

The North Yorkshire Local Plan - What You Need to Know

What is the North Yorkshire Local Plan?

The North Yorkshire Local Plan will set out the approach that North Yorkshire Council (the Council) will take to guide development growth across the authority area up to 2045. It is an important document as it sets out where new development will take place, as well as those areas to be protected from development. The North Yorkshire Local Plan sets out the local planning policies for determining planning applications and other development applications submitted to the Council outside of the National Parks.

What about the former authorities?

On the 1 April 2023, the former district, borough and county authorities ceased to exist. The former areas became the new North Yorkshire Council, and work on the former local plans ceased. A new local plan will be prepared to cover the new geography of the whole of North Yorkshire (excluding the National Parks).

So, what happens to the existing adopted local plans?

Until the adoption of the North Yorkshire Local Plan, the adopted development plans from each of the former authorities will continue to be used when determining and judging planning applications. Once the North Yorkshire Local Plan is adopted, the former authorities' plans will be superseded, and the new North Yorkshire Local Plan will be used across the authority area (except for within the National Parks which prepare their own local plans).

Why do we need another plan?

The local plan needs to be up to date with current legislation and to set out development proposals for the next 20 years. The Local Planning Authority is required to keep the local plan up to date and when adopted, this new North Yorkshire Local Plan will replace the existing local plans from each of the former authorities.

If a local plan is considered out of date, the Council will find it difficult to refuse planning applications for development across the authority area on sites not allocated or in line with the planning policies in the local plan.

What are the different stages for preparing and being involved in the production of the North Yorkshire Local Plan?

There are set stages of consultation where the authority is required to consult with specific consultees and various stakeholders including: community groups and organisations, residents, visitors, businesses, landowners, agents and developers.

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 came into force in March 2026 replacing the previous 2012 regulations to support a reformed plan-making system.

The key features of the new plan-making system are:

- A 30-month timetable, with 3 stages of consultation plus 3 mandatory checkpoints.
- These checkpoints are referred to as gateways. The gateways provide advice and can identify potential soundness issues early on.

- The new plan-making system has a strong emphasis on digital plan-making, with standardised data formats, user-friendly digital tools, requiring plans to be searchable in an electronic format.

The first opportunity to be involved in the Local Plan was the First Conversation Issues and Options consultation document, which was held under the old plan making system. Although we must start again under the new system, feedback from that early engagement is important and will feed into the new local plan.

The Local Plan timetable was approved on the 16 June 2026 and is now on the website www.northyorks.gov.uk/localplan

What is the North Yorkshire – Scoping Consultation?

The Scoping Consultation is the first consultation of the new system. It will run for 6 weeks starting 26 October and running until 7 December. This will invite comments on what the local plan should contain and how we should engage.

What happens next?

Following the closure of the consultation we will publish a summary of the responses we received through the consultation; these will feed into the next stage of plan-making. We are proposing to go through Gateway 1 in April 2027 where we will then move into the ‘preparing the plan’ stage.

Why should I care about this?

The North Yorkshire Local Plan will determine how your neighbourhood changes and develops. The planning policies will be used to consider development proposals and planning applications throughout the North Yorkshire authority area up to 2045. This includes not only new houses and employment provision, but the services and community facilities needed to support the new development as well as protecting the countryside and other local assets.

Why should I be involved in its preparation?

The North Yorkshire Local Plan is at the earliest stages of its preparation. By being involved in the local plan process you will help shape your local community and identify where new development is to take place and which areas will be protected from development.

Will my representations make a difference?

Yes. By law the Council cannot adopt a local plan unless it has provided the opportunity for those people and organisations which it thinks will be affected by the North Yorkshire Local Plan to be involved and taken account of their views. Your views are important as the changes that the North Yorkshire Local Plan sets out may affect you.

The Council will consider the representations received at this stage and will take them into consideration as we progress and shape the policies of the new North Yorkshire Local Plan.

How can I find out more and get involved in the North Yorkshire Local Plan?

All the information you need to be involved is available on the Council’s consultation portal at: <https://northyorks-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/>. You need to first register at or login before providing a response on the online representations form.

You can also access the information and links via the Council’s website at: www.northyorks.gov.uk/localplan

How do I make comments?

Comments should be submitted directly to the Council on the dedicated consultation webpage which is available at: <https://northyorks-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/>

Comments can also be submitted at www.northyorks.gov.uk/contact-us and via post at North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Racecourse Lane, Northallerton, DL7 8AD.

The consultation period runs from **26 October to midnight on 07 December 2026**

The following video has been prepared to explain how to submit your comments. Please click the link to watch: <https://youtu.be/NgQ93oNDVz8>

The consultation portal didn't work for me, who can I contact?

If you need any help at all with accessing the documents or submitting your comments on the consultation portal, please contact the Planning Policy and Place Team via our website at: www.northyorks.gov.uk/contact-us

or call us on: 0300 131 2 131.

Will my comments be made public?

Yes. Your comments will be made public in line with the Council's Privacy Notice

What is the Council's Privacy Notice?

The Council's Privacy Notice for Planning Policy Consultations sets out how the Council will use your personal data. For details about how the Planning Policy Team will use your data, please see the privacy notice here:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/your-council/privacy-notices-other-areas-council/planning-privacy-notice

What are the timescales for the next stages?

The comments received by the deadline of 7 December 2026 will be logged and considered by the Council. Comments will then be analysed by planning officers and will be used to inform and shape the policy direction of the new North Yorkshire Local Plan.

Where do I find out what is happening where I live and / or work?

For information on the new North Yorkshire Local Plan, including consultations on the local plan or to find out about existing local plans in your local area please visit www.northyorks.gov.uk/localplan

If you want to see the latest planning applications for development in your area, please search for your local area here: www.northyorks.gov.uk/planning-and-conservation/view-and-comment-planning-applications and use the Public Access System follow the instructions for use.

How does this relate to neighbourhood plans?

Neighbourhood Development Plans are prepared by local communities following the designation of a Neighbourhood Area. Not all communities have a neighbourhood plan.

Once adopted, Neighbourhood Development Plans and the North Yorkshire Local Plan together make up the development plan for that neighbourhood area and will be used in the determination of planning applications in that particular neighbourhood area.

For further information on neighbourhood planning, please see the Council's website at:
www.northyorks.gov.uk/planning-and-conservation/planning-policy/information-about-neighbourhood-planning