26 Alison Hume MP has attended two meetings of the committee. This engagement with the local MP and their office has enabled the committee to be briefed on matters at Westminster that may impact upon the area and also enabled the committee members to highlight local concerns and issues that the MP can then raise at Westminster. These included:

- Response to Langdale Moor fire and campaign for Government compensation
- Burniston test drill site planning application
- Provision of cellular data smart hubs
- £20m Scarborough Pride in Place programme
- Dualling the A64 road
- Stroke patient care at Scarborough Hospital
- Impact of the closure of Eastfield Medical Centre and NHS response
- Benefits of registration of short term holiday lets

### **Work Programme for 2026/27**

The committee work programme is a live document that is owned by the committee. Members are able to suggest items for inclusion in the work programme, both as part of discussions and debate at meetings of the committee as well as in-between meetings. Any item identified for inclusion within the work programme will be reviewed by the supporting officer and at the MCB to determine: 1) whether it is within the scope of the committee; 2) what the expected outcome of the debate and discussions would be; 3) whether it is being reviewed by another committee of the Council; and 4) whether it could be considered as part of an informal briefing as opposed to at a formal committee meeting.

Some key areas of focus currently included in the draft work programme for 2026/27 are:

- Yorkshire Water's investment plans for the Scarborough area and community engagement plan
- Draft Urban Gull Strategy
- Development of North Yorkshire Council Empty Homes Strategy
- Health in coastal communities
- The work of York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority and its impact on Scarborough and Whitby

### **Contact Information.**

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