

North Yorkshire Council

Housing & Leisure Overview & Scrutiny Committee

10 June 2026

Grounds Maintenance Scrutiny Review Cover Report

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the final report arising from the Task Group scrutiny review of the Council's approach to Grounds Maintenance, following the convergence of Housing Services from the three legacy stock-holding councils.

1.0 BACKGROUND TO REVIEW

- 1.1 In September 2024 the Housing & Leisure Overview & Scrutiny Committee were asked to consider:
- The key drivers for policy development showing a clear commitment that the policy approach would be based upon the needs of customers and developed in consultation with tenants, and;
 - The proposed policy framework, which mapped out the core documents required to underpin the Council's service to tenants.

- 1.2 It was confirmed that work had already commenced to harmonise some high priority policies, and the Committee was asked to consider a list of the remaining policies, standards, and procedures (65 in total) prioritised on a high, medium, low basis based upon the requirements of the Consumer Standards, where there was currently no policy, or conflicting policy in place and the level of risk exposed by not having a harmonised policy in place.

- 1.3 The Committee recognised that in most cases it was about consolidating the existing documents of the legacy stockholding authorities and agreed to focus their review work on a small number of key standards and policies where member contribution via a task group review could add the most value. It was agreed that one of the policies suitable for scrutiny review would be the Grounds Maintenance Policy.

- 1.4 A Task Group was formed to undertake the scrutiny review on behalf of the full Committee, made up of the following Councillors:

Councillor Kevin Foster
Councillor Kirsty Poskitt
Councillor Jack Proud

2.0 REVIEW PROGRESS

- 2.1 The Task Group met a number of times to progress their work on the review. They undertook a number of site visits and met with members of the Tenants Panel on a number of occasions.

- 2.2 At the Task Group's final meeting on 26 May 2026, the Task Group concluded its work on the review by considering the review final report, shown at Annex A, together with a proposed Grounds Maintenance Policy which had been drafted to take account of the recommendations arising from the scrutiny review (see Appendix D to the review final report).
- 2.3 At the same meeting, the Task Group considered feedback from an all-tenants consultation survey on the proposed Grounds Maintenance Policy (437 responses received).
- 2.4 The full Housing & Leisure Committee is now being asked to consider and comment on the review final report arising from this Task Group review and the finalised draft Grounds Maintenance Policy.
- 2.5 This cover report seeks to draw Members attention specifically to:
- The legal and financial implications information shown at section 8 of the review final report at Annex A.
 - The finalised draft Grounds Maintenance Policy which includes an operational grounds maintenance specification – see Appendix D to the review final report.
 - The analysis of the all-tenant consultation feedback at Appendix E to the review final report
 - An Equality Impact Assessment – see Appendix F to the draft final report.
- 2.6 The Executive Member for Culture, Arts & Housing will be asked to approve the Grounds Maintenance Policy and the scrutiny review recommendations at his decision session on 8 July 2026.

3.0 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Housing & Leisure Committee is asked to consider and endorse:
- i. The recommendations arising from the scrutiny review – see review final report at Annex A.
 - ii. The draft Grounds Maintenance Policy at Appendix D to the review final report.

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26 May 2026

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APPENDICES:

Annex A – Grounds Maintenance Scrutiny Review – Task Group Final Report