

Notice of a public meeting of

Decision Session - Combined Executive Member Decision Session

To: Councillors Kent (Executive Member for Environment and Climate Emergency), Kilbane (Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Economy and Culture and Lomas (Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality and Inclusion)

Date: Tuesday, 3 March 2026

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: West Offices - Station Rise, York YO1 6GA

AGENDA

Notice to Members – Post Decision Calling In:

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item* on this agenda, notice must be given to Democratic Services by **4:00pm on Tuesday, 10 March 2026**.

*With the exception of matters that have been the subject of a previous call in, require Full Council approval or are urgent which are not subject to the call-in provisions. Any items that are called in will be considered by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5:00pm on Friday, 27 February 2026**.

1. **Appointing a Chair**

To confirm arrangements for chairing the meeting as follows:

Councillor Lomas – All standard agenda items 1-5.

Councillor Lomas – Agenda item 6 – ‘Crises and Resilience Fund Scheme’

Councillor Kent – Agenda item 7 – ‘North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Scheme (LNRS) – Adoption of Evidence’

Councillor Kilbane – Agenda item 8 – ‘York Cultural Strategy’

Councillor Kilbane – Agenda item 9 – Urgent Business

2. **Apologies for Absence**

To receive and note apologies for absence.

3. **Declarations of Interest** (Pages 7 - 8)

At this point in the meeting, Members and co-opted members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest, or other registerable interest, they might have in respect of business on this agenda, if they have not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

[Please see attached sheet for further guidance for Members]

4. **Minutes** (Pages 9 - 20)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Combined Executive Member Decision Sessions held on Tuesday, 27 January 2026 and Tuesday, 3 February 2026.

5. **Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee. Please note that our registration deadlines are set as 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at our meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is 5:00pm on Friday 27 February 2026.

To register to speak please visit www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill in an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting, please contact Democratic Services. Contact details can be found at the foot of this agenda.

Webcasting of Public Meetings

Please note that, subject to available resources, this meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The meeting can be viewed live and on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

- 6. Crises & Resilience Fund Scheme** (Pages 21 - 148)
This report concerns the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF), which has been made available to local authorities in England to support low-income households who encounter a financial shock and to support activity that builds individual and community financial resilience. This funding covers the period of 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029 inclusive and includes specified funding for housing support.
- 7. North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) - adoption of evidence** (Pages 149 - 202)
This reports seeks to endorse the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) as part of City of York Council's evidence base supporting decision-making and future plan-making.

This spatial strategy seeks to map nature recovery actions and deliver the Governments England-wide nature targets. They are a statutory requirement as set out by the Environment Act 2021 as a new system of spatial strategies for nature throughout England.
- 8. York Cultural Strategy** (Pages 203 - 230)
This report invites the Executive Member for Economy and Culture to adopt the York Cultural Strategy on behalf of the city.

The strategy sets a clear direction for arts, heritage and cultural development, placing culture at the heart of York's economic, social and civic future. It describes how culture shapes how the city functions, how people create and engage with it, and how York's culture attracts talent and investment to benefit residents across all our communities. In

addition, it sets the clear ambition that York will be the first city to achieve cultural entitlement for all children and young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds and with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

9. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer:

Angela Bielby/Ben Jewitt

Contact details:

- Telephone: (01904) 551088
- Email: angela.bielby@york.gov.uk, benjamin.jewitt@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

Alternative formats

If you require this document in an alternative language or format (e.g. large print, braille, Audio, BSL or Easy Read) you can:



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我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

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Declarations of Interest – guidance for Members

- (1) Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:

Type of Interest	You must
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	Disclose the interest, not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)	Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Affects) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)	Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote <u>unless</u> the matter affects the financial interest or well-being: (a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interest or well-being of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward; and (b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest. In which case, speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise do not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.

- (2) Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.
- (3) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations,

and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Decision Session - Combined Executive Member Decision Session
Date	27 January 2026
Present	Councillors Douglas [until 10:25am], Webb [until 10:47am], Kent, and Pavlovic
Officers in attendance	Michael James - Head of Communications and Engagement Dave Atkinson - Director of Environment and Regulatory Services Liam Dennis - Community Involvement Officer Rachelle White - School Admissions Manager Claire Roberts - School Place Planning Officer Dawn Wood - Early Years Reforms Programme Lead Kerry Lee - Wraparound Project Officer Andrew Bebbington - Housing Development Co-ordinator Pauline Stuchfield - Director of Housing and Community Services Fiona Brown - Building Services Change Manager

54. Appointing a Chair

Resolved: That the arrangements for chairing the meeting would be as follows:

Councillor Douglas, Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Policy, Strategy and Partnerships – Agenda items 1-6.

Councillor Kent, Executive Member for Environment and Climate Emergency – Agenda item 7.

Councillor Webb, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education – Agenda items 8-9.

Councillor Pavlovic, Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities – Agenda items 10-14.

55. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

56. Declarations of Interest

The Executive Members were invited to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests, or any disclosable pecuniary interests that they might have in respect of business on the agenda. None were declared.

57. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes Combined Executive Member Decision Session on Tuesday, 2 December 2026 be approved as a correct record.

58. Public Participation (10:02am)

It was noted that there had been four registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Councillor Waller spoke in relation to agenda items 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13. Councillor Waller stated that every City of York Council tenant should be able to see improvements within their area but that this was no longer the case in York. He continued that it was essential for residents and ward councillors to be involved in the decision-making process for improvements in wards and concluded that he felt consultation with the People Scrutiny Committee was not accurately detailed within the Neighbourhood Improvement Programme 2025/27 report.

Jocelyn Proctor spoke in relation to agenda item 12, Antisocial Behaviour Policy, and shared her previous experience of antisocial behaviour, victimisation from authorities, and trauma caused through systemic racism. She stated that the policy made space to ensure that there was an improvement in the local community, and that the new policy provided security and progress.

Councillor Fenton spoke in relation to agenda items 11 and 13 and reported that the People Scrutiny Committee received the Housing Tenancy Policy and Strategy on 3 December 2025, but that other reports did not see the same level of pre-decision scrutiny. He stated that there needed to be sufficient resources within the Housing Services teams, and close working with Councillors and North Yorkshire Police following approval of these policies. He concluded that there were many housing issues being experienced by tenants that could be resolved quickly such as issues with insulation, and that there needed to be a process underpinning the possibility of residents raising issues within their communities.

Gwen Swinburn spoke on item 6, Communications and Engagement Strategy and discussed the necessity to improve communication with hard to reach areas within York; she highlighted failures to communicate effectively in the past where deprived communities and ward members had not been consulted with on various initiatives.

59. Communications and Engagement Strategy (10:19am)

The Head of Communications and Engagement presented the report and noted that the Communications and Engagement Strategy had a wide-ranging reach throughout City of York Council (CYC) services and there was a statutory requirement for communications to support a civil emergencies response.

The Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Policy, Strategy and Partnerships highlighted member engagement that had taken place, including the draft strategy being received by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 1 October 2025, and the feedback received.

Resolved: That the Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Policy, Strategy and Partnerships approved the Communications and Engagement Strategy to ensure:

- i. City of York Council (CYC) could use its communications resources in the most effective way to support the organisation's priorities and ambitions.
- ii. The Council focused on relevant communication and engagement with all communities across the city in a fair and equitable way.

Reason: To support the delivery of the Council's core commitments, corporate priorities and to ensure inclusivity, accessibility and to build confidence in the council's delivery.

60. York Walls in Bloom (10:25am)

The Director of Environmental and Regulatory Services, and the Community Involvement Officer presented the item and reflected on the heritage and ecological needs of areas in York, highlighting the importance of having sustainable and resilient planning strategies. It was reported that decisions had been taken in consultation with advice from Historic England.

Resolved: That the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Emergency:

- i. Approved the Ancient Monuments Team to work with partners to adapt the management of the Bar Walls.
- ii. Approved the principles of site-based management plans reflecting the diverse ecology, heritage, and aesthetics of the City Walls, ensuring best-practice management is achieved.

Reasons:

- i. There are opportunities on the embankments to introduce locally native wildflowers which are suited to the soil conditions and current management arrangements. Although non-native species may produce visually appealing displays, they are of little benefit to the vast majority of our native invertebrates, which co-evolved with native plants; incorporation and enhancement of native plant diversity is paramount to dampening declines in plants and invertebrates.
- ii. This project will support the Council's climate and net zero commitments, align with Historic England's guidance on sustainable heritage management, and improve biodiversity at a nationally significant monument. It will also contribute to placemaking, enhance visitor experience and local amenity, while reducing the maintenance burden on the Council by fostering volunteering and community engagement.

61. Admissions Arrangements for the 2027/28 School Year (10:31am)

The School Admissions Manager, and School Place Planning Officer highlighted the key changes to schools Published Admission Numbers (PAN) as referred to in the report. They highlighted that the report sought approval of admissions policies outlined, and for the proposed oversubscription criteria.

Resolved: That the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education accepted and supported the proposed changes to the Admission Arrangements for September 2027-2028, as seen in the report and annexes, based on the evidence shown in the Options Analysis and Evidential Basis section of the report.

Reason: To ensure that City of York Council (CYC) continue to meet their statutory duty as set out in the terms of the Education Act 1996 and also work collaboratively with Academy Trusts to meet that duty whilst also appreciating the financial pressure on schools and trusts.

62. Annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2025: Setting Analysis of the Childcare Market Across the City of York (10:38am)

The Early Years Reforms Programme Lead, and the Wraparound Project Officer reported that the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment was required on an annual basis, and that the results of the assessment highlighted how CYC was meeting its statutory duties. They noted that the report supported the sustainability of the established market in York, and that the market had remained consistent for the past two years; work was ongoing within wraparound parameters to work with the sector and make sure it remained robust, and work was ongoing with Department for Work and Pensions to help improve recruitment to the sector.

Resolved: That the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education approved the report to be published on the CYC website, and for a copy to be sent to the Department for education (DfE).

Reason: In order to meet CYC's statutory duty.

63. Housing Tenancy Policy and Strategy (10:47am)

The Director of Housing and Community Services, and the Housing Development Co-ordinator outlined the report and noted that the requirements of the policy were set out by the Housing Regulator and in legislation, and the purpose of the policy was to set out the standard of social housing to other providers.

The Director of Housing and Community Services highlighted three key consultations that had been undertaken for this policy, consultations with: Regulated Social Housing Providers, their tenants, and with the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

The Housing Development Co-ordinator highlighted various definitions and types of Affordable Housing, such as: Traditional Social Housing which represented the majority of social housing in York and was paid at a social rent (of around £100-£110 per week); Affordable Rent which had been brought in nationally in recent years and represented a minority of social housing, giving the option to charge up to 80% of market rates; York's Living Rent policy approach was proposed to undertake an evidenced based assessment in linking Affordable Rent to local incomes with an aim of limiting charges to 45%-65% of market rate.

The Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities provided feedback in that all relevant policies and strategies as referenced within the report should be easily accessible in one place on CYC's website.

Resolved: That the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities approved:

- i. The Tenancy Policy and Strategy document.
- ii. Affordable Rent to be limited to below 80% of market rent through with the York Living Rent reflecting local lower quartile incomes and the Local Housing Allowance.
- iii. The use of Fixed Term and Flexible Tenancies to be used only in a set of defined criteria that represent exceptional circumstances, to balance security of tenure for tenants alongside making best use of social housing stock. There would be a presumption that Flexible Tenancies would be renewed, otherwise tenants would be offered an alternative suitable property provided they were not in breach of their existing tenancy.

Reasons: To achieve legal and regulatory compliance in respect of matters covered by the Tenancy Policy and Strategy, and to achieve the benefits from the proposed document as set out in the report.

64. Antisocial Behaviour Policy (11:04am)

The Director of Housing and Community Services, and Building Services Change Manager, presented the item and reported, in response to comments made during Public Participation, that pre-decision scrutiny was not possible for this policy due to critical health and safety time constraints, but that following feedback this would be accounted for next time. It was then reported that there were areas on the CYC website for residents to report issues, and they could also report issues in various Hubs around the city.

Resolved: That the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities approved the revised Anti-Social Behaviour Policy for Council Housing in York.

Reason: To meet statutory requirements and to ensure clearer language and terminology is used and is more comprehensive.

65. Damp and Mould Policy (11:14am)

The Director of Housing and Community Services, and Building Services Change Manager, presented the item and reported that the Damp and Mould Policy had been proposed voluntarily by CYC due to various regulatory and health and safety issues that have arisen to ensure safe homes and ensure that CYC are listening to the voices of those living in CYC houses.

Resolved: That the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities approved the Damp and Mould Policy.

Reason: To meet statutory requirements and ensure health and safety of CYC's tenants.

66. Neighbourhood Improvement Programme 2025/27 (11:25am)

The Director of Housing and Community Services presented the report and noted that although there were areas for improvement regarding increasing the inclusion of public participation within the programme, funding was currently available which needed to be used; this programme enabled CYC to take action following Estate Walkabouts.

Resolved: That the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities:

- i. Approved the approach for engaging members and communities in proposals for spending NIP (Housing Neighbourhood Improvement Programme) annual funding.
- ii. Approved the NIP HRA (Housing Revenue Account) funded projects and expenditure as follows:
 - £10k initial funding to the Groves Residents Association in relation to the Groves Community Plan, resulting proposals to inform future NIP funding proposals.
 - £250k for Walmgate Proposals priorities.
 - To delegate the procurement of a condition survey of all housing communal areas to Director of Housing & Communities (to maximum contribution of £32k).
 - £30k contribution to an additional E-van for Communities team environment officers.
 - £40k Fund for Communities team environment officers/Neighbourhood Caretakers for community involvement equipment and to undertake repairs arising from walkabouts.
 - £40k contingency for off-programme ad hoc proposals delegated to Director of Housing & Communities in consultation the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities documented by published officer decision.

- iii. Delegated authority to the Director of Housing and Communities, in consultation with Chief Finance Officer and the Director of Governance:
- To commence procurement from the market via an open, fair and transparent competitive process and evaluation criteria in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules under Appendix 11 of the Council's Constitution (the "Council's CPRs") and (where applicable) the Procurement Act 2023 or the Public Contract Regulations 2015:
 - the condition survey of all housing communal areas.
 - an additional E-van for Communities Team environment officers.
 - any community involvement equipment for Communities Team Environment Officers and Community Caretakers and any required repair works arising from walkabouts.
 - and to determine the provisions of any contracts, and the provisions of any subsequent modifications and/or extensions thereto.
- iv. Approved that the Council would enter into a grant funding agreement with the Groves Residents Association on the terms set out in the Report, and to delegate authority to the Director of Housing and Communities, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and the Director of Governance, to determine the provisions of the grant funding agreement, and the provisions of any subsequent modifications and/or extensions thereto, to ensure compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022, the Council's Financial Regulations under Appendix 10a of the Council's Constitution (the "Council's Financial Regs") and the Council's CPRs.
- v. Delegated authority to the Director of Housing & Communities, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and the Director of Governance, and subject to consultation with and approval by the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities, to commission and determine the provisions of any grant funding agreements and/or supply, services and/or works contracts relating to any off programme ad hoc proposals and the provisions of any subsequent modifications and/or extensions thereto, to ensure compliance with the relevant public procurement or subsidy control law (as applicable) and the Council's CPRs and Financial Regs, to be documented by published officer decision.

Reasons:

- i. To ensure transparency and clear decision making around the NIP budget priorities and use of HRA expenditure for the benefit of council tenants.
- ii. To ensure all grant funding arrangements are in compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022, the Council's Financial Regs and the Council's CPRs.

Clrs Douglas, Kent, Pavlovic, and Webb, Chairs
[The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.44 am].

Meeting	Decision Session - Combined Executive Member Decision Session
Date	3 February 2026
Present	Councillors Douglas
Officers in Attendance	Claire Foale - Chief Strategy Officer Samuel Blyth - Head of City Strategy and Corporate Programmes

67. Appointing a Chair (10:00)

Resolved: That Councillor Douglas would chair the meeting.

68. Apologies for Absence (10:00)

There were no apologies for absence received.

69. Declarations of Interest (10:00)

The Executive Member was invited to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests, or any disclosable pecuniary interests that they might have in respect of business on the agenda. None were declared.

70. Public Participation (10:01)

It was noted that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

71. The York Prospectus – Economic and Social Value Analysis Report (10:01)

Officers introduced the report which sought the approval for the 22 projects in the *York's Prospectus – Going for Good Growth with Innovation, Culture and Heritage at Our Heart* which was approved by the Executive on 4 November 2025. Officers outlined the independent analysis from Sewells Advisory which assessed the Economic and Social Value of the projects to be included within the prospectus. Officers noted that across the projects

there was a total of £12.1 billion social value, including social, economic and, environmental benefits to the city identified in the analysis. Officers confirmed that the analysis of the projects and the prospectus would assist the Council in making the case for investment from the Government, the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, partners, and private investment.

The Executive Leader thanked Officers for their work and outlined the importance of the prospectus for the opportunity to deliver projects that would improve the city. The Executive Leader highlighted that the projects had been collectively developed with partners and provided the Council with the opportunity to have projects ready to secure opportunities for investment. The Executive Leader also welcomed the additional 3000 warm affordable homes and the 750 jobs that would be delivered by the prospectus. The Executive Leader noted that projects were being added to the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority growth plan and the Council continued to work with Ministers, the Mayor, and partners to deliver projects for the city. The Executive Leader confirmed that the Council continues to have challenges in relation to its revenue budget, however, these investment opportunities were separate to the revenue budget and provided the prospect of bringing in money that delivered positive projects for the city.

Resolved:

- i. Approved: the economic and social value analysis of the York prospectus projects for inclusion as an accompanying document to the *York's Prospectus – Going for Good Growth with Innovation, Culture and Heritage at Our Heart*.

Reason: To provide a detailed overview of the economic and social value that the projects will bring to York's residents and businesses, highlighting their broad value to potential investors (York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, Government, private investors).

Cllr Douglas, Chair

[The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 10.11 am].



Meeting:	Combined Executive Member Decision Session
Meeting date:	03/03/2026
Report of:	Debbie Mitchell – Director of Finance
Portfolio of:	Councillor Katie Lomas Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality and Inclusion

Decision Report: Crises & Resilience Fund (CRF)

Subject of Report

1. The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) (“The Fund”) has been made available to local authorities (LAs) in England to support low-income households who encounter a financial shock and to support activity that builds individual and community financial resilience. This funding covers the period of 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029 inclusive (“The Fund Period”). This includes specified funding for housing support.
2. As with the rest of The Fund, the Housing Payment element will commence from April 2026 and replaces Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs).
3. The Fund is classified as Local Welfare Provision (LWP) and could be used to enhance existing Local Welfare Assistance (LWA) schemes. However, it is not intended to replace existing LWA schemes, which play an important role as established discretionary crisis support mechanisms.
4. The level of funding for York is approx. £1.6m pa (£1,587k) and this includes the DHP element of £163k previously funded separately. The Household Support Funding was £1.8m with the DHP funding of £163k. This means in real terms the actual welfare support funding has fallen by a little over £363k pa and over £1m across the next three years.

Benefits and Challenges

5. The level of funding has fallen as set out at paragraph 4 above when compared to 2025/26. The prior year funding (2024/25) was £2.076M so the fall across the last two years considering DHP moving into the CRF is approx. £600k pa. More positively the Government has confirmed funding for three years as opposed to 'one off' HSF funding that allows for some certainty through to the end of March 2029.
6. The primary objective of The Fund is to both provide a safety net for those on low incomes who encounter a financial shock and to invest in building local financial resilience to enable individuals and communities to better deal with crises in the long-term, reducing crisis need.
7. The funding allocated falls within the definition of public funds, and those with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) are not eligible to receive support. However, the scheme is open to all residents not just those on Welfare Benefits.

Policy Basis for Decision

8. The new Council Plan, which was adopted in September 2023, contains four core commitments to enable it to deliver the vision for the next four years. This includes 'affordability'.
9. The commitment states - 'We will find new ways so everyone who lives here benefits from the success of the city, targeting our support at those who need it most, supporting communities to build on their own strengths and those of the people around them.'
10. The approval of the CRF scheme will contribute to supporting the commitment to affordability by helping residents with their ongoing cost of living financial pressures helping them to live better lives, participate in the success of the city and improving their wellbeing.
11. The CRF scheme supports the council's anti-poverty strategy specifically the three strategic objectives of:
 - Tackling Poverty Today
 - Preventing people from falling into poverty
 - Creating long lasting change

Financial Strategy Implications

12. This is a government funded scheme and does not affect the council's revenue budget or financial strategy. Effective use of this money will help support residents' financial resilience and potentially alleviate cost on the council's stretched welfare support services.

Recommendation and Reasons

13. The Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, and Equalities is asked to:
 - Approve the councils Crises & Resilience Fund Scheme set out at Annex A.

(The reason for this is to help alleviate the ongoing cost of living pressures for financially vulnerable residents)
 - To delegate to the Head of Customer Finance, Risk & Insurance in consultation with the councils Section 151 the power to award or amend any financial support changes and awards in line with the Governments 3 outcomes and four strands as set out in the scheme in Annex A and Government scheme guidance at Annex B.

Background

14. This is a new welfare support scheme following on from 7 Household Support Fund schemes, covid support schemes before that all aimed at assisting residents with cost-of-living pressures. The scheme is funded through Government grant and has no revenue costs to the council. As set out at paragraph 4 the funding for these schemes has fallen over the years since the end of the Covid pandemic. The high-level details of the scheme are set out in the paragraphs below and in Annex A (Council Scheme) and Annex B (Government Guidance) of this report.

Crises & Resilience Fund Scheme

15. The CRF scheme is fully funded through government grant. The government has set three outcomes for the scheme over the next three years:

- Provision of effective crisis support
- Improving individuals' and local communities' financial resilience
- Bolstering community level support

16. The scheme has four strands:

- **Crisis Payment:** Providing support to those in crisis.
- **Housing Payment:** Providing financial support towards housing needs, to those who face a shortfall in meeting their housing costs.
- **Resilience Services:** Funding for services delivered by Authorities or external providers to improve financial resilience.
- **Community Coordination:** Investment in activities that connect and enhance the local support landscape

17. The four strands reflect the way the current Household Support Funds have been operating for last few years especially in terms of building community resilience. As with the current HSF scheme the budget allocation has been flexed across the priorities.

18. The councils HSF schemes have taken a very Cash First approach with many of the grants provided going directly into resident's bank accounts. The government continue to support the cash first approach but have asked that local authorities provide support through request and taking a person-centred approach. This approach will see residents asking for support however the direct cash grants in prior HSF schemes reflected that many residents did not approach CYC or its community partners for help.

19. The spend on both YFAS and HSF in 2025/26 has been steady but within budget. This 'steady state' is also reflective of other community partners including the food bank. Whilst York continues to have one of the lowest indices of multiple deprivation there are still pockets of poverty and debt problems. The CRF scheme will look to continue to build our resilience services and community coordination to provide more holistic support for our residents considering all their problems.

20. The CRF will also look to replace the Financial Inclusion Grants scheme allowing community organisations to bring forward

ideas/schemes that will align in delivering the outcomes of the CRF as set out at paragraph 14.

21. As with the former HSF schemes the council will be required to provide statistical returns on where the money has been spent and how successful the CRF scheme has been. This is set out at page 67 of Annex B. These returns will also ensure that the council are complying with the government guidance.
22. As the CRF scheme runs across three years and will continue to be developed at this point only a notional budget has been allocated across the four strands. The budget will see nearly a 100% increase in what used to be Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) to reflect the housing pressure in the city caused by high rent and house prices. The request for delegation at paragraph 12 reflects the need to be flexible around where the budget is spent across the four strands both in year and across the three years of the scheme. The CRF will also continue to be monitored at Financial Inclusion Steering Group (FISG) which includes the councils most relevant Executive members. Table A below shows the initial notional budgets:

Table A

Strand	Initiative	Amount
1 - Crisis Payment	Discretionary application scheme - Emergency	£ 100,000
	Discretionary application scheme - Other	£ 350,000
	Food & Fuel Vouchers Scheme	£ 120,000
	Administration/staffing	£ 80,000
		£ 650,000
2 - Housing Payment	Ongoing discretionary awards DHP	£ 164,000
	One off - crisis payments to prevent homelessness and temp accommodation	£ 136,000
		£ 300,000
3 - Resilience Services	Community food Support	£ 20,000
	Warm Places	£ 40,000
	Talk money, WAM leaflets, Targeted Letters	£ 30,000
	Take up campaigns	£ 10,000
	Digital solution (LIFT)	£ 30,000
	Council Tax early intervention	£ 5,000
	Software Support	£ 10,000
	Community Advisors	£ 80,000
	Benefits Advisor	£ 40,000
	Revenues and Benefits scheme administration	£ 40,000
	Crisis and resilience bid fund - Resilience services, programmes and activities that support building financial resilience for individuals and local communities that positively impact on the CRF outcomes. For example Community debt advice, energy advice, benefits and budgeting advice, digital inclusion, employment support, advice for older people, disable people, etc.	£ 300,000
	£ 605,000	
4 - Community Coordination	Admin and coordination for partnership working and networks	£ 30,000
	Evaluation and resident feedback and involvement.	£ 15,000
	£ 45,000	
Total		£1,600,000

*This does not include the £250K YFAS fund

Consultation Analysis

23. The development, consultation and analysis in relation to the CRF scheme has been undertaken by central government. In terms of the deploying the scheme at a local level internal consultation has been undertaken with Communities, Revenues, and the councils Welfare Benefits Manager.
24. Externally consultation has been undertaken with the council's Advice York community partners, Citizens Advice York (CAY) and through the councils Financial Inclusion Steering Group (FISG). The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) for the scheme is attached at Annex C.

Options Analysis and Evidential Basis

25. The development of HSF schemes to provide effective financial support to low-income residents has been matured over nearly five years. The learnings from these schemes both by the council and its community partners coupled with the central government scheme guidance has helped in developing a CRF scheme to be delivered locally.
26. The scheme (Annex A) reflects the learned experience from prior HSF schemes. It acknowledges that the solution is not just money but is about building individual and community resilience. This is a journey we have been on for a number of years and through better information using LIFT has accelerated in the last few years. The scheme is more nuanced towards a person-centred approach and trying to address all the issues of the resident where that is practical.

Organisational Impact and Implications

27. The implications of the scheme have been considered during consultation along with demand on internal and community resource and that there is guaranteed 3 year funding.
28. The comments from implication officers are set out below.

- **Financial**, the funding for CRF is direct Government grant there are no council revenue budget costs associated with delivering the scheme.
 - **Human Resources (HR)**, There are no HR issues with regard to establishing and delivering the scheme.
 - **Legal** *The decisions in this report do not carry legal implications for the council, as the Council is effectively 'passporting' the funds from central government to affected individuals. As such, providing the approved scheme is implemented in accordance with Annex A, the Authority is acting within its discretion.*
 - **Procurement**, there are no procurement activities involved with delivering the HSF7 scheme.
 - **Health and Wellbeing**, the scheme is there to provide support with food and utility bills which will directly contribute to better health & Wellbeing.
Poverty and financial insecurity has a direct and/or indirect impact on both physical and mental wellbeing and a negative impact on health inequalities. Supporting those residents at greatest risk through the CRF scheme contributes to closing the health inequality gap across the city.
 - **Environment and Climate action**, This report relates to the delivery of welfare support and will have no impact on the environment or climate.
 - **Affordability**, This report decision directly supports the 'affordability' priority.
 - **Equalities and Human Rights**, the paper has an EIA attached setting out any impacts on Equalities and any consultation that has been undertaken in designing the scheme. The guidance for what the money can be spent on is set by Central Government and the scheme operates within this guidance.
- Data Protection and Privacy**, Data protection impact assessments (DPIAs) are an essential part of our accountability obligations and is a legal requirement for any type of processing under UK data protection and privacy legislation. Failure to carry out a DPIA when required may leave the council open to enforcement action, including monetary penalties or fines. DPIAs helps us to assess and demonstrate how we comply with all our data protection obligations. It does not have to eradicate all risks but should

help to minimise and determine whether the level of risk is acceptable in the circumstances, considering the benefits of what the council wants to achieve.

The DPIA screening questions were completed for this report and as there is no personal, special categories or criminal offence data being processed for the options set out in this report, there is no requirement to complete a DPIA at this time. However, this will be reviewed where required, on the approved options from this report.

- **Communications**, there is likely to be a requirement on the Communications Service to deal with media enquiries both proactively and reactively in relation to this report.
- **Economy**, there are no direct economy implications associated with the recommendations in this paper.

Risks and Mitigations

29. There are no specific risks related to the CRF scheme other than the demand for support (as with previous schemes) may be higher than the funding provided. To mitigate this risk there are no direct cash grants to residents but all support must be claimed by residents. In addition the scheme runs over 3 years and any budget surpluses can be carried forward and amendments made to the scheme in future years.

Wards Impacted

30. All Wards are affected by this decision but in a positive way through providing cost of living support.

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Background papers**Annexes**

Annex A – Crisis and Resilience Fund Scheme

Annex B – Government Guidance Document

Annex C – EIA

Abbreviations

HSF – Household Support Fund

CRF – Crises and Resilience Fund

CTS – Council Tax Support

EIA – Equalities Impact Assessment

DWP – Department for Work and Pensions

UC – Universal Credit

HB – Housing Benefit

DHP – Discretionary Housing Payment

IT – Information and Technology

MI – Management Information

TPO – Third Party Organisation

MoU- Memorandum of Understanding
LWP – Local Welfare Provision
PDF – Portable Document Format
CFO – Chief Financial Officer
LIFT – Local Income Family Tracker

City of York Council Crisis and Resilience Fund Scheme

April 2026 - March 2029

Background

Following the completion of the Chancellor's Spending Review, the Government announced the introduction of a new fund – the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) – due to start on 1 April 2026.

Funding is provided directly to Local Authorities (LAs) via the Local Government Finance Settlement and consolidates multiple funding streams, enhancing the flexibility and autonomy of LAs to address local needs most effectively.

The scheme replaces the Household Support Fund (HSF) and Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP). Guidance states the funding should be used in conjunction with existing local welfare support and not as a replacement.

The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) has been made available to local authorities (LAs) in England to support low-income households who encounter a financial shock and to support activity that builds individual and community financial resilience. This funding covers the period of 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029 inclusive. This includes specified funding for housing support.

The fund has 3 main outcomes:

1. Provision of effective crisis support
2. Improving individuals' and local communities' financial resilience
3. Bolstering community level support

Authorities must allocate the CRF funding across the following four strands:

- **Crisis Payment:** Providing support to those in crisis.
- **Housing Payment:** Providing financial support towards housing needs, to those who face a shortfall in meeting their housing costs.
- **Resilience Services:** Funding for services delivered by Authorities or external providers to improve financial resilience.

- **Community Coordination:** Investment in activities that connect and enhance the local support landscape.

This is the proposed scheme for City of York Council from 1st April 2026.

Crisis Payment: Providing support to those in crisis.

York Crisis and Resilience Fund Discretionary Grant Scheme is delivered through a single application process, with two elements

- Emergency grants dealt within 24 hours e.g. food, fuel
- Other grants for residents in need

This will incorporate any CYC funding for YFAS. This will bring the funding together into one scheme known as the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF).

The Crisis payments will be delivered using the rules set out within the councils York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS). However the CRF scheme takes a different approach and is open to all residents not just those in receipt of welfare benefits. The key changes are:

- Residents' application requests will be looked at in more detail including where practical a more in-depth discussion of their circumstances. This will allow for a person-centred solution providing more tailored grants to meet their needs.
- It will explicitly consider those residents who are terminally ill and require additional financial support.
- It will also allow referrals to other support at CYC or through community partners.
- The scheme will consider all crises applications and will be simple so that residents can easily apply.
- The City of York Council Fuel & Food Vouchers scheme will be maintained.

Housing Payment: Providing financial support towards housing needs, to those who face a shortfall in meeting their housing costs.

The CRF Housing Payment replaces the current Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP). The Housing Payment will provide financial support towards housing costs. These payments can be made to claimants who are entitled to either:

- Housing Benefit, or

- Universal Credit including a housing element. This includes Shared Ownership properties which carry a rental liability.

Where a resident cannot access a Housing Payment, either because they are not eligible (in other words, not entitled to a qualifying benefit or are owner-occupiers) or the Housing Payment allocation has been exhausted, they may be able to access financial assistance through the CRF Crisis strand, if they are deemed eligible.

Additional Housing Payments will be discretionary taking into consideration the applicant's financial circumstances and any other relevant factors.

There will be two elements of Housing Support

- Housing Payment for those who meet the specified criteria in guidance.
- CRF Housing Crisis Payment

Crisis and Resilience Fund Housing Payments will be used on a discretionary basis, to support residents facing difficulties in covering their accommodation costs. Eligibility will be based on the residents overall financial situation and household circumstances.

Uses may include:

- Shortfalls in covering rent in addition to Universal Credit housing allowance or Housing Benefit
- Paying off rent arrears to maintain a tenancy where sustainable
- Preventing residents from falling into temporary accommodation where appropriate
- To cover a deposit, moving costs or rent payment in advance to secure a tenancy

Housing payments will be based on the key elements of rent, with the objective of supporting and safeguarding residents in their own homes where this is a sustainable option. Preventing residents from being displaced into temporary accommodation will also alleviate the financial pressure and burden on the authorities housing services.

Resilience Services: Funding for services delivered by City of York Council or external providers to improve financial resilience.

Resilience Services are the services, programmes and activities that support building financial resilience for residents and local communities.

Resilience Services will be developed in consideration of the complex, interrelated factors that affect a resident's financial resilience this includes consideration of income, health, education, housing security, financial literacy, digital literacy, debt, savings, caring responsibilities and access to affordable credit.

The scheme will provide an outcomes-based approach to resilience services and measure how services are meeting the resilience outcomes set within the Government guidance

The scheme will provide co-ordinated and target advice and support services to residents at financial risk and facing financial crisis. This will not be restricted to those who receive crisis payments or the housing element of CRF. CRF will develop a strong two-way referral pathway between services and grant support, with a no wrong door approach being adopted.

This scheme will continue to see CYC working together with the VCS in delivery of resilience services, effective crisis support and improving individuals' and local communities' financial resilience. In working together, the council can achieve more for its residents and remove duplication.

The CRF scheme will continue to utilise the Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) platform to measure the impact of the 4 policy strands in this scheme (CRF).

Communication is a key part of the CRF scheme providing information to residents so they know what they can claim and how, alongside quality accessible, trusted advice and support to make applications and take up the benefits and grants available.

The council will continue to support this targeted coordinated approach by

- Maintaining the Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT)
- Make use of and develop new technologies, such as digital solutions to improve the CT recovery processes.
- Providing specialist benefits advice and money guidance based in the Communities Team to deliver targeted campaigns, community outreach and flexible advice services to meet customer needs.

- Provide extra capacity within Income Services to use data to take a proactive approach to maximise income and promote take-up of unclaimed benefits.
- Provide a VCS CRF Grant programme to support the voluntary sector to maintain capacity, facilitate coordinated services and take-up campaigns and provide choice and flexibility to enable residents to access specialist advice and practical support to maximise their income and reduce outgoings. Make provision accessible including via outreach, phone and home visits, drop-in and by appointment. This will include areas such as
 - Specialist benefits advice,
 - Specialist debt advice, delivery via outreach and referral from services above
 - Money and budgeting support
 - Specialist housing advice and support
 - Energy advice and measures
 - Employment support
 - Digital advice and support
 - Targeting people with specific needs - pension age residents, those with disabilities and mental-ill health, etc,

The CRF scheme will also make use of websites that are an efficient way of delivering awareness of national and local advice and support, including partner websites and newsletters plus

- www.york.gov.uk/benefits
- www.livewellyork.co.uk/talkmoney
- www.raiseyork.co.uk

Community Coordination: Investment in activities that connect and enhance the local support landscape.

The CRF scheme will help to create a more connected local welfare landscape that directly contributes to CRF Outcomes.

CRF's Community Coordination strand will build partnerships and referral pathways that make both immediate crisis responses and longer-term resilience building possible. The effective co-ordination of

statutory services, voluntary and community sector organisations, grassroots projects and place-based initiatives will deliver benefits to both individuals needing support and the professionals involved, creating more financially resilient communities.

It will provide sustained investment, leadership and effective local coordination to support financial resilience through Yorks community networks who are motivated to work collaboratively to achieve better outcomes using their knowledge of the local landscape in which they operate.

The CRF scheme will maintain and develop partnership and coordinated financial inclusion activity, through the following (but not limited to)

- Financial Inclusion Steering Group
- Advice York
- Good Place Network - community hubs, food projects and warm places, HAF providers
- Raise York
- Digital Friendly York
- Neighbourhood hubs
- Ward funding
- Citizens Advice York

It will develop and co-ordinate training and support to ensure everyone has the skills and knowledge to support residents effectively to achieve the scheme outcomes and that they are developed with residents and local communities.

The Crisis and Resilience Fund: Guidance for local authorities in England (1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029)

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Glossary

Term	Definition
Accessibility	Services are flexible and easy to access. Information is straightforward and promoted in a variety of ways and formats, including to serve both the digitally included and excluded. See paragraphs 157 to 162 for detail.
Budget maximisation	Activities that make an individual's budget go further – such as services that support debt reduction or initiatives that decrease expenditure.
Cash-first	Prioritising digital or physical cash payments when providing Crisis Payments (including bank transfers, cash-out vouchers such as through PayPoint, Post Office and ATMs).
Charitable food aid	Charitable help with food for free or at very low cost for people experiencing financial or food insecurity. Providers include food banks, food pantries, social supermarkets and food clubs.

Term	Definition
Crisis Payment	Payment delivered through a cash-first approach to provide support to those in crisis.
Emergency Food Parcels	Provision of emergency food bundle that covers at least three-days of meals.
Essential furniture and appliances	Crisis Payments can be used for essential furniture and appliances such as: bed, bedding and mattress; table and chairs; sofa and/or easy chairs; wardrobe/drawers; carpets or flooring in living rooms and bedrooms; curtains or blinds; washing machine; refrigerator and freezer; cooker/oven.
Financial capability	The ability to manage money effectively, encompassing the knowledge, skills and confidence to handle both daily and long-term financial needs, and to build resilience against financial shocks.
Financial resilience	The ability of individuals to withstand and recover from financial shocks.
Financial shock	A sudden, unexpected expense or drop in income.
Housing Payment	Providing financial support to those entitled to a qualifying benefit who face a shortfall in meeting their housing costs.
Income maximisation	Activities that increase an individual's income, such as benefit checks or employment advice.
Income smoothing	Activities that support individuals to manage flux in their income or expenditure, such as increasing savings, access to affordable credit or appropriate insurance take-up.

Term	Definition
Material Deprivation	A direct measure of poverty derived from the lack of items and activities deemed to be necessary for an acceptable standard of living. See the Summary: Review of the UK Material Deprivation Measures for further information.
Needs-based	An approach to delivering crisis support that recognises the varied circumstances that individuals may experience before, during and after a crisis. In adopting a needs-based approach to crisis support, the focus is to identify and address underlying needs rather than just the crisis symptoms presented.
Person-centred	An approach that ensures that peoples' preferences, needs and values stay central to professional decisions; providing support that is respectful to them.
Priority Debt	Debts which have serious consequences for non-payment. This could include rent, mortgage, gas, electricity or owing money to government bodies (unpaid court fines, income tax or National Insurance).
Resilience Services	The services, programmes and activities that support individuals to build financial resilience.
Trauma	Trauma is what happens when something overwhelms our ability to cope, process or feel safe. It's not just about what happened but about how it was experienced – the loss of control, safety, trust or connection. Trauma can come from one big event, many smaller ones over time or ongoing situations that wear a person down. It can affect how

Term	Definition
	someone feels, thinks and reacts, even long after the situation has passed.
Trauma Informed Approach	The Trauma Informed Approach recognises the extensive and continuing impacts that trauma may have on an individual's life. The impacts of trauma, some of which may not be obvious or disclosed, can make interacting with services a difficult and potentially retraumatising experience. The Trauma Informed Approach aims to avoid and mitigate this risk whilst creating a safe and empowering environment for all colleagues and customers. The six principles of trauma-informed practice: Safety; Trust; Choice; Collaboration; Empowerment; Cultural consideration.
Voucher	A pre-paid physical or digital alternative to cash that can only be redeemed for goods or services at specified outlets, such as supermarkets, local shops, other retail venues or through online shopping platforms.
Warm referrals	Where someone is referred by one organisation or service to another with a focus on ensuring a smooth transition. Sufficient and accurate information is also provided, with informed consent, as part of the referral to prevent people from having to explain their circumstances and needs on multiple occasions

Introduction

1. The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) (“The Fund”) has been made available to local authorities (LAs) in England to support low-income households who encounter a financial shock and to support activity that builds individual and community financial resilience. This funding covers the period of 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029 inclusive (“The Fund Period”). This includes specified funding for housing support.
2. As with the rest of The Fund, the Housing Payment element will commence from April 2026 and replaces Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs). A phased transition will apply to Housing Payments as set out in paragraphs 47 to 49.
3. The Fund is classified as Local Welfare Provision (LWP) and could be used to enhance existing Local Welfare Assistance (LWA) schemes. However, it is not intended to replace existing LWA schemes, which play an important role as established discretionary crisis support mechanisms.
4. This guidance sets out the objectives, framework and required collaboration between the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and County Councils, District Councils and Unitary Authorities (including Metropolitan Councils and London Boroughs), hereafter referred to as “Authorities”, including their delivery partners (such as any voluntary and community sector organisations) to successfully meet the policy intent. It also provides the framework that Authorities need to work within the arrangements for distribution of funding and reporting requirements.
5. The CRF is a consolidated revenue grant that will be delivered through the Local Government Finance Settlement from the financial year ending (FYE) March 2027. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is providing funding to Authorities under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, to administer The Fund. Authorities have discretion on exactly how this funding is used within the scope set out in this guidance and the Grant Determination Letter (“the Grant Determination”). This is a new grant subject to its own grant conditions as is set out in the Grant Determination. This guidance applies to Authorities in England only.

Objectives and key principles

6. The primary objective of The Fund is to both provide a safety net for those on low incomes who encounter a financial shock and to invest in building local financial resilience to enable individuals and communities to better deal with crises in the long-term, reducing crisis need.

7. Within the CRF, Authorities are encouraged to invest in 'Resilience Services' that contribute towards improving the financial resilience of individuals. Financial resilience refers to the ability of individuals to withstand and recover from financial shocks – such as sudden income loss or unexpected expenses. The purpose of building financial resilience is to enable individuals to better manage future financial shocks and reduce the need for crisis support. A number of factors can contribute to, or impact, financial resilience. These can include:

- income, savings and debt
- housing insecurity
- physical disability, learning disability, mental health condition or wellbeing
- caring responsibilities
- financial literacy
- digital exclusion
- community support and social networks
- access to income smoothing tools, such as affordable credit and insurance.

8. The Fund will focus on three main outcomes:

- **Outcome 1: Provision of effective crisis support.** Delivering effective crisis support is intended to prevent the occurrence or escalation of individuals' crises. By offering timely, needs-based assistance to those with low incomes facing financial shocks, Authorities can reduce the risk of crisis need. This includes the provision of financial support towards housing needs, to those who face a shortfall in meeting their housing costs.

- **Outcome 2: Improving individuals' financial resilience.** By strengthening financial resilience among individuals, Authorities empower citizens to better manage financial shocks and mitigate the occurrence, recurrence and escalation of crises.

- **Outcome 3: Bolstering the local-level support landscape.**

A joined-up, visible local support network is key to the CRF's approach to build financial resilience. This includes strengthening resilience networks within local communities, that in turn boost the financial resilience of individuals within these communities. This coordination enables a suitable range of Resilience Services to exist within a local area and ensures there are clear referral pathways between them and crisis support. Through this effective join-up of local support services, Authorities can expect those seeking crisis support to be appropriately referred to services that build their individual financial resilience.

9. When administering The Fund, Authorities should adopt the following principles to deliver CRF schemes that are:

- **Person-centred** to ensure that people's preferences, needs and values stay central to professional decisions, providing support that is respectful to them.
- **Needs-based** to recognise the varied circumstances that individuals may experience, seeking to meet the underlying needs, not just the crisis symptoms.
- **Holistic** to provide integrated support that helps the individual and their households, with Authorities considering the wide range of services and actions they have access to.
- **Encompass a no wrong door approach** to connect individuals to the right service and support through warm referrals, regardless of their initial point of contact.

- **Trauma informed:** Authorities should adopt a Trauma Informed Approach when working with people and families in crisis, considering the six principles of [trauma-informed practice](#).

Crisis and Resilience Fund Strands

10. Authorities must allocate the CRF funding across the following CRF components:

- **Crisis Payment:** Providing support to those in crisis.
- **Housing Payment:** Providing financial support towards housing needs, to those who face a shortfall in meeting their housing costs.
- **Resilience Services:** Funding for services delivered by Authorities or external providers to improve financial resilience.
- **Community Coordination:** Investment in activities that connect and enhance the local support landscape.

11. The exact proportions of how The Fund is allocated between these components are at the Authority's discretion and may vary between years. In Year 1 (the FYE March 2027) and Year 2 (the FYE March 2028), Authorities are expected to maintain existing levels of spending on Housing Payments, using the FYE March 2026 allocations for DHPs as a guide. From Year 3 (the FYE March 2029), District Councils will no longer receive an allocation for The Fund. Instead, all the CRF funding will be distributed to Unitary Authorities (and County Councils that continue to operate in the FYE March 2029). **Annex E** outlines the amounts each eligible Authority is expected to spend on Housing Payments in the FYE March 2029. Authorities are expected to consider a tolerance of a 20% increase or decrease to these expected spending levels.

Crisis Payment

12. Each Unitary Authority and County Council must deliver a CRF Crisis Payment scheme that offers payments to individuals in crisis. **Authorities must name their**

schemes as 'Crisis Payment'. Authorities should allocate their budgets accordingly to aim for Crisis Payments to be available all-year round. Crisis Payment schemes will be cash-first and operated primarily on an application-basis. Authorities must adopt a needs-based approach that seeks to address underlying needs alongside provision of immediate support.

13. Authorities must use the CRF to offer support to low-income households to:
 - individuals who have experienced financial shock. A financial shock is a sudden, unexpected expense or drop in income, that can place pressure on their budget and wellbeing, or
 - prevent individuals from entering crisis. Providing timely support so that people can manage pressures, maintain control and avoid being pushed into crisis or prevent crises from escalating.
14. It is important to note that Crisis Payments are intended to meet occasional or short-term needs and cannot provide an alternative source of regular income. Authorities should seek to support applicants who are ineligible for Crisis Payments through Resilience Services.
15. In deciding whether to award a Crisis Payment, Authorities should consider a crisis as a circumstance of pressing need which requires immediate action to prevent or remedy negative outcomes. This could include, but is not limited to, people going without material essentials such as food, shelter, heating, essential items such as furniture and appliances or services such as water or energy. The cause or preventability of the crisis is not considered a relevant factor.
16. A financial shock, such as a car or household appliance breaking down, a bus route being cut or an unexpected bill, can be the tipping point that leaves a household in crisis. Well-timed and effective crisis support, delivered through a cash-first approach, can prevent a financial shock creating or escalating a crisis.
17. There is no prescriptive list which provides a comprehensive definition of the type of crisis that causes a financial shock. It is at the Authority's discretion to determine whether an individual's situation constitutes a crisis, but it may include:

- disasters - these will normally be unforeseen and result in significant damage to, or loss of, possessions or property, such as a serious flood or fire, gas explosion or a chemical leak.
 - accident, health emergency or mental health crisis, leading to unplanned spending or incurring increased expenses.
 - when an applicant is experiencing domestic abuse and leaving an abusive relationship/partner and needs immediate help, such as moving into an unfurnished property and needing help with furniture and appliances.
 - breakage of an essential item, for example a boiler, medical equipment or white goods.
 - where money has been lost or stolen and living expenses are required.
 - when the applicant has a short-term gap in regular income, for example, due to redundancy or a significant change in working pattern.
18. Authorities should adopt a **person-centred and needs-based approach** that recognises the varied circumstances that individuals may experience, to direct support towards those most in need. In adopting a person-centred approach, Authorities should ensure that the preferences, needs and values of the individual applying for crisis support stays central to professional decisions, providing support to the individual that is respectful to them. Through a needs-based approach that seeks to understand and meet the individual's underlying needs, not just the crisis symptoms presented, the Authority can support the individual to build financial resilience.
19. To support a person-centred and needs-based approach, every Authority must operate a Crisis Payment and Housing Payment scheme that **accepts applications continuously throughout the year** (see paragraphs 76 to 84).

20. This means that in all Crisis Payment scheme cases, frontline staff should assess people's circumstances to identify their preferences, symptoms and underlying needs. This is crucial to determining the appropriate award and wider services that can support with underlying needs. Where appropriate, warm referrals should be made to Resilience Services and any wider support services individuals may benefit from. Authorities should consider the principles of a Trauma Informed Approach when exploring both immediate and underlying need.
21. Links to wraparound support and referral pathways are explored in more detail in paragraphs 88 to 93.
22. There is no prescriptive list specifying eligible expenditure for Crisis Payments; it is at the Authority's discretion to determine appropriate support by taking a person-centred, needs-based approach. However, it may include awarding a Crisis Payment to support:
 - food
 - water including for drinking, washing, cooking, as well as for sanitary purposes and sewerage
 - housing costs
 - period and hygiene products such as soap and toothpaste
 - energy for any form of fuel that is used for the purpose of domestic heating, cooking or lighting, including oil or portable gas cylinders
 - clothing including uniform, warm winter clothing and shoes
 - essential furniture and appliances such as beds and bedding, washing machines, window coverings and carpets, fridge-freezers and ovens
 - essential transport-related costs such as repairing a car, buying a bicycle or bus pass or paying for fuel
 - digital and connectivity essentials such as broadband or phone bills

23. The circumstances that constitute a crisis for one person may not be the same for another person. The type of support people require will depend on their circumstances and any underlying needs. For instance, individuals with disabilities, substance dependency, those experiencing homelessness, care leavers, single-person households, unpaid carers, families with children and Pension age households are likely to have different immediate and long-term needs. Cash-first Crisis Payments can enable people to effectively address their specific needs with dignity, flexibility and autonomy. Authorities should consider the principles of a Trauma Informed Approach when supporting both immediate and underlying need.

Establishing eligibility

24. The Fund is intended to support a wide range of low-income households and, as such, Crisis Payments are not limited to those in receipt of benefits. Authorities have flexibility within The Fund to apply their own discretion when determining eligibility for their Crisis Payment schemes, including what constitutes a low-income in their area. This is in line with the Fund's person-centred and needs-based approach.

25. In assessing an applicant's eligibility, Authorities should apply the principles of a Trauma Informed Approach (see paragraph 9 for further details).

26. When assessing an applicant's need for financial support and appropriate referrals, Authorities should consider resources available to the applicant and their household, such as money in savings or other assets. If the applicant is unable to release money on their assets immediately but can demonstrate that they are taking steps to do so, CRF support may be appropriate in the interim.

27. In accordance with their general legal duties, Authorities must have a clear rationale outlining their approach, including how they are defining eligibility and how households can access The Fund. This should align with The Fund's communication requirements outlined in paragraphs 167 to 172.

Individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds

28. Where an Authority relies on exercising their discretion under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 in order to spend funding, such as the CRF Crisis Payments, payments would fall within the definition of public funds, as set out in paragraph 6 of the Immigration Rules and, therefore, those with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) would not be eligible to receive support.

29. However, Authorities may be able to rely on alternative powers to provide support. Examples include, if the Authority considers:

- there to be a child welfare concern, a Crisis Payment can be made to a person with NRPF to safeguard and promote the welfare of a child in need under [Section 17 of the Children Act 1989](#).
- that an adult has eligible needs for care and support or that a carer has eligible needs for support, and those needs do not arise solely from destitution or from the actual or anticipated physical effects of being destitute, the CRF may be used as a funding source to meet needs under [Section 18 or 20 \(as applicable\) of the Care Act 2014](#).
- that an adult has needs for care and support that the Authority is not required to meet under Section 18 of the Care Act 2014 (in other words, non-eligible needs), and those needs do not arise solely from destitution or from the actual or anticipated physical effects of being destitute, the CRF may be used as a funding source to meet needs under [Section 19 of the Care Act 2014](#) (for example, to prevent a breach of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (prohibition against inhuman or degrading treatment)).
- it appropriate for improving the public health of the people in its area, a Crisis Payment can be made to a person with NRPF under [Section 2B of the National Health Service Act 2006](#).

30. In such cases, Authorities may use the CRF as the funding source. Where eligible payments are made using alternative legal powers (in other words, not under the Localism Act 2011), the Crisis Payment may not be considered a public fund. Further information is provided in **Annex A**.
31. **Note:** Paragraphs 28 to 30 applies only to CRF Crisis Payments. Housing Payments cannot be paid to those with NRPF. This is because the eligibility criteria for Housing Payments requires an individual to be entitled to Housing Benefit (HB)/Universal Credit (UC).
32. The default power to make payments through the CRF is derived from Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, unless the Authority can identify a more specific and relevant power. If an alternative power is not identified, the payments must be treated as public funds and cannot be provided to those with NRPF, unless support is required to prevent a breach of human rights.
33. It is for Authorities to determine what support they can lawfully provide to a person with NRPF based upon an individual assessment of their status, circumstances and support needs. When carrying out this assessment, Authorities will wish to consider their discretionary powers and statutory duties.
34. If an Authority determines that they can lawfully provide a person with NRPF support using their alternative legal powers, support should be provided in line with the CRF guidance: cash-first, needs-based, person-centred support.

Cash-first approach

35. Individuals will need crisis support for a variety of different reasons. This could be for the provision of food, utilities, household goods or other essentials. For this reason, Authorities should adopt a cash-first approach to awarding Crisis Payments. A cash-first approach prioritises cash payments (including physical and digital methods such as physical cash, bank transfer and cash-out vouchers).

36. A cash-first approach to Crisis Payments means providing cash support as the default, whilst still offering Authorities the flexibility to use alternative support mechanisms depending on an individual's needs and preferences. Authorities prioritising cash-first Crisis Payments can enable people to address specific needs with dignity and choice, ensuring funds make the biggest possible difference to households while offering value for money. Offering cash payments empowers individuals and families to make informed choices to best suit their circumstances.
37. Crucially, cash-first does **not** mean cash-only. Adopting a person-centred approach, Authorities should use their professional judgement to identify where a cash payment does not best meet the needs of the applicant and other provision (such as vouchers or goods in-kind) is more appropriate.
38. **Note:** Authorities across England can and already do use a range of systems to disburse cash payments quickly and effectively. Authorities are not required to distribute physical cash or directly transfer funds to Crisis Payment recipients, though both methods are available if the Authority opts to use them. There are a variety of options available to Authorities to enable cash transfers including a variety of 'cash-out' voucher mechanisms that provide the simplicity of issuing a voucher with the flexibility of a cash-payment for the recipient. **Annex C** details the mechanisms available for delivering a cash-first approach.

Case Study 1: Barking and Dagenham: Cash-first crisis payments within minutes

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBD) has been delivering cash-first support since the pandemic. To date, just over £2.7 million in direct cash payments has been disbursed by the Welfare Benefits Team through their LWA and Household Support Fund schemes. Having been so successful, the cash-first method has been adopted across the authority with a further £1.4 million disbursed to date through the NRPF, Adult Social Care and Children's Services teams.

Taking a cash-first approach, cash payments are prioritised over other types of support depending on people's needs and considering any known vulnerabilities. LBBD use a Pay by Text platform, delivered by Cash Perks with full ATM network access for withdrawal, that allows staff to swiftly set up payments in increments of £10s (up to a maximum of £500) with PIN codes which are shared directly with individual residents with mobile phones. There are around 15,000 ATM machines across the UK which are typically accessible on a 24/7 basis. Using this system allows LBBD teams to distribute cash payments within minutes if required.

Using this cash-first system has significantly cut staff administrative time and costs at LBBD. Most payments are rapidly accessed by customers but teams can set expiration dates enabling the reimbursement of any unspent funds directly back into available balances to be allocated.

Case Study 2: Cornwall – Taking a cash-first approach in practice

Cornwall Council has taken a 'cash-first' approach to the delivery of discretionary crisis support across the county since 2013. When providing awards, Cornwall Council works with customers to find help that best suits customer's needs in keeping with the 'cash-first but not cash only' principle.

Usually, this means the disbursement of immediate cash payments. To do this, Cornwall Council distributes Post Office cash out vouchers which are issued through text messages, emails or letters. 99% of the UK population must be within 3 miles of their nearest post office and in Cornwall, where much of the population lives in rural areas, post offices are far more convenient to access than supermarkets. Cornwall Council takes a cash-first approach to their crisis support because it best suits customers in terms of dignity and choice, allows for the quickest and most convenient routes to accessing immediate help and is simple and straightforward to administer.

When applications for discretionary support are made, Cornwall Council representatives also provide direct advice and support to maximise customers' income, whether an application is successful or not. Cornwall Council also works with partners across Cornwall to help raise awareness of ways people can access cash-first options and any existing financial entitlements including through Cornwall's 'Worrying About Money?' resources.

Case Study 3: Leeds cash-first approach

In 2024, Leeds City Council (LCC) introduced cash awards through the Local Welfare Support Scheme following a pilot with Trussell. To date, 894 cash awards have been made, totalling £168,555. Applications are submitted online and subject to rigorous verification, including checks on savings, income, identity and address. Quality assurance processes have been implemented to mitigate fraud and error. Awards are administered through the Cash Perks platform, enabling individual and bulk processing. Recipients receive withdrawal instructions and secure codes by text message, allowing near-instant access to funds through participating ATMs.

Households are directed to further services through Leeds Money Information Centre through texts, emails and signposting. Applicants with council arrears or debts are signposted to additional support such as DHPs, Local Council Tax Support and advice services.

Through adopting this cash-first approach, LCC have found that it promotes dignity, flexibility and choice. It enables people to shop at preferred retailers, accommodates diverse dietary needs and reduces travel costs. Cash support does not carry stigma and supports personal choice and wellbeing.

From an Authority perspective, LCC has found administration is simplified by combining support into a single award. It avoids expiry issues of vouchers, offers flexible values and provides visibility of withdrawals. Unused awards can be cancelled.

Cash awards can present heightened risks of fraud, theft and potential misuse. Though to date, LCC has reported that cases remain low due to mitigations in place.

Vouchers

39. There will be instances where awarding vouchers is preferable to cash payments. Examples include, but are not limited to, individuals with underlying conditions not suiting large amounts of cash (such as gambling or substance addictions) and individuals stating a preference for a voucher. Authorities should treat awards on a case-by-case basis and use their discretion when to award vouchers over cash payments.
40. In the provision of vouchers, Authorities are still expected to adopt a person-centred, needs-based approach and consider how this payment will provide a gateway to Resilience Services.

In-kind provision of goods

41. There may be instances where provision of goods in-kind is the most appropriate mechanism of Crisis Payment as Authorities can use their economies of scale to obtain items that are of better value for money than if the applicant purchased directly. This could include where an individual is moving into unfurnished accommodation or the breakage of essential items, such as fridge-freezers and cookers. Where an Authority has determined that in-kind provision of goods is the most appropriate approach, we encourage Authorities to consider opting for more energy efficient white goods and electrical items and durable furniture items. Authorities may wish to consider partnerships with re-use networks for sustainable, quality and cost-effective furniture provision.
42. In purchasing goods in-kind, Authorities should consider environmental impacts where possible, including refurbished items (if in suitable condition with long-warranties), energy efficiency, contain recycled or responsibly sourced materials and have minimal packaging. For more guidance, see the [Government Buying Standards](#).
43. Where an Authority determines that direct payment in-kind to a creditor (such as a landlord, utility provider or other creditor) is the most appropriate mechanism of support, the Authority should undertake robust due diligence. This includes

verifying the debt and creditor details, obtaining applicant consent, assessing the likely impact on preventing hardship and ensuring compliance with fraud-prevention and safeguarding protocols to prevent misuse or duplication.

Case Study 4: Wiltshire Council's innovative carpeting solution

Wiltshire Council is working with local charities to provide a cost effective and creative carpeting solution for social housing residents that cannot afford flooring. It is standard practice across social housing for properties to be allocated unfurnished and without flooring. Carpet acts as a form of insulation to help reduce energy bills, noise and improves comfort for households. Living without carpet can impact people's mental and physical health.

Wiltshire Council has allocated a proportion of the Household Support Fund (HSF) to furniture charity Kennet Furniture Refurbiz (KFR) for a scheme to acquire repurposed carpet tiles, sourced from The Salvation Army Trading Company (SATCoL).

Councillor Clare Cape, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Co-ordination with the NHS, said "Many residents moving into social housing struggle to afford flooring. Our partnership with KFR has enabled us to provide targeted support which has a lasting and sustainable impact for some of the most vulnerable people in our community".

SATCoL's Flooring Reuse Programme will give those referred by the HSF access to good quality repurposed flooring, making their homes warmer and more comfortable, whilst helping to sustain our planet.

Families with children

44. Authorities should use their discretion to prioritise funding efficiently within their own CRF schemes, including when considering how best to support families in crisis to ensure the poorest children do not go hungry in the school holidays. This may not be through the blanket provision of vouchers to those on free-school meals, as we recognise that some Free School Meal eligible families may not routinely need crisis support during every school holiday. Authorities should consider how best to support the poorest and most in need households.
45. In considering how to provide support, it is important Authorities adopt the same principles outlined in the Crisis Payments section of the guidance. This includes supporting families on a needs-based basis to understand the relative need of support, the most appropriate type of award (cash, voucher or goods in-kind) and how families can be directed to wraparound support to build their financial resilience.
46. Authorities should also consider how the needs of affected families will continue to be met through the CRF's Resilience Services and Authorities' wider local welfare offer. This could include:
 - ensuring families eligible for Free School Meals are aware of and can access Resilience Services. Particularly support to ensure families are claiming all welfare support they are entitled to.
 - coordination with the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme, which supports children from lower-income families by providing free meals and enriching activities during school holidays. Authorities can choose to use the CRF funding to supplement or expand HAF provision, where it aligns with the Fund's outcomes on resilience.
 - engaging with families at risk of food insecurity by working closely with schools and Family Hubs.

- community food aid that promotes the development of new, creative approaches that align with CRF outcomes to build resilient local food landscapes (paragraph 110).

Housing Payment

47. DHPs will come to an end in England on 31 March 2026. From 1 April 2026, DHPs will be replaced by the Housing Payment strand of the CRF. **Authorities must name their schemes as 'Housing Payment'**. The Housing Payment will closely replicate existing DHP guidelines and will adopt a phased transition over the 3-year funding period.
48. This phased transition means, in Years 1 and 2, the current Authority recipient of DHPs (Unitary Authorities or District Councils) will continue to receive an allocation to be spent on Housing Payments. From Year 3 onwards, Unitary Authorities (and County Councils that continue to operate in the FYE March 2029) will receive allocations for Housing Payments. See **Annex E** for a breakdown of how much Authorities are expected to spend on Housing Payments in the FYE March 2029.
49. During Years 1 and 2 of the Fund, Authorities are expected to plan for funding changes outlined in paragraph 48 (where applicable). Authorities should also consider whether to align Crisis and Housing Payment administration to streamline delivery.

Eligibility

50. The Housing Payment provides financial support towards housing costs and is paid by an Authority when they are satisfied that an applicant requires further financial assistance with housing costs. These payments can be made to claimants who are entitled to either:
- HB, or
 - UC with housing costs towards rental liability. This includes Shared Ownership properties which carry a rental liability.

51. Entitlement refers to individuals who are in receipt of, or qualify for, one of the benefits outlined in paragraph 50 but have not yet received payment.
52. Where an individual cannot access a Housing Payment, either because they are not eligible (in other words, not entitled to a qualifying benefit or owner-occupiers) or the Housing Payment allocation has been exhausted, they may be able to access further financial assistance through the Authority's Crisis Payment scheme, if they are deemed eligible.

Case Study 5: Using Crisis Payments for housing costs where individuals do not meet Housing Payment eligibility requirements

Sarah is 24 years-old, single and living in a privately rented property. She works full-time but has recently experienced a reduction in working hours and income. As a result, she is struggling to meet her housing costs and utility bills. Sarah contacts her authority to apply for a Housing Payment through the Crisis and Resilience Fund.

Sarah completes an application form explaining her financial hardship and outlining the debt and rent arrears she is accruing. The authority reviews her application against the Housing Payment eligibility criteria set out in the CRF guidance and determines that Sarah is not entitled to a Housing Payment as she does not receive HB or UC Housing element.

The authority carried out a Benefit Entitlement Check and determined Sarah was not eligible to claim UC due to her earnings. Rather than leaving Sarah without help, the authority follows the CRF guidance on wraparound support and signposting. They explain that while she cannot receive a Housing Payment, she may be eligible for a CRF Crisis Payment, which is designed to provide immediate assistance to people in financial crisis regardless of benefit entitlement.

The authority helps Sarah apply for a Crisis Payment to cover essential costs, including a contribution towards her rent arrears. They also refer her to Resilience Services for budgeting advice and longer-term financial planning.

Sarah's Crisis Payment application is approved and she receives help with her immediate rent shortfall. With this support Sarah stabilises her financial situation. Through the Resilience Service, Sarah learns how to manage her budget more effectively allowing her to become more financially secure and confident about her future.

53. 'Housing costs' are not defined, allowing an Authority broad discretion for interpretation. In general, 'housing costs' refer to rental liability, as well as:

- rent in advance
- rental deposits
- other lump sum costs associated with a housing need, such as removal costs

54. The phrase 'further financial assistance' is also not defined. An Authority may interpret the phrase however they wish, taking into consideration the applicant's financial circumstances and any other relevant factors.

Application process

55. It is for Authorities to determine how to receive applications for Housing Payments. Application processes should be advertised and easy to access so individuals can receive support timeously.

56. Authorities have the discretion to, where appropriate, use existing DHP application routes when considering claims from applicants. This is to ensure that access to support is ongoing, allowing for a smooth transition to full integration. It is expected that Authorities update all materials relating to DHPs to the CRF Housing Payment as soon as feasibly possible.

Funding

57. Authorities can top-up their Housing Payment allocation using their own funding. There is no limit applied to this amount.

58. Housing Payment funding may be used for:

- rental deposits and rent in advance
- costs associated with securing housing or downsizing (such as removal expenses or tenancy setup)
- Shortfalls between housing support and actual rent, including those caused by:
 - the [benefit cap](#).
 - [Removal of the Spare Room Subsidy](#) (RSRS)
 - [Local Housing Allowance](#) (LHA)

59. Housing Payments may be made where the requirement for financial assistance does not arise from:

- **Ineligible Service Charges** as specified in [Schedule 1 of the Housing Benefit Regulations 2006](#) or [Schedule 1 to the Housing Benefit \(Persons who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit\) Regulations 2006](#) or, for UC, a service charge not listed in [Schedule 1 paragraph 7 of the Universal Credit Regulations 2013](#)
- **Increases in rent due to outstanding rent arrears** as set out in [Regulation 11\(3\) of the Housing Benefit Regulations 2006](#) and [Regulation 11\(2\) of the Housing Benefit \(Persons who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit\) Regulations 2006](#)
- **Sanctions and reductions in benefit** as specified under regulations 100 to 114 of the Universal Credit Regulations 2013 or due to a breach of a community service order
- Shortfall caused by HB or UC overpayment recovery
- **Benefit suspensions** where there is doubt about entitlement or because a claimant has failed to supply information pertinent to their claim as specified in section 21, 22 or 24 of the [Social Security Act 1998](#) or section 68 of, and

paragraphs 13 and 14 of Schedule 7 to, the [Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000](#)

60. When the Housing Payment is being considered for rent costs, it should not exceed the weekly HB or UC Housing element. Authorities should consider the Court of Appeal's decision in R v. LB Lambeth, ex parte Gargett (see **Annex B**).

Method of payment

61. The Housing Payment may be delivered through HB payment systems and may also be paid alongside HB payments. There must be a clear audit trail that allows the Authority to differentiate between HB and the Housing Payment award.
62. If the Housing Payment is paid with HB, notifications to the claimant must clearly show the amount of HB and the amount of the Housing Payment.
For UC claimants, Authorities' payments may align with UC schedules.
63. Payments may be made to third parties (such as agents, appointees and landlords) where appropriate, with fraud risk considered.
64. In the case of a person who is entitled to a rent rebate, the Housing Payment can be credited to the rent account.

Payment duration and backdating

65. Unlike Crisis Payments, the Housing Payment may be paid in multiple instalments. The duration of the Housing Payment is determined by the Authority. The award period and any end date should be clearly communicated to the applicant for ongoing awards. For one-off costs (such as, deposit or rent in advance), specifying a period is not required.
66. Authorities have the discretion to backdate the Housing Payment. When deciding whether to backdate, each application should be considered on its own merits. The Housing Payment can only be considered for a period where the linked HB or relevant award of UC is payable.

Awarding a Housing Payment in UC

67. When processing an application from a UC claimant, consideration should be given to:

- total monthly household income including the whole value of the UC award, **less**
- total monthly household expenditure (which the Authority deem reasonable), **equals**
- **shortfall** in income to consider for a Housing Payment award

Awarding a Housing Payment to claimants that have two homes

68. A Housing Payment can be awarded in respect of two homes when someone is treated as temporarily absent from their main home. This includes those who have fled their main home because they are a victim of domestic abuse. Further information can be found in the [Housing Benefit Regulations 2006 \(S.I. 2006/213\)](#) or [Universal Credit Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/376\)](#) for the time restrictions on these provisions.

69. In such cases of temporary absence, if the claimant is treated as liable for rent on both properties and, in both cases, there is a shortfall, it is possible to award a Housing Payment in respect of both properties subject to the weekly or monthly limit on each property.

Change of circumstances

70. Applicants must notify the Authority of any changes which may be relevant to the Housing Payment application or award. Authorities should inform Housing Payment recipients of what changes to report and how to do so. There is no statutory timescale, but prompt notification is encouraged.

Working with other Authorities

71. It may be helpful for Authorities to consider working with neighbouring Authorities if claimants could be more likely to find accommodation in another area.

72. The Authority that the claimant is leaving is responsible for providing the Housing Payment.
73. In the event of a claimant moving from one Authority to another, it is advised that discussions should take place between the Authorities and other departments regarding the possible increase in demand of services, for example school places, social services support or need to access the CRF Crisis Payment or Resilience Services.
74. In all Housing Payment cases, frontline staff should explore and address underlying needs and, where appropriate, offer warm referrals to Resilience Services. This approach fosters an environment that builds long-term financial resilience.
75. Authorities should be aware and trained to recognise when a claimant approaching for Housing Payment is legally homeless or threatened with homelessness which may trigger duties the Authority must undertake separately to this Fund.

Case Study 6: Housing Payments for claimants affected by the benefit cap:

Mr. and Mrs. Smith rent a 3-bedroomed property and are subject to the benefit cap. They have two children, reside in Greater London and receive the following benefits:

- Child Benefit
- UC
 - Standard allowance
 - Housing element
 - Child element

Mr. Smith has been unemployed for some time and has found it difficult to find employment in his usual vocation; he attends the Jobcentre regularly for support from his work coach.

Due to the length of time he has been out of work, Mr. Smith has built up rent arrears and has received help with budgeting and finances. An Alternative Payment Arrangement (APA) to pay his rent direct the landlord has been put in place and he is applying for a Housing Payment.

In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Smith's oldest child is 15 years old and in the process of completing her GCSEs. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have found a cheaper property that would take them below the benefit cap in another area but it would mean their oldest child would have to move schools. They believe this would have a negative impact on their child's education.

The maximum payment for an ongoing award may not exceed the UC housing costs element. However, consideration needs to be given to the amount of any shortfall in income, so an LA may decide to award a weekly Housing Payment until Mr. and Mrs. Smith move into work or their oldest child completes her GCSEs.

Case Study 7: Housing Payments for claimants affected by RSRs

Mr. and Mrs. Thom rent a 4-bedroom house from a registered housing provider. They have two children, a girl of 7 and a boy of 5. They receive the following benefits:

- Child Benefit
- UC
 - Standard allowance
 - Housing element
 - Child element
 - Carers element
 - Limited Capability for Work and work related activities element
- Carers Allowance
- Personal Independence Payment

Under the size limit rules, they are considered to be under-occupying the house by two bedrooms as the children are both under ten years old and would be expected to share a room. As the Thom's are under-occupying by two bedrooms, a 25% reduction would be applied to the eligible rent.

Mrs. Thom is a wheelchair user and significant adaptations have been made to the property to make it more accessible following the receipt of a Disabled Facilities Grant. If the family moved to a smaller home, that property would need to be adapted at considerable expense.

Mrs. Thom applies for a Housing Payment and provides evidence to show the level of UC Housing element she receives and also her rental contract from her housing provider to show the amount of rent due. An award should be considered to enable the family to meet their rental liability in full and remain in their current adapted house.

Application-based support

76. Every Authority must operate a Crisis Payment and Housing Payment scheme that **accepts applications continuously throughout the year**.
77. Authorities have the discretion to administer their Crisis Payments and Housing Payments themselves or to deliver through delegated delivery partners including another Authority tier (where applicable) or through a third-party organisation.
78. An Authority that opts to delegate delivery of Crisis Payments remains accountable for their scheme. In these cases, the lead Authority (in other words, the Unitary Authority or County Council in receipt of the CRF funding) must be satisfied that their scheme is delivered in alignment with the CRF Guidance.
79. Authorities must provide a minimum of **two** application routes for Crisis Payments and Housing Payments, such as an online application, telephone application and face-to-face application, ensuring inclusions to those digitally excluded and with barriers to travel. Application processes should be well advertised and easy to access so that individuals can gain support quickly and easily.
80. For Housing Payments, Authorities have the discretion to, where appropriate, use existing DHP application routes when considering claims from applicants. This could also include reusing existing policies and procedures, including decision notifications and correspondence, to ensure support is ongoing, allowing for a smooth transition.
81. Applications for Crisis Payments and Housing Payments should be accepted from someone acting on behalf of the applicant such as [an appointee](#), including a friend or relative, or a voluntary and community sector organisation. Appropriate checks should be undertaken in these circumstances. In case of an application or referral from a voluntary and community sector organisation, Authorities should consider what assessment has already taken place, so individuals do not have to repeatedly disclose sensitive details.

82. Application methods must be accessible to all (see section on Accessibility, paragraphs 157 to 162 for further information). Authorities should avoid 'first come, first serve' models, which can disadvantage those with additional support needs. Authorities should aim to allocate their budgets to enable their Crisis Payment scheme to be open to applications for the full duration of each year, throughout the Fund period.
83. Authorities or their delegated delivery partners are advised to communicate expected processing times to applicants. Transparent communication helps manage applicants' expectations and prevent undue stress throughout the application process. Authorities should aim to deliver Crisis Payments within 48 hours of application, unless a payment in-kind is awarded. Whilst there is no expectation that Housing Payments should be awarded within 48 hours of application, we encourage Authorities to provide payment as soon as feasible. **Authorities should consider procedures for supporting individuals who need support outside of working hours. This could include specific out-of-hours services or clear signposting to services that are running.**
84. Application forms should include information required to facilitate the CRF Reporting Requirements, as detailed in the CRF Reporting Requirements (see section Reporting and management information (MI), paragraph 177 to 184). This creates consistency between Authorities and enables data collection for The Fund.

Targeting support

85. It is expected that Crisis Payments and Housing Payments will mostly be delivered through application-based schemes. However, Authorities are encouraged to implement new, creative methods to deliver CRF outcomes which may fall outside of application-based support.

86. Authorities may choose to proactively target vulnerable individuals or communities to directly provide Crisis Payments and Housing Payments or to make them aware of crisis support and Resilience Services available. Support could be targeted to the most vulnerable or poorest groups. Targeted support may also be appropriate for harder to reach groups who are unlikely to come forward for application-based support. In these cases, Authorities should still ensure they are taking a needs-based and person-centred approach to ensure support is being targeted to those in genuine need.
87. The Authority should use the wide range of data and information sources at their disposal, including through engagement with relevant voluntary and community sector organisations, to identify and provide support to a broad range of low-income and vulnerable households to prevent escalation of problems. DWP provides the data and information set out in paragraphs 185 to 188 to Authorities to support them to identify those in need in their area. Authorities should also use other sources of information to identify vulnerable households, including by taking advice or application referrals from professionals who come into contact with vulnerable households such as social workers, keyworkers delivering early help and family support, health visitors and housing support officers.

Case Study 8: Bracknell Forest Council

Bracknell Forest Council has seen significant successes by using an innovative data tool, the Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT). The council initially used the LIFT platform to tackle rising homelessness. Using LIFT, the council harnessed the power of its administrative data to identify residents for support. Notable campaigns include the timely allocation of over £4,000 in Discretionary Housing Payments and over £8,000 in emergency support to households.

A proactive shift by a council officer extended LIFT's data driven approach from the homelessness team to other departments, with great results. The LIFT approach had proven its ability to identify residents at risk and allocate scarce resources. With more demand for council services, LIFT offered a way to give preventative support at scale across the borough. Utilising LIFT data, households were identified and contacted if they were not receiving welfare payments that they were eligible for. One campaign contacted 191 Pension age households, where £113,879 in additional income was unlocked for these households. Other campaigns have resulted in improved uptake of benefits such as Council Tax support and free TV licences.

Wraparound support and referral pathways

88. Authorities are expected to use Crisis Payments and Housing Payments as a gateway to wider support. Voluntary, person-centred referrals to Resilience Services are key to the CRF outcomes by connecting Crisis Payments and Housing Payments to the local support landscape. This may include provisions from the Authority, central government or voluntary and community sector organisations. This fosters an environment that builds financial resilience and reduces crisis need. Authorities are expected to use the CRF's Community Coordination strand to support their development of referral pathways (see paragraphs 111 to 117).

89. To effectively assess and address any underlying need, a person-centred and needs-based approach is to be adopted (see paragraph 18). Where underlying need is identified, applicants should be offered a warm referral to appropriate Resilience Services, where agreed by the applicant (see paragraphs 94 to 109).
90. Authorities should consider support with specialist provisions where it is required to support an individual's access to appropriate Resilience Services. This could include supporting an individual with a learning disability to access specialist advice.
91. The applicant does **not** need to be awarded a Crisis Payment or Housing Payment to receive a referral. Authorities should apply the principles of a Trauma Informed Approach when addressing both immediate and underlying needs, aiming to minimise the need for individuals to repeat their experiences (see paragraph 9 for further information).
92. Authorities should consider the timing of referrals to Resilience Services. Immediate referral may be suitable for some applicants, while others might prefer a referral at a later date. If an applicant is unable or chooses not to accept a referral when applying for a Crisis Payment or Housing Payment, Authorities should consider implementing mechanisms that enable delayed warm referrals based on the applicant's preference.
93. Referral pathways should exist between Crisis/Housing Payments and Resilience Services. This supports a 'no wrong door' approach that enables applicants to receive the appropriate support, no matter where their initial point of contact is with the Authority or relevant support service. This means that Resilience Services should be also able to act as an appointee to support applicants in applying for Crisis Payments or Housing Payments where appropriate.

Resilience Services

94. Resilience Services are the services, programmes and activities that support building financial resilience for individuals and local communities. These are often delivered by local voluntary and community sector organisations but can also be delivered directly by the Authority. In building individual financial resilience, Authorities help their citizens to manage financial shocks, preventing occurrence, recurrence and escalation of crises.
95. Authorities are required to use funding to implement or further develop Resilience Services. Authorities can use the Fund to implement new services where they identify gaps in provision (see paragraphs 115 to 117 on landscape mapping) or invest in existing services to expand provision. The Authority can choose to use the Fund to supplement or expand existing provision where it aligns with the CRF policy intent.
96. It is expected that Authorities will work closely with voluntary and community sector organisations in delivery of Resilience Services. If delivering Resilience Services through voluntary and community sector organisations, the Authority remains accountable for the eligibility criteria and outcomes-approach of these partners and must work with them to establish these in compliance with the Fund's guidance.
97. There is no prescriptive list which provides a comprehensive definition of eligible spend under the Resilience Services. Authorities have the flexibility to design schemes that best meets the needs of their local communities, provided these initiatives meet the resilience outcomes set out in paragraph 102.
98. There is no specified amount Authorities must spend on Resilience Services, as this will vary on a case-by-case basis. However, given the Fund's emphasis on building financial resilience, Authorities are expected to use a significant amount of their total Fund allocation on Resilience Services.
99. **Note:** A 'significant amount' is not quantified in recognition of the differing local contexts. Authorities are encouraged to determine what constitutes as significant within the context of their local needs and existing provision of Resilience Services.

Outcomes-based approach

100. An outcomes-based approach means that funding decisions should be guided by the impact services have on improving financial resilience. Authorities should be able to demonstrate a clear rationale for how their chosen services contribute to one or more of the following outcomes, which are explained further below: increased savings, reduced priority debt, reduced need for emergency food parcels, reduced material deprivation, maximised income, fewer repeat crisis applications and increased access to appropriate and quality advice services.
101. **Note:** Authorities should be able to demonstrate a clear rationale for how the CRF investment in their chosen Resilience Services will meet medium and long-term CRF outcomes. Services that only meet short-term outcomes are more aligned with crisis support, rather than increasing financial resilience. Please refer to CRF Reporting Requirements for detail on the monitoring and MI required from Authorities in support of the outcomes-based approach. DWP recognises that the timeline for realising improvements in each CRF outcome will vary depending on the specific outcome in question.

What Authorities should do

102. Authorities will have discretion in which services they fund. It is expected that the CRF-funded Resilience Services positively impact one or more of the following CRF outcomes:

Outcome	Description
Reduced experiences of material deprivation	Material deprivation captures inability to afford essentials (heating, adequate clothing, basic household goods and food). By tackling the underlying conditions that prevent households from affording essentials, Authorities can support their citizens to build protection to avoid hardship.
Reduced need for emergency food parcels	Insufficient food is a crisis need negatively effecting health and wellbeing if not addressed. More resilient households are less likely to experience financial crises that lead to emergency food need.
Increased access to appropriate and quality advice services	Access to high quality, free-at-the-point-of-use advice is a proven lever for income gains, arrears resolution and improved social wellbeing. Advice should lead to improved understanding of rights/entitlements for individuals, ideally provide individuals with an intention to act on the advice and for the issue to be progressed or resolved. Where appropriate, advice should support early problem resolution. Advice may focus on areas such as debt, welfare, housing and other wider support.
Increased savings	Encouraging individuals to build buffers that prevent small shocks becoming crises when an unexpected bill or income dip hits.
Reduction in priority debt	Rent, council tax and utilities arrears are the debts most likely to tip households into crisis, trigger legal action and increase health and homelessness risks. By supporting citizens to manage or reduce these debts, Authorities create more resilient households.
Maximisation of individuals' incomes	Authorities can support individuals to increase their household income through a combination of raising income and reducing expenditure. This could include helping individuals identify and claim financial support they are entitled to, identifying savings and building skills to help with employment and in-work progression.

Decreased need for Crisis Payments and Housing Payments	By building the financial resilience of individuals and enabling effective pathways between crisis support and Resilience Services, Authorities should see reduced crisis need over time.
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103. **Note:** Advice must be appropriately accredited where relevant. For example, debt advice is a regulated financial activity and therefore should be authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), unless appropriate exemptions or exclusions are in place.

104. These priorities reflect a person-centred, outcomes-led model with strong wraparound support in alignment with the Fund's intent to address root causes, not just crisis symptoms.

105. Resilience Services should be developed in consideration of the complex, interrelated factors that affect an individual's financial resilience such as income, health, education, housing security, financial literacy, debt, savings, caring responsibilities and access to affordable credit. Authorities should consider implementing services that can deliver:

- **Budget maximisation**, such as by funding advice services (including but not limited to debt, energy and housing). Advice services can be delivered in-house by Authorities or by an external provider.
- **Income maximisation**, such as through benefit checks and application support, employment and training advice, access to alternate support grants, community childcare or CV building services.
- **Income smoothing**, such as enabling access to affordable credit, supporting saving behaviours or encouraging appropriate insurance take-up.
- **Financial capability**, such as supporting future planning services and financial education.

Case Study 9: Royal Borough of Greenwich's Money Advice Team and Advice Hubs

The Royal Borough of Greenwich's recruited an established debt adviser to build their in-house Money Advice Team, recruiting a mix of council colleagues with transferrable skills, as well as recruiting externally. Extensive one to one training was provided, supplemented with resources from the Money Advice Trust, with each officer working towards the CMAP accreditation from the Institute of Money Advisers. The team has established referral routes from the Borough's Emergency Support Scheme, Welfare Rights colleagues, Tenancy Income for council tenants with rent arrears at risk of eviction, Council Tax Enforcement and Discretionary Housing Payments assessment team.

By working collaboratively with parts of the council that collect debt, the Money Advice Team has been able to target those in financial crisis very effectively. The Borough provide advice on income maximisation, expenditure reduction and debt prioritisation, followed by an intensive one to one case work service to put a solution in place.

The Borough's in-house welfare rights service works in partnership with community-based advice provision through a network of outreach advice hubs. The hubs provide access welfare benefits, debt, housing, generalist and, in some locations, immigration advice, with multiple advice providers in the same place at the same time.

An effective triage process is in place at each location, which is key to the running of the session. The model deliberately chose appropriate community locations, prioritising accessibility and convenience for residents.

Case Study 10: Hampshire's Wellbeing Workers

Hampshire County Council community wellbeing workers are providing preventative support services for over 600 older adults and are linked in with the Hampshire Social Prescribing network. They can provide face to face support and signposting to the most vulnerable older adults to support networks, such as in accessing community pantries and Citizens Advice services.

They have also provided outreach support to address digital exclusion through Citizens Advice Hampshire in community areas, delivering specialist resource to target those who need extra help to navigate online application processes by offering support with form filling, benefit applications, immigration forms and other online accounts. Their 'Warm and Welcome' offer, delivered through library services, has helped to extend community offers, including signposting to relevant services, 'chat about' groups for the elderly and infirm and the provision of warm and welcome resources, warm spaces, and sanitary products. This is estimated to benefit up to 8,000 households across the range of support.

Case Study 11: Birmingham City Council's Cost-of-Living programme

Birmingham City Council's Cost-of-Living programme engages with hundreds of partners to provide a wide range of support to vulnerable residents. Thrive Together Birmingham have been key in supporting engagement with the Warm Welcome Network of Warm Welcome Spaces, 180 of which are funded by the Household Support Fund.

They are supporting coordination of a Furniture and Clothing Poverty group, which provides tangible item packages (including furniture, clothing, white goods and carpets to residents), upcycling and signposting to other services within their network to provide even wider wraparound care. They are also providing residents with benefits and other income maximisation support through advice services, focusing on employment pathways and job training programs. Their financial resilience scoring system ensures support reaches those most in need and their holistic and wraparound support reaches all areas of the community.

106. In deciding which Resilience Services to fund, Authorities should consider the impact that a service can provide. For example, Authorities can choose between a service that has a moderate impact on multiple outcomes or a service that has a significant impact on one outcome. There is no prescribed approach and services do not have to meet all of the resilience outcomes.
107. Crisis Payments and Housing Payments should refer into the Authority's Resilience Services, ensuring a joined up approach across the Authority and wider support services and these pathways should operate in both directions. This reinforces the scheme's 'no wrong door' approach that enables applicants to receive appropriate support, regardless of their initial point of contact (see paragraph 93). Resilience Services should not be restricted to those who receive Crisis Payments or Housing Payments. Authorities should work to raise awareness of their Resilience Services, such as outreach activities, clear and accessible information and cross-organisational (for example, social care services) staff training to ensure internal consistency in referrals and signposting from wider Authority staff (see paragraphs 167 to 172 for further information on raising awareness). Awareness and access are vital to ensure Resilience Services can act as early interventions to identify and address issues before crises occur.
108. The CRF does not operate in isolation. It exists within a network of provisions delivered by Authorities, other public services, voluntary and community sector organisations and more. Authorities must carefully consider how best to position their CRF schemes within their own local landscapes. This includes considering how the CRF interacts with these other funding streams and builds upon existing provisions, including the potential for matching or pooling funds.

109. Authorities should work closely with local Job Centres and DWP Services and actively seek to integrate the delivery of their CRF schemes with other local and national frameworks aligned to building financial resilience. This includes initiatives such as National Strategies on Financial Inclusion, Child Poverty and Homelessness and Rough Sleeping and placed-based initiatives including, but not limited to, Local Get Britain Working Plans, Get Britain Working Trailblazers, Connect to Work and WorkWell.

Community food aid

110. Authorities using the CRF to support community food aid are encouraged to prioritise provisions that integrate or co-locate with Resilience Services. This could include integration with advice services, benefit application support and utility debt support. Authorities are encouraged to think creatively about new approaches to building sustainable food landscapes, which draw on established best practice and support people to transition away from crisis support to building their financial resilience.

Case Study 12: Feeding Britain's Pathways from Poverty Programme in Brighton and Hove

Citizens Advice are training staff and volunteers from community food projects across the Brighton and Hove Food Partnership to offer guidance to people accessing their services as part of an Advice First Aid approach. The basic training is a two-day session covering the fundamentals of advice provision, benefits, housing and debt. Ongoing support for trainees includes peer supported groups, meetings and email updates. There is a direct communication channel to a qualified advisor for more complex cases.

Case Study 13: Advice Cafés in Surrey

Good Company, a local charity supporting people in Surrey, has set up a network of Advice Cafés within established community hubs, where advisers from different organisations are present in the same venue. The aim of the Advice Cafés is to facilitate more collaborative working between local agencies, to ensure people at risk of hunger and hardship are able to access holistic support from the services they need before they reach a point of crisis.

Advisers complete monitoring forms to enable Good Company to track who is using the Advice Cafés, how they access the service and the type of support they receive. Between April 2024 and April 2025, people visiting the Advice Cafés have been supported with a wide range of specific issues including benefit checks, budgeting, council tax, energy top ups, housing repairs, school uniform, carer respite and immigration issues. In 4 in 10 cases, advisers made a referral to another agency for additional support. Most of these (nearly 7 in 10) were verbal referrals to other advisers in the Advice Café, showing the benefits of co-location.

Community Coordination

111. Authorities will be required to use part of their funding to create a more connected local welfare landscape that directly contributes to CRF Outcome 3 on bolstering the local level support landscape. Progress in improving local level support also contributes to improvements in the Fund's other outcomes on the provision of effective crisis support and improving individuals' financial resilience.

112. The activities that Authorities undertake through CRF's Community Coordination strand will build partnerships and referral pathways that make both immediate crisis responses and longer-term resilience building possible. The effective co-ordination of statutory services, voluntary and community sector organisations, grassroots projects and place-based initiatives delivers benefits to both individuals needing support and the professionals involved, creating more financially resilient communities.

113. Stronger, easy to navigate local support landscapes provide a strong foundation for a “no wrong door” approach that improves community access to Resilience Services and enables appropriate referrals between Crisis/Housing Payments and Resilience Services.

114. Work within this strand is not limited to Authority boundaries. Authorities are encouraged to work across boundaries to consider what activities would improve support landscapes across their region. This may involve partnership working with regional bodies, including Mayoral Strategic Authorities.

What Authorities should do

115. Authorities are expected to utilise their understanding of local need and existing provision to identify opportunities to connect services in a way that meets long-term CRF outcomes, address service gaps or expand existing provision. This may include introducing new services where there are gaps or enhancing existing services to better meet demand.

116. Authorities have the discretion to determine the most effective strategies for connecting their local support landscapes to meet CRF Outcomes 1 and 2. While approaches may vary across Authorities, effective coordination typically shares several core elements:

- Effective local coordination for financial resilience begins with a **network of people** who are motivated to act together to **achieve better outcomes** collaboratively and have a **shared understanding** of the local landscape in which services are operating.
- This network is most effective when underpinned by a mechanism to facilitate robust referrals across agencies - for example, a digital referral system.
- **Sustained investment and leadership.** Co-ordination at the local level can quickly diminish without ongoing support.

Case Study 14: How Birmingham maps support

Birmingham has always had an enormous amount of support happening in communities - from food banks and pantries to Warm Welcome spaces, housing help, youth support, advice agencies, faith groups, libraries and hundreds of local organisations. The challenge hasn't been a lack of activity. It's been a lack of one clear picture. As their communities face complex, overlapping issues (food insecurity, rising costs, housing challenges, isolation, unemployment), they needed a view of the whole ecosystem - not just slices of it.

Birmingham commissioned [BrumChat](#) to pull all the partnership maps and support directories together into one place, with a single front door for residents, frontline staff, partners and hubs. It gives Birmingham a way to see everything in one place, keep the map live, avoid duplication, give residents clearer guidance and help frontline workers make better referrals.

117. Authorities should choose actions that best fit local need. Effective Community Coordination could include, but is not limited to:

- **Investing in convening and coordinating capacity** - partnerships that map and maintain a live directory of statutory, voluntary and community services and make this accessible to frontline staff and residents. This could involve the hiring of staff in enabling roles to facilitate this partnership working.
- **Coordinating with aligned programmes and initiatives** – to ensure that the CRF complements, supplements and or expands on existing provisions and that duplication is mitigated. This could include the matching or pooling of funds to achieve shared outcomes.
- **Partnerships with other organisations** to deliver coordinated support, develop local strategies to address poverty or negotiating favourable terms for people in low incomes (negotiation of social tariffs, discounted bills, debt cancellations or accessing energy-saving grants).
- **Outreach, producing and disseminating physical and digital materials** – that includes information of different local services available to individuals, how to apply and where to access services. This could be done through development of Authorities' websites or community locations such as schools, GPs and libraries.
- **Digital tools** and systems that enable mapping activities, coordinated working, supported referrals and feedback loops across a range of different services.
- **Service design and co-production** with residents and local community groups to improve outcomes and increase efficiencies for both those delivering the CRF and those in receipt of its support.
- **Co-location of services** – different services or professional groups being situated in the same physical space or building to provide more integrated and accessible support to individuals. Co-location can occur in areas that are commonly used by communities to enable access for a wide range of groups. This could involve situating advice services in locations such as Authority services, hubs, leisure centres, Family Hubs, libraries and GP surgeries, amongst others.

- **Capability building** - shared protocols, training and data sharing so partners can identify need early and direct people to appropriate timely support.

Case Study 15: Hackney Council System Convener

During the pandemic, Hackney experienced how relational collaboration between the Council and voluntary and community sector (VCS) partners could deliver more effective support. Hackney saw an opportunity with the HSF to support two **System Convening roles** who operate between strategy and street-level practice. They built relationships with frontline professionals from the VCS, Health and Council, learning about needs, barriers and ideas for change. They connect people across sector boundaries by making introductions, facilitating conversations and sharing knowledge and resources. In relationship with cross-sector partners, they've created the conditions to test and learn from different ways of supporting residents:

- **A fortnightly drop-in for families in temporary accommodation** – informal spaces with play, food and consistent access to advice and services
- **Co-location of support** – money, energy, housing and advice support at community spaces, maximising income and reduce essential costs
- **Council Tax escalation route** – cross-sector collaboration for complex cases
- **Tools for frontline staff sessions** – bi-weekly knowledge sharing and reflective learning

This has had the following positive impacts:

- residents gained **earlier, more holistic support**, preventing deepening crises
- Council services strengthened relationships VCS and health partners, shaping system-level solutions
- **longer-term policy**
- **and service redesign**, including the [Council's transformation programme](#)

Case Study 16: Norfolk Community Advice Network

Norfolk Community Advice Network (NCAN) is a network of advice-sector organisations, working across the breadth of social welfare advice in Norfolk. The **NCAN referral system** is a web-based system that has facilitated **over 30,000** referrals between cross-sector partners, in areas such as welfare benefits, debt, housing and mental health. The system ensures that there is a joined-up 'no wrong door' approach to advice and support in Norfolk, gradually moving away from the process of 'signposting' which doesn't always work for clients.

With a built-in monitoring and analysis function, the NCAN Referral System facilitates analysis of referrals from and to organisations. This analysis can be used to demonstrate impact by sector, geographic and demographic groupings. For clients and service users, this means that the receiving organisation takes responsibility for making contact. Referrals are sent to the most appropriate agency securely and quickly and, most importantly, the individual seeking support doesn't have to repeat their story to multiple professionals working across issues.

For professionals, the benefits include access to **over 100 advice-based teams and organisations** across Norfolk. The system also facilitates the transfer of client documents and confidential information securely. Referring organisations and professionals can track the progress of outgoing referrals, preventing the duplication of triage work and promoting shared access and partnership working.

Scheme management

DWP funding arrangements

118. The CRF is a consolidated revenue grant that will be delivered through the Local Government Finance Settlement from the FYE March 2027. This consolidated grant will be ringfenced to be spent as detailed in this guidance and the annual

119. Grant Determination. Allocations will be provided annually in the Local Government Finance Settlement. It will be paid by monthly instalments through Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will administer the payments, subject to the conditions set out in this guidance and the CRF Grant Determination Letter.
120. DWP will validate and verify returns to ensure that reported spend is eligible and in line with the objectives of The Fund. Where there is identification of ineligible spend and, where deemed necessary, recovery action will be undertaken by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, as instructed by DWP.
121. Where there is identification of underspend at the end of CRF Year 3 (the FYE March 2029), recovery action may be undertaken by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, as instructed by DWP.

Funding allocation within the CRF

122. In Years 1 and 2 of the Fund, the current Authority recipient of DHPs (District Councils and Unitary Authorities) will continue to receive an allocation to be spent on Housing Payments. The remainder of the CRF funding will be allocated and issued to County Councils and Unitary Authorities. In Year 1 (the FYE March 2027) and Year 2 (the FYE March 2028), Authorities are expected to maintain existing levels of spending on Housing Payments, using the FYE March 2026 allocations for Discretionary Housing Payments as a guide. From Year 3 (the FYE March 2029) onwards, all CRF funding will be distributed to Unitary Authorities (and County Councils that continue to operate in the FYE March 2029). See **Annex E** for a breakdown of how much Authorities are expected to spend on Housing Payments in the FYE March 2029. Authorities are expected to consider a tolerance of a 20% increase or decrease to these expected spending levels. However, the exact proportions of The Fund allocated between these components are at the Authority's discretion and may vary between years. This means Authorities can under or overspend on the Housing Payment allocation, with funds coming from or going to other Fund areas on Crisis Payments, Resilience Services or Community Coordination. This added flexibility allows Authorities to target funds where they believe the greatest need is.
123. Authorities are required to allocate their CRF funding to each of the four CRF strands to deliver provision that meets the CRF outcomes. Except for the Housing Payment allocation outlined in paragraph 11, there is no recommended percentage for how funds should be distributed among components. This allocation between strands is expected to vary between Authorities based on local needs to achieve CRF outcomes. However, given the focus of the Fund in improving individual and local financial resilience, Authorities are expected to focus a significant part of their funding to address this.
124. **Note:** 'Significant is not quantified in recognition of the differing local contexts. Authorities are encouraged to determine what constitutes as significant within the context of their local needs and existing provision of Resilience Services.

Administrative costs

125. Authority funding allocations include administrative costs incurred for administering The Fund. For Years 1 and 2, administration costs for the Housing Payment will be recommended as detailed in **Annex E**. In Year 3, these will be at the discretion of the Authority.
126. In all cases, Authorities should keep administrative costs to a reasonable and proportionate level. What constitutes as reasonable will vary between Authorities and may vary year on year depending on the activities being undertaken. In some instances, higher administrative costs may be required to deliver more effective schemes that better meet CRF outcomes.
127. **Note:** 'Reasonable' is not quantified in recognition of the differing local contexts and the changing administrative needs of implementing a new scheme. Authorities are encouraged to determine what constitutes as reasonable within the context of their current administrative structures and the actions necessary to meet CRF outcomes.
128. All arrangements should be subject to appropriate due diligence and adhere to cost-effective commercial processes to ensure value for money and alignment with public sector standards. DWP will engage with Authorities where necessary, including in relation to where administrative expenditure does not appear to justify the outcomes it is seeking to achieve.
129. Authorities should report their administration costs, including those delivered by partner organisations, separately within their MI returns. These administrative costs may include but are not limited to:
- staff costs
 - advertising and publicity to raise awareness of The Fund (this includes costs to make material more accessible, such as translation costs or providing diverse formats)
 - data and analytics for targeting support
 - web page design

- printing application forms
- MI reporting costs
- digital or IT costs for referral systems
- small IT changes, such as to facilitate MI production

Administration costs for each Authority will be published on www.gov.uk alongside details of all spend and volumes related to The Fund.

Compliance mechanisms

130. Authorities should seek to implement all elements of the Fund as far as possible by 1 April 2026. Where an Authority is not able to do this, Authorities should set this out in their delivery plans, explaining the reasons for delayed implementation, the timeline they are working to and any mitigations they are putting in place in the interim.
131. If the recipient Authority fails to comply with any of the conditions set out in this guidance or the Grant Determination, or if any overpayment is made under this grant, or any amount is paid in error, or any unspent funding at the end of Year 3 is not returned, the Minister may reduce, suspend or withhold grant payments, or require the repayment of the whole or any part of the CRF grant monies paid, as may be determined by the Minister and notified in writing to the recipient Authority. The list below contains examples of a breach of the grant conditions:
- Inappropriate use of funding or no evidence of funding having been spent on the specified purpose.
 - Failure to submit one or more of the documents as specified in the CRF Grant Determination.
132. Such sum as has been notified will immediately become repayable to the Minister who may offset the sum against any future amount due to the recipient Authority from central government.
133. The definition of spend is grant funding that has been provided to individuals, organisations and/or administrative costs within the scope of the criteria set out in this guidance and within The Fund Period of 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029.

134. For audit purposes where an Authority recycles and reuses expired vouchers the Authority must confirm the following by email to lawelfare.pdt@dwp.gov.uk, copying in the Section 151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer (CFO):

- the amount that has been returned
- reason for the return (for example, expired voucher)
- what the original spend was reported against in their final MI return, and
- confirm they intend to spend the total unspent amount against the same category of spend for the same group

135. DWP retain the right to undertake audits at any time, should it be considered appropriate and necessary.

Recovering overpayments from individuals or voluntary and community sector organisations

136. An Authority can recover a CRF award where there has been:

- a misrepresentation or failure to disclose a material fact or change of circumstances by the claimant (either fraudulently or otherwise)
- an error made when the application was determined

Unused funding returned from voluntary and community sector organisations

137. Where a voluntary and community sector organisation returns unused funding before the end of The Fund Period, the Authority is free to spend that funding in any eligible category for the duration of The Fund Period.

138. Where a voluntary and community sector organisation returns unused funding after The Fund Period has ended, the Authority can re-issue any returned funding within a reasonable timeframe from the point the Authority becomes aware of the unused funds, but only under the same category that the spend was originally reported against. Authorities can distribute this funding themselves and do not have to go back through the original voluntary and community sector organisations.

139. For audit purposes, where an Authority re-issues returned voluntary and community sector organisation funding after The Fund Period has ended, they must confirm the following by email to lawelfare.pdt@dwp.gov.uk (copying in their Section 151 Officer/CFO):

- the amount that has been returned
- reason for the return (for example voluntary and community sector organisations underspend)
- what the original spend was reported against in their final MI return
- the intention to spend the total unspent amount against the same category of spend for the same group

Notification of decision, appeals and reconsideration processes

140. You must inform the claimant of the Crisis or Housing Payment decision either in writing or electronically (if the claimant has agreed to this). This information should include appropriate explanations and/or any reasons for non-payment.

141. This must be done as soon as is reasonably practicable. Authorities must be consistent and avoid unnecessary delay, considering that applications for support are often to deal with an immediate need.

142. A decision on a CRF award does not carry a right of appeal to a Social Security Tribunal. The route of judicial review is available and a complaint may be made to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman if there is an allegation of maladministration or service failure.

143. However, as discretionary decisions made by public bodies are subject to public law principles of fairness, reasonableness and lawfulness, Authorities are encouraged to put in place an effective internal review procedure to provide applicants with a clear route to challenge errors and ensure decisions are made consistently and fairly. This is also recommended by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman. A reconsideration or 'internal review' mechanism could also help resolve disputes and avoid litigation.

144. Authorities should provide clear and timely information about how and when to request a review. Authorities have discretion to decide who reviews a decision. There is no requirement that the review arrangements take any format as long as the Authority's process is consistent and the original decision maker is not involved. It is best practice to provide this information alongside and separate to information about application decisions.
145. The claimant should be notified of any review outcome in writing, including reasons, as soon as is reasonably practical.

Managing the risk of fraud

146. Given the scale of CRF funding and the number of Authorities and delivery partners involved, the risk of fraud and error is heightened. Authorities are responsible for managing and mitigating fraud risks and must report any identified instances without delay. Throughout the scheme, lessons learned will be shared to support Authorities in detecting and preventing fraudulent activity.
147. Money or other assistance procured from an Authority or a person acting on an Authority's behalf by fraud does not count as an Authority's eligible spend under The Fund.
148. To help mitigate fraud risks, we expect Authorities to work across levels of Local Government and other organisations chosen to administer The Fund to ensure support is going to those with genuine need and to help minimise the risk of fraud in delivering the CRF.
149. Authorities wishing to work with voluntary and community sector organisations to deliver The Fund must carry out suitable due diligence checks to ensure they are viable and able to deliver the support. So, for example, ensuring all voluntary and community sector organisations are registered and taking extra caution if they are new organisations.

150. The Authority must maintain a sound system of internal governance and financial controls in relation to the grant. If the Authority has any grounds for suspecting financial irregularity in the use of any grant paid under the determination, it must notify DWP immediately, explain what steps are being taken to investigate the suspicion and keep DWP informed about the progress of the investigation. For these purposes 'financial irregularity' includes fraud or other impropriety, mismanagement and the use of the grant for purposes other than those for which it was provided.

151. If you suspect fraud, you should notify DWP of the:

- number of instances and
- total amount lost

152. This will help DWP identify any emerging threats and share them with other Authorities, so they can take steps to prevent and detect any fraud in their Fund.

Complying with Subsidy (previously State Aid) Rules

153. The Fund should not be used for any economic undertaking. Whichever way the Authority uses the funding, including work in partnership with others, all Subsidy rules (previously State Aid) issues should be considered. Check whether the 'de minimis' regulation exception applies. You should also follow Government procurement procedures where relevant.

Existing funding structures

154. The use of the Fund to deliver and maintain activity for which the Authority is already receiving funding from HM Government is **not** permitted.

155. Authorities should assess how CRF funding aligns with their existing funding sources and determine how to use the CRF to complement current services without creating duplicate provisions. The Authority can choose to supplement or expand through the Fund existing provision delivered by, or on behalf of, the Authority where it aligns with CRF policy intent.

156. Authorities will need to consider how their CRF schemes will fit with their existing services where these offer help to similar client groups to ensure that the support provided is complementary not duplicative. There is no comprehensive list which covers all possible existing provision, but it may include:

- LWA provision: Authorities should consider how CRF can complement their existing LWA schemes. We would not expect Authorities to use CRF to replace existing LWA funded provision. It is important that Authorities' existing LWA schemes continue to be funded as they have been previously so that the CRF funding can be used to build or expand upon existing services
- Holiday Activities and Food Programme provision
- Other placed-based and National initiatives such as Trailblazers, Connect to Work, Financial Inclusion Strategy and WorkWell
- Services tackling homelessness and provision under the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant
- Community-Based Debt Advice Grant Scheme
- Social work services and support for young people leaving care
- Throughcare and aftercare for people with a conviction
- Housing and housing adaptation services
- Any support provided by registered social landlords.

157. Authorities, when considering rights, should also consider the rights that all children have to help fulfil their potential as laid out in the UNCRC (United Convention on the Rights of the Child).

Accessibility

158. Authorities should ensure that the scheme remains accessible to everyone who may need support through the CRF. This includes people who have a disability (including learning disability), impairment, terminal illness, sensory loss, mental health difficulty, are affected by digital exclusion or illiteracy, transport barriers or are vulnerable due to their current circumstances. Services should be easy to find and access so that individuals can gain support quickly and easily.

Therefore, Authorities should provide:

- services that are easy to reach and low effort to access. Application windows should not be time-limited, as this may disadvantage certain groups
- flexible services that enable a person-centred approach
- information and intuitive processes that are simple to access and use
- information in a range of accessible formats such as, Braille, EasyRead and large print
- alternative ways to access and apply for support, including offline access for people who are digitally excluded. For further information, please see the [Accessible Information Standard](#)

159. When an applicant has specific requirements resulting from a disability or impairment, such as vision, cognitive or hearing impairments or a learning disability, Authorities should ensure that the decision on a Crisis Payment or Housing Payment application is communicated in a manner that appropriately accommodates their needs. Regardless of outcome, individuals should receive a warm referral to appropriate specialist internal or third party support.

160. When assessing the immediate and underlying needs of an Applicant with health conditions, disabilities or terminal illness, Authorities should consider whether their medical needs may result in higher expenditure, above average need or whether the individual has limited capacity to seek out alternative support, including but not limited to higher energy use (such as for running medical equipment, storing medication or maintaining a safe living temperature within the home) and transport (such as to hospital or hospice appointments).

161. If an applicant is vulnerable and requires support, an application can be accepted from someone acting on behalf of the applicant such as [an appointee](#), including a friend or relative or a voluntary and community sector organisation or an employee of the Authority. Appropriate checks and assurances should be undertaken.
162. When an applicant or a member of their household has a terminal illness, Authorities should strongly consider fast-tracking applications for Crisis Payments or Housing Payments, and/or referrals to Resilience Services. See further [guidance on supporting those with terminal illness](#).
163. When awarding the Housing Payment to those with terminal illness, Authorities may use their discretion to minimise the need for the Applicant to re-claim for support within a 12-month period.

Public Sector Equality Duty

164. In accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty, DWP has had due regard to the potential equalities impacts of this grant.
165. Under the Equality Act 2010, all public authorities must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty. For the purposes of this grant and the distribution of funding, Authorities should have due regard to the need to:
- put an end to unlawful behaviour that is banned by the Equality Act 2010, including discrimination, harassment and victimisation
 - advance equal opportunities between people who have a protected characteristic and those who do not
 - foster good relations between people who have a protected characteristic and those who do not
166. When developing your local delivery frameworks, you should ensure people are not disadvantaged or treated unfairly by The Fund. For example, any application process should be easy to access and navigate.

167. Authorities should also consider how any local CRF delivery frameworks may impact those with characteristics protected under the Equality Act. Where an impact that would be detrimental to people with protected characteristics is identified, Authorities should consider appropriate mitigation measures.

Scheme awareness and communication

168. Authorities must make sure that their CRF schemes are clearly advertised, inclusive and accessible. **Authorities must use the terms 'Crisis Payment' and 'Housing Payment' for naming of their Crisis and Resilience Fund schemes. Crisis and Housing Payments must reference they are funded by the Crisis and Resilience Fund. Resilience Services should reference they are funded by the Crisis and Resilience Fund, where possible.**

169. It is mandatory for Authorities to make public their plans for The Fund. This should include a website page and a non-digital offer dedicated to The Fund.

These provisions must:

- Be titled the 'Crisis and Resilience Fund' and, for the website page, be found on the Authority's main website. The web address must be shared with DWP to link from their CRF www.gov.uk page.
- Be easily accessible with listed alternative formats (such as, Braille, EasyRead and large print).
- Outline the Authority's plans for the funding, including details of who is eligible in the area.
- Detail how people can apply for a Crisis Payment and the Housing Payment.
- Include a specific reference that the grant is funded by the UK Government in accordance with the Funded by UK Government Branding Manual.

170. Authorities are required to use CRF branding for their respective schemes, utilising brand assets provided by DWP.

171. Authorities are responsible for printing and distributing physical materials as needed. While branding is centrally managed by DWP, Authorities may exercise discretion in how they present the Fund locally, provided they adhere to the core identity and messaging.
172. It is mandatory for Authorities to reference that the grant is funded by the UK Government in any publicity material, including online channels and media releases. This includes use of the relevant branding materials in accordance with the [Funded by UK Government Branding Manual](#) provided to all Authorities. This requirement extends to other public bodies delivering the scheme on behalf of the Authority and the Authority is responsible for ensuring that this is met.
173. Authorities should consider inclusive and accessible ways in which they might advertise the availability of The Fund to local people through outreach activities and promotional materials, for example in local family or community hubs and GP surgeries. We expect Authorities to advertise the scheme through various channels and not just online.

Working with other organisations

174. Authorities are expected to work collaboratively within Authorities structures (in other words, different levels of local government) and organisations to meet the objectives of The Fund. This includes working closely with voluntary and community sector organisations and other partner organisations such as community groups who may come into contact with people in need.
175. Organisations that Authorities should consider collaboration with may include but are not limited to:
- registered charities, voluntary organisations and community groups
 - schools and GPs
 - Family Hubs
 - businesses
 - philanthropic organisations
 - organisations providing support in particular circumstances

- Members of Parliament
- people with lived experience
- local Job Centres and other DWP provisions

176. Where Authorities are working with voluntary and community sector organisations, this should be done on an objectively fair, transparent and non-discriminatory basis whilst having regard to the time available to deliver The Fund. Authorities are strongly encouraged to collaborate closely with different parts of the Authority structure to ensure roles, responsibilities and effective arrangements are put in place to deliver The Fund promptly and efficiently. Authorities without mechanisms in place to administer CRF should consider whether another Authority tier is better placed to administer CRF on their behalf. Authorities are also encouraged to ask neighbouring Authorities to work together to help prevent double provision and or no provision.

DWP engagement

177. DWP will continue to respond to questions we receive through the designated inbox as quickly as possible. DWP will also continue to engage with Authorities throughout the course of The Fund Period and will provide opportunities to engage with the department and other Authorities to share local innovations, good practice and work collaboratively. DWP may host Ministerial engagement roundtable events as required. Where Authorities are invited to these events, an appropriate representative will be expected to attend.

Reporting and MI

178. Authorities must comply with DWP's reporting and MI requirements. This includes submitting an **annual delivery plan** and providing MI returns on a **six-monthly basis**. Full details, including templates and deadlines, are set out in The Crisis and Resilience Fund (April 2026 to March 2029) MI Reporting Requirements.

179. The Crisis and Resilience Fund Reporting Requirements are designed to:

- build a robust evidence base to demonstrate impact and support future funding decisions
- ensure compliance and consistency across all Authorities, and
- enable continuous improvement, using and sharing insights between Authorities and DWP

180. The reporting framework focuses on indicators that help Authorities refine scheme design to meet local needs, while keeping reporting streamlined and proportionate to minimise administrative burden. DWP will also look to identify good practice and identify case studies that can be shared with DWP and other Authorities.

181. Authorities are required to complete a delivery plan for the Fund Period to outline their intentions for The Fund, clearly setting out their approach for use of the Fund, and to demonstrate the ways in which they intend to allocate their funding to achieve progress in the expected outcomes in each CRF strand. County Council and Unitary Authorities are required to send the initial delivery plan to DWP by 1 July 2026 with an annual update informing of any changes to the delivery plan. Authorities are expected to work collaboratively between their Authority Tiers (where applicable) in producing their delivery plan. Further details on Reporting Requirements, including responsibilities within two-tier Authorities, are set out in the Crisis and Resilience Fund Reporting Requirements 2026 to 2029.

182. DWP will contact Authorities to provide support and gather information throughout The Fund. DWP will contact Authorities for initial compliance and where further clarification is needed in respect of the information provided on the MI reporting template as detailed in the Crisis and Resilience Fund Reporting Requirements 2026 to 2029.

183. Where Authorities work with voluntary and community sector organisations, it is the responsibility of Authorities to collect MI and complete one collated MI return and submit to DWP.

184. Authorities are required to appoint an appropriate Senior Responsible Officer who will be accountable for ensuring a strong delivery plan is developed and agreed through necessary decision-making mechanisms, including engagement with the relevant Cabinet Member and ensuring compliance with and progress against their commitments in the delivery plan. Delivery plans and MI returns must be signed off by, and include the contact information of, the Authority's Section 151 Officer/CFO in accordance with their statutory assurance responsibility. The guidance for completion is provided within the Crisis and Resilience Fund (April 2026 to March 2029) MI Reporting Requirements document.
185. Authorities should engage with DWP to support the delivery of a DWP-led national evaluation of the CRF, including obtaining informed consent from individuals in receipt of CRF support when needed.

Case Study 17: Greater London Authority (GLA) Local Welfare and Support Framework

Since 2024, Greenwich Council and Newham Council have partnered with the Greater London Authority (GLA) to test new ways of collecting and using data for their local crisis schemes and advice services to support more informed decision-making and ensure schemes meet local need.

Boroughs adopted a set of standard data measures through the 'Local Welfare and Support Framework' - a theory informed data collection methodology. The framework provides a consistent approach to data collection that can be integrated into existing case management and data systems. This goes beyond basic monitoring, by offering clear, pre-defined measures that are practical for boroughs to implement to track key data to understand who is being supported, what support they receive and what outcomes are achieved.

The resulting data is analysed to provide meaningful insights into service provision. For example, boroughs have been able to identify trends on the percentage of:

- service users from priority groups
- respondents who have experienced an improvement in wellbeing
- respondents in temporary housing who have moved into more secure accommodation

Through adopting the common framework, the boroughs have been able to better monitor their discretionary support schemes, producing a clearer picture of how they are working and the outcomes delivered. This has provided valuable insights, including building evidence to share learning and gathering improved information for strategic decisions and governance processes. Ultimately, these benefits help to improve the quality of service delivery for local residents and contribute towards a stronger, more responsive local safety net.

Access to data

186. The Crisis and Resilience Fund is being classified as LWP. The provision of DWP data to Authorities is under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between DWP and Authorities (Access, handling, exchange and protection of DWP's and HM Revenue and Customs' data). Authorities who have signed and returned the relevant section (Annex C) of the current DWP/Local Authority MoU have legal permission to access DWPs Searchlight portal and specific UC, Pension Credit, Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) (IR) and HB only data through a monthly data share for the purpose of The Fund.
186. Authorities will need to ensure they sign future iterations of the MoU and the appropriate Annex to continue to have the legal permission to access the data sources for LWP.
187. Staff accessing Searchlight will need to be registered with the Employee Authentication System. Further information on Searchlight can be found in the Local Authority Searchlight Training Pack available in the Searchlight folder on Glasscubes (the Authority/DWP online collaboration tool). If your Authority needs to discuss access to Glasscubes, contact lawelfare.lasupport@dwp.gov.uk

DWP Searchlight

188. This portal provides information on individual citizens' entitlement to (and confirms receipt of) DWP welfare benefits. Therefore, this data can be used to help Authorities identify and target those families and individuals to support. The Authority must also consider if the claimant is at statutory risk of homelessness and, therefore, owed a duty of support through the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant.
189. Searchlight can only be used to verify a specific individual's DWP benefit information. Therefore, if an Authority identified a group of potential claimants who may be eligible for The Fund from their own records, they can access Searchlight to verify each claimant's DWP benefit entitlement if relevant.

DWP monthly data share

190. The UC, Pension Credit, ESA (IR) and HB only data will be provided monthly through Transfer Your File.

191. Authorities will receive two data shares on a monthly basis as detailed in **Annex D**:

File One – contains individual data of the National Insurance number, names and addresses (where available) of UC claimants within the Authority area and:

- Income below the thresholds of £7,400 per year for FSMs and income below the free prescription threshold of £935 per month as identified in their last UC assessment period.
- Those with a Limited Capability for Work (LCW) indicator within the last assessment period.
- The number of children in the household.
- Those whose award is subject to the benefit cap.
- Those with a deduction for RSRS and who receive LHA.
- The National Insurance number, names, addresses and contact telephone numbers of those in receipt of Guarantee Credit and or Savings Credit element of Pension Credit and their appointees if appropriate.
- The National Insurance number, names, addresses and contact telephone numbers of customers who are in receipt of HB but not in receipt of Pension Credit.

Note: ESA (IR) cases will cease to be provided once all customers have moved to UC, which is expected to be complete in 2026.

File Two – contains aggregate data showing those UC claimants that are:

- At or below the FSM income threshold.
- At or below the free prescription income threshold.
- In the LCW group.

192. Authorities also have access to their own non-DWP data to help identify vulnerable households who may be eligible for support under The Fund.

Scheme evaluation

193. Authorities are encouraged to develop processes to monitor the effectiveness of their CRF activities. This could be done through evaluations or adopting a test and learn approach. Authorities can use a reasonable amount of their CRF funding to conduct local evaluations of their schemes. The results of these evaluations can provide Authorities with greater insight into the effectiveness of interventions. This evidence enables a clearer understanding of what strategies are effective within the local context and can inform future funding decisions.

194. The primary focus of an evaluation funded in this way could be to understand the effectiveness of scheme delivery, the impact the scheme has had on those in receipt of support, as well as their characteristics and experiences. A non-exhaustive list of local evaluation activities includes data collection (for example, quantitative surveying and/or qualitative interviewing with recipients, recipient representatives and/or delivery partners of The Fund), analysis and report writing. Subject to interest, DWP may be able to provide some limited analytical advice and support on evaluations.

195. All DWP-funded evaluation activity must be undertaken robustly, with regard to the Social Research Association guidance for conducting high-quality research ([What is high-quality social research.pdf \(the-sra.org.uk\)](https://www.the-sra.org.uk/what-is-high-quality-social-research.pdf)) to ensure meaningful and usable insights can be drawn from the findings, which are representative of the local area. Evaluations should be carried out with regard to the [Government Social Research ethical assurance guidance for Social and Behavioural research](#) to ensure appropriate ethical GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) for anyone involved in the research process and be based on voluntary participation through informed consent. Receipt of support from The Fund must in no way be dependent on individuals participating in evaluation research.

196. To enable evaluation activities, Authorities should consider gaining permission from recipients of The Fund to be contacted in future for evaluation activities to enable collection of relevant contact details for follow-up research.
197. If allocation funds are used to carry out evaluation activities, aggregated and anonymised findings must be shared with DWP, and DWP/the Authority may also choose to share these with other Authorities to understand and disseminate best practice. Completed findings from any evaluation activity that uses CRF funding must be shared with DWP by the deadline of submitting the final MI return (4 May 2029). Authorities are still able to independently conduct their own self-funded evaluation activities on The Fund. In that case, they may still wish to adhere to the above guidance to ensure good practice.
198. Evaluation activity will be considered as an administration cost. It is at the discretion of Authorities whether they choose to conduct such evaluation activity.
199. Some Authorities may deem that conducting evaluation is not proportionate given the resource and cost required relative to the size of their allocation or if existing local evaluation evidence is already available.
200. Authorities should engage with the national DWP-led CRF evaluation, and any additional scheme evaluation activity conducted by DWP or on DWP's behalf, including obtaining informed consent to share details of those supported by CRF funding when necessary.

Updates to CRF Guidance

201. DWP maintains the authority to revise this guidance as required.

Contact

202. If you have any queries about the content of this guidance or use of The Fund, you can contact lawelfare.pdt@dwp.gov.uk.

Annex A: Providing support to those with NRPF

1. Authorities may rely on alternative legal powers under which to provide support using the CRF as a funding source, such as where necessary to meet eligible care needs, address child welfare concerns, improve the public health or prevent a breach of human rights. In these instances where the legal basis for support derives from alternative legal powers and not the Localism Act 2011, support may be provided to those with NRPF. The Authority must consider on a case-by-case basis the legal powers and duties they have in determining whether an individual with NRPF should be assisted through the CRF.

Potential alternative statutory powers

2. This section provides guidance for Authorities considering supporting individuals with NRPF using the alternative powers of the Care Act 2014, the Children Act 1989 and or the National Health Service Act 2006.

Care Act 2014

3. For guidance on your duties and powers under the Care Act 2014, please refer to the [Care and support statutory guidance](#).

Children Act 1989 (Children and families)

Duty to provide services for children in need, their families and other (Section 17)

4. Authorities have a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need and, so far as is consistent with that duty, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs.
5. Consider this duty if it appears that your local safeguarding arrangements for children in need within your area might apply. A child shall be taken to be in need if:

- they are unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for them of services by an Authority
 - their health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for them of such services, or
 - they are disabled.
6. Support may be provided for the family of a particular child in need or for any member of their family, if it is provided with a view to safeguarding or promoting the child's welfare.
7. Before determining what services (if any) to provide for a particular child in need, you shall, so far as is reasonably practicable and consistent with the child's welfare, ascertain the child's wishes and feelings regarding the provision of those services, and give due consideration to such wishes and feelings.
8. The services you may provide may include providing accommodation and giving assistance in kind or in cash.
9. For further information on your child care responsibilities, please see [The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations](#).
10. Record as: Decision made under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of a child in need.

National Health Service Act 2006 (Public health)

Duty to improve public health (Section 2B)

11. Authorities have a duty to take such steps as they consider appropriate to improve the public health in their area. This may include providing assistance (including financial assistance) to help individuals to minimise any risks to health arising from their accommodation or environment.
12. It is for the Authority to determine whether any particular step is appropriate, and in doing so it may have regard to matters such as the priority to be given to that

service as compared with other health improvement activity, the availability of resources and the extent of existing NHS services.

13. Where a service has a number of purposes, Authorities should consider the primary purpose – if health improvement is only an incidental effect or ancillary purpose, the service should continue to be carried out under other Authority powers.
14. Record as: decision made under Section 2B of the National Health Service Act 2006 to improve public health.

Record keeping and compliance

- Record decision under the relevant statutory power, not the Localism Act 2011 (to avoid “public funds” issue).
- Use the CRF as the funding source.
- Keep an audit trail: assessment, legal basis, proportionality and human rights considerations.

Annex B: Legal considerations for Housing Payments

1. The following caselaw relates to DHPs. CRF Housing Payments, as comparable payments to DHPs, rely on the same principles established in the caselaw.

R v. LB Lambeth, ex parte Gargett

2. The Court of Appeal's decision in 'R v. LB Lambeth, ex parte Gargett' sets out that any HB already paid towards 'housing costs' must be deducted when calculating the amount of a Housing Payment to avoid duplicate provision.
3. This case relates to rent arrears and specifically whether a DHP could be used to pay a lump sum towards rent arrears (the Court of Appeal found that a DHP could be used for this purpose). However, the case also discusses the issue of duplication of DHP and HB. In relation to preventing duplication of provision, part of the decision states 'housing benefits already paid for past housing costs must also be deducted. This is implicit in the purpose for which a DHP may be made. Otherwise, the applicant would be receiving a DHP for housing costs that have already been met by past payment of housing benefits. It would not be a case for a need for 'further' financial assistance to meet 'housing costs'.
4. The case does not prevent the use of a Housing Payment for rent in advance but indicates that when making such a decision on whether a Housing Payment can be applied, you may consider whether there is likely to be a duplication of payments for the initial part of the tenancy if the Housing Payment is made and if so, is there any means to avoid this.
5. If an LA decided that there is no way to avoid a duplication of the payment and the claimant is entitled to a Housing Payment in respect of housing costs (specifically a rent in advance payment), then the LA may still award a Housing Payment.

R v. Sandwell MBC, ex parte Hardy

6. When deciding how to treat income from disability-related benefits such as Disability Living Allowance or the Personal Independence Payment, LAs must

have regard to the decision of the 'High Court in R v. Sandwell MBC, ex parte Hardy'.

7. This decision places an obligation on LAs to consider each DHP application on a case-by-case basis having regard to each component of the benefit, the purpose of those disability related benefits and whether the money from those benefits has been committed to other liabilities associated with disability.

Annex C: Cash-first mechanisms

1. Cash-first mechanisms typically work by:
 - The Authority uses a platform to create unique, single-use barcodes or pins for customers.
 - These Barcoded vouchers are issued through email, text, post or printed to hand over to an individual present in-person.
 - Customers can then use these barcodes to redeem cash.

Post Office Payout service

2. The Post Office Payout service is available at every post office and cash vouchers can be purchased directly from the Post Office or through voucher / cash transfer platforms available to Authorities. This cash-first mechanism has been proven to be highly reliable since Post Office branches hold substantial cash reserves due to their extensive banking services for most UK banks. The Post Office is required by Government to meet six 'access criteria' including that 99% of the UK population must be within 3 miles of their nearest post office. Furthermore, 99% of the total population in deprived urban areas must be within one mile.
3. Payouts can be configured for anonymous collection or require ID verification or authorised individuals can collect payments on behalf of customers. A Post Office clerk is available to assist individuals with the transaction, making the process straightforward and accessible for all users.

ATM cash vouchers

4. There are over 15,000 ATM machines across the UK which distribute cash through PIN codes that bypass the need for a physical withdrawal card. ATM machines are located on streets or convenience stores, are available any time of day or night and expiration dates enable any unspent funds to be reimbursed. However, payouts can only be dispensed in fixed (usually £10.00) increments. Accessibility is limited by the requirement for a mobile phone.

Paypoint cash out vouchers

5. Paypoint cash out vouchers can be redeemed at over 30,000 local Paypoint stores. Paypoint's network offers very high coverage in urban areas with 99.3% of the population living within 1 mile of a Paypoint location. Rural coverage is more limited. Some are open 24 hours a day. Paypoint cash vouchers can be paid out in 1p increments up to £100 and are usually redeemable within 30 days.

Annex D: Local Welfare Provision monthly data share field definitions

Local Welfare Provision monthly data share field definitions

File 1 – The list of individuals

Field Name	Description
claimant1_nino	The National Insurance number (NINO) of the lead UC claimant
claimant1_surname	The surname of the lead UC claimant in the Household
claimant1_forename1	The forename of the lead UC claimant in the Household
claimant2_nino	If applicable the NINO of the UC partner in the household. In some cases, this may be the same as the UC claimant NINO, usually where the partner NINO data is not available.
claimant2_surname	The surname of the UC partner if Claimant 2 NINO provided
claimant2_forename_1	The forename of the UC partner if Claimant 2 NINO provided
ap_start_date	The start date of the household's UC assessment period (AP)
ap_end_month	This will always be the month of the extract.
has_children_latest_ap	Set to 1 if the UC Household is recorded to have children in the AP used for the extract 1= children 0 = no children
total_children	The number of children recorded in the UC Household for the AP used in the extract, null = no children, the field

HAS_CHILDREN_LATEST_AP will also be 0 if there are no children

has_lcw_latest_ap	Set to 1 if a member of the UC Household is in the UC limited capability for work group
eligible_prescription_latest_ap	Set to 1 if the UC Household is below the Free Prescription threshold
earnings_below_fsm_threshold	Set to 1 if the UC Household is below the Free School Meal threshold
country_name	England, Scotland, Wales
local_authority_name	Your LA name
local_authority_code	the standard lookup code for your authority
tyf_la_id_code	the LA ID code as registered on Transfer Your File for your authority
postcode_outward_code	Postcode sector in the ward
ward_name	Name of the ward
ward_code	Code of the ward
cap_applied	True, False or Null
spare_room_subsidy_removal	True, False or Null
local_housing_allowance_applied	True, False or Null
BENEFIT_TYPE	Will show one of the following: UC, PC, GC, SC, SC/GC, ESA-IR, HB
PC/ESA-IR/HB _NINO	The NINO of the PC/ESA-IR/HB customer
PC/ESA-IR/HB _SURNAME	The surname of the PC/ESA-IR/HB customer

PC/ESA-IR/HB_FORENAME_1	The first name of the PC/ESA-IR/HB customer
UC/PC/ESA-IR/HB_ADDRESS_LINE_1	The UC/PC/ESA-IR/HB customer address as recorded on the PC/ESA-IR/HB claim
UC/PC/ESA-IR/HB_ADDRESS_LINE_2	The UC/PC/ESA-IR/HB customer address as recorded on the PC/ESA-IR/HB claim
UC/PC/ESA-IR/HB_ADDRESS_LINE_3	The UC/PC/ESA-IR/HB customer address as recorded on the PC/ESA-IR/HB claim
UC/PC/ESA-IR/HB_ADDRESS_LINE_4	The UC/PC/ESA-IR/HB customer address as recorded on the PC/ESA-IR/HB claim
UC/PC/ESA-IR/HB_POSTCODE	The postcode as recorded on the UC/PC/ESA-IR/HB customer claim
PC/ESA-IR/HB_TELEPHONE_NO1	The telephone number of the PC/ESA-IR/HB customer as reported on the PC/ESA-IR/HB claim
PC/ESA-IR/HB_TELEPHONE_NO2	The second telephone number (if applicable) of the PC/ESA-IR/HB customer as reported on the PC/ESA-IR/HB claim
PC_APPOINTEE_SURNAME	If appropriate the surname of the Personal/Corporate Acting Body as reported on the PC claim
PC_APPOINTEE_FORENAME_1	If appropriate the forename of the Personal/Corporate Acting Body as reported on the PC claim
PC_APPOINTEE_ADDRESS_LINE_1	If appropriate the address of the Personal/Corporate Acting Body as reported on the PC claim
PC_APPOINTEE_ADDRESS_LINE_2	If appropriate the address of the Personal/Corporate Acting Body as reported on the PC claim

PC_APPOINTEE_ADDRESS_LINE_3	If appropriate the address of the Personal/Corporate Acting Body as reported on the PC claim
PC_APPOINTEE_ADDRESS_LINE_4	If appropriate the address of the Personal/Corporate Acting Body as reported on the PC claim
PC_APPOINTEE_POSTCODE	If appropriate the address of the Personal/Corporate Acting Body as reported on the PC claim
PC_APPOINTEE_TELEPHONE_NO1	If appropriate the telephone number of the Personal/Corporate Acting Body as reported on the PC claim
PC_APPOINTEE_TELEPHONE_NO2	If appropriate the second telephone number of the Personal/Corporate Acting Body as reported on the PC claim

File 2 – The Aggregate file

This shows the following for your Authority:

Country (England, Scotland or Wales)

Local Authority (the name of your Authority)

LOCAL_AUTHORITY_CODE (the standard lookup code for your authority)

TYF_LA_ID_CODE (the Transfer Your File code for your authority)

For each postcode sector (POSTCODE_OUTWARD_CODE) in a ward
(WARD_NAME), (WARD_CODE)

Number of Households in the ward with UC Limited Capability to Work group
(HAS_LCW_LATEST_AP)

Number of UC households in the Authority without children
(HHS_NO_CHILDREN_IN_LA)

Number of UC households in the Authority with children
(HHS_WITH_CHILDREN_IN_LA)

Number of children in the Authority in UC households with children
(NO_OF_CHILDREN_IN_LA)

Number of UC households without children in the postcode sector that are below the Free School Meal income threshold and free prescription threshold
(HHS_NO_CHILDREN_PRESC_OR_FSM)

Number of UC households without children in the postcode sector that are below the Free Prescription income threshold (HHS_NO_CHILDREN_PRESC)

Number of UC households without children in the postcode sector that are below the Free School meal income threshold (HHS_NO_CHILDREN_FSM)

Number of UC households with children in the postcode sector that are below the Free School Meal income threshold and free prescription threshold
(HHS_WITH_CHILDREN_PRESC_OR_FSM)

Number of UC households with children in the postcode sector that are below the Free Prescription income threshold (HHS_WITH_CHILDREN_PRESC)

Number of UC households with children in the postcode sector that are below the Free School meal income threshold (HHS_WITH_CHILDREN_FSM)

Number of children in UC households in the postcode sector that are below the Free School Meal income threshold and free prescription threshold
(CHILDREN_PRESCRIPTIONS_OR_FSM)

Number of children in UC households in the postcode sector that are below the Free Prescription income threshold (CHILDREN_PRESCRIPTION)

Number of children in UC households in the postcode sector that are below the Free School meal income threshold (CHILDREN_FSM)

Annex E: CRF Allocations for Housing Payments

1. CRF allocations for the Housing Payment strand will be delivered through Unitary and District Councils in the FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 and a separate administrative budget is also allocated. County Councils are shown with zero allocation in these years. In the FYE 2029, Housing Payment allocations are made to Unitary and County Councils, so District Councils are shown with zero allocation for this year. No separate Housing administrative budget is allocated in the FYE March 2029.
2. This table shows the amounts that Authorities are expected to spend on the Housing Payment strand of the CRF. The exact proportions of how The Fund is allocated between its components are at the Authority's discretion and may vary between years (see paragraph 11 for further details).

Local authority	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Payment Allocation	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Admin Allocation	FYE March 2029 Housing Payment Allocation
Adur	£87,973	£13,594.52	£0
Amber Valley	£122,855	£22,977.05	£0
Arun	£225,903	£35,899.72	£0
Ashfield	£148,984	£32,139.76	£0
Ashford	£196,507	£30,036.95	£0
Babergh	£86,572	£14,382.24	£0
Barking and Dagenham	£727,763	£102,693.44	£911,215
Barnet	£1,474,953	£151,955.01	£1,508,306
Barnsley	£389,289	£75,936.11	£401,551
Basildon	£323,563	£51,387.38	£0
Basingstoke and Deane	£231,553	£31,206.04	£0

Local authority	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Payment Allocation	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Admin Allocation	FYE March 2029 Housing Payment Allocation
Bassetlaw	£125,261	£26,153.86	£0
Bath and North East Somerset	£193,278	£27,886.69	£161,165
Bedford	£237,954	£39,649.43	£283,501
Bexley	£385,556	£52,938.09	£399,760
Birmingham	£2,689,243	£484,109.80	£2,401,114
Blaby	£63,060	£10,930.89	£0
Blackburn with Darwen	£227,242	£52,706.27	£247,838
Blackpool	£192,583	£56,354.97	£309,149
Bolsover	£92,696	£19,432.61	£0
Bolton	£459,755	£91,520.51	£470,557
Boston	£75,494	£15,691.20	£0
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	£645,158	£92,606.95	£710,965
Bracknell Forest	£143,414	£18,014.37	£172,282
Bradford	£847,980	£183,291.67	£867,703
Braintree	£178,477	£27,084.86	£0
Breckland	£140,158	£27,521.20	£0
Brent	£1,620,155	£180,160.97	£1,588,136
Brentwood	£90,930	£11,187.92	£0
Brighton and Hove	£645,514	£85,557.24	£525,827
Bristol	£740,869	£134,643.14	£638,964
Broadland	£82,733	£14,826.74	£0
Bromley	£512,968	£66,386.04	£522,160

Local authority	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Payment Allocation	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Admin Allocation	FYE March 2029 Housing Payment Allocation
Bromsgrove	£62,332	£11,113.53	£0
Broxbourne	£258,140	£30,548.05	£0
Broxtowe	£83,603	£15,565.03	£0
Buckinghamshire Council	£623,616	£77,433.99	£786,177
Burnley	£148,472	£33,948.32	£0
Bury	£209,441	£43,622.57	£260,660
Calderdale	£340,648	£60,752.27	£260,924
Cambridge	£138,217	£23,861.54	£0
Cambridgeshire	£0	£0.00	£662,259
Camden	£622,578	£74,072.74	£547,372
Cannock Chase	£85,409	£19,232.43	£0
Canterbury	£197,748	£31,723.29	£0
Castle Point	£148,138	£20,393.37	£0
Central Bedfordshire	£247,516	£38,723.70	£367,786
Charnwood	£135,431	£24,348.24	£0
Chelmsford	£202,891	£27,889.90	£0
Cheltenham	£106,443	£17,968.89	£0
Cherwell	£187,383	£28,043.83	£0
Cheshire East	£348,661	£59,230.33	£376,453
Cheshire West and Chester	£375,530	£67,782.34	£371,026
Chesterfield	£140,446	£26,548.72	£0
Chichester	£145,722	£21,403.18	£0
Chorley	£106,566	£19,840.74	£0

Local authority	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Payment Allocation	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Admin Allocation	FYE March 2029 Housing Payment Allocation
City of London	£13,611	£1,801.82	£9,904
Colchester	£258,862	£39,575.01	£0
Cornwall	£755,235	£139,888.69	£672,397
Cotswold	£71,475	£10,981.10	£0
Coventry	£731,530	£111,281.32	£618,730
Crawley	£227,592	£31,335.33	£0
Croydon	£1,241,242	£149,602.20	£1,195,587
Cumberland	£340,232	£64,973.61	£377,517
Dacorum	£246,208	£30,361.12	£0
Darlington	£154,394	£29,818.77	£146,105
Dartford	£178,490	£27,129.10	£0
Derby	£332,258	£66,633.61	£409,486
Derbyshire	£0	£0.00	£808,382
Derbyshire Dales	£57,865	£9,138.64	£0
Devon	£0	£0.00	£867,385
Doncaster	£497,602	£96,592.19	£537,433
Dorset Council	£458,298	£69,963.58	£421,440
Dover	£176,439	£29,300.07	£0
Dudley	£473,000	£82,697.86	£424,520
Durham	£836,254	£153,067.07	£775,255
Ealing	£1,458,664	£165,032.04	£1,351,912
East Cambridgeshire	£67,716	£10,822.22	£0
East Devon	£149,659	£22,258.35	£0

Local authority	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Payment Allocation	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Admin Allocation	FYE March 2029 Housing Payment Allocation
East Hampshire	£88,281	£13,813.23	£0
East Hertfordshire	£169,250	£19,445.09	£0
East Lindsey	£208,153	£42,319.01	£0
East Riding of Yorkshire	£329,687	£56,788.99	£327,833
East Staffordshire	£114,778	£22,589.94	£0
East Suffolk	£297,949	£52,812.56	£0
East Sussex	£0	£0.00	£852,286
Eastbourne	£241,581	£32,302.69	£0
Eastleigh	£123,292	£16,830.35	£0
Elmbridge	£196,640	£20,861.28	£0
Enfield	£1,670,771	£183,056.78	£1,724,739
Epping Forest	£104,045	£19,587.12	£0
Epsom and Ewell	£114,414	£12,365.04	£0
Erewash	£116,528	£21,727.57	£0
Essex	£0	£0.00	£2,285,109
Exeter	£133,300	£22,800.38	£0
Fareham	£86,557	£12,069.18	£0
Fenland	£127,604	£26,164.24	£0
Folkestone and Hythe	£205,129	£32,046.72	£0
Forest of Dean	£71,991	£14,922.88	£0
Fylde	£79,316	£13,685.49	£0
Gateshead	£353,382	£61,569.41	£303,983
Gedling	£103,352	£17,996.99	£0

Local authority	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Payment Allocation	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Admin Allocation	FYE March 2029 Housing Payment Allocation
Gloucester	£187,557	£32,398.41	£0
Gloucestershire	£0	£0.00	£668,726
Gosport	£64,080	£14,843.99	£0
Gravesham	£178,908	£27,363.24	£0
Great Yarmouth	£174,349	£33,767.12	£0
Greenwich	£665,818	£95,357.44	£760,868
Guildford	£149,866	£19,030.55	£0
Hackney	£1,192,513	£147,562.80	£976,317
Halton	£279,321	£48,197.33	£222,140
Hammersmith and Fulham	£595,540	£71,631.78	£531,144
Hampshire	£0	£0.00	£1,718,341
Harborough	£51,889	£7,885.34	£0
Haringey	£1,192,612	£139,057.57	£1,167,811
Harlow	£171,557	£25,668.20	£0
Harrow	£695,591	£77,014.13	£725,809
Hart	£89,597	£9,331.89	£0
Hartlepool	£233,796	£38,437.87	£180,929
Hastings	£220,901	£37,087.08	£0
Havant	£166,157	£29,326.07	£0
Havering	£465,294	£61,468.67	£589,066
Herefordshire, County of	£192,609	£36,221.71	£198,856
Hertfordshire	£0	£0.00	£2,148,153
Hertsmere	£219,612	£25,802.29	£0

Local authority	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Payment Allocation	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Admin Allocation	FYE March 2029 Housing Payment Allocation
High Peak	£81,184	£14,652.79	£0
Hillingdon	£674,526	£85,297.97	£733,324
Hinckley and Bosworth	£78,739	£14,750.03	£0
Horsham	£130,731	£17,488.23	£0
Hounslow	£834,254	£102,991.47	£867,549
Huntingdonshire	£163,009	£25,220.58	£0
Hyndburn	£128,711	£27,517.61	£0
Ipswich	£199,861	£37,747.79	£0
Isle of Wight	£225,653	£37,422.80	£215,781
Isles of Scilly	£386	£0.00	£636
Islington	£629,184	£86,726.41	£628,972
Kensington and Chelsea	£568,616	£63,868.48	£407,846
Kent	£0	£0.00	£2,510,185
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	£183,294	£36,559.34	£0
Kingston upon Hull	£547,296	£111,440.92	£519,798
Kingston upon Thames	£320,701	£35,500.67	£315,147
Kirklees	£457,165	£101,742.63	£485,811
Knowsley	£390,985	£73,404.03	£319,280
Lambeth	£951,920	£125,558.62	£942,982
Lancashire	£0	£0.00	£1,441,043
Lancaster	£186,464	£36,189.77	£0
Leeds	£1,190,379	£230,304.90	£1,071,447
Leicester	£626,948	£120,723.29	£637,765

Local authority	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Payment Allocation	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Admin Allocation	FYE March 2029 Housing Payment Allocation
Leicestershire	£0	£0.00	£621,896
Lewes	£167,898	£22,221.91	£0
Lewisham	£924,089	£122,687.64	£918,181
Lichfield	£73,830	£13,185.80	£0
Lincoln	£132,330	£27,880.17	£0
Lincolnshire	£0	£0.00	£883,659
Liverpool	£1,175,423	£223,695.66	£1,070,175
Luton	£481,678	£72,617.51	£624,897
Maidstone	£231,984	£34,749.33	£0
Maldon	£59,743	£9,917.91	£0
Malvern Hills	£75,651	£13,323.94	£0
Manchester	£1,396,135	£250,432.65	£1,348,674
Mansfield	£90,874	£26,413.85	£0
Medway	£484,162	£78,577.08	£575,633
Melton	£35,685	£6,401.57	£0
Merton	£430,653	£51,499.64	£490,625
Mid Devon	£77,202	£14,473.35	£0
Mid Suffolk	£70,059	£13,234.08	£0
Mid Sussex	£153,750	£17,686.63	£0
Middlesbrough	£398,209	£68,112.47	£347,026
Milton Keynes	£463,575	£66,847.95	£547,103
Mole Valley	£77,766	£10,147.31	£0
New Forest	£203,218	£28,744.08	£0

Local authority	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Payment Allocation	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Admin Allocation	FYE March 2029 Housing Payment Allocation
Newark and Sherwood	£106,928	£22,156.77	£0
Newcastle upon Tyne	£600,199	£102,697.32	£507,282
Newcastle-under-Lyme	£111,031	£22,624.38	£0
Newham	£1,373,258	£173,769.42	£1,383,541
Norfolk	£0	£0.00	£1,084,356
North Devon	£120,076	£21,730.04	£0
North East Derbyshire	£99,045	£17,883.54	£0
North East Lincolnshire	£244,219	£50,611.59	£229,465
North Hertfordshire	£143,846	£19,848.02	£0
North Kesteven	£86,931	£14,194.43	£0
North Lincolnshire	£145,993	£33,833.43	£214,626
North Norfolk	£103,037	£21,102.76	£0
North Northamptonshire	£387,317	£71,565.29	£480,576
North Somerset	£271,399	£40,988.63	£242,717
North Tyneside	£306,562	£51,738.06	£262,237
North Warwickshire	£60,256	£11,621.91	£0
North West Leicestershire	£81,022	£15,107.57	£0
North Yorkshire	£854,306	£119,099.87	£544,565
Northumberland	£395,885	£73,031.29	£374,771
Norwich	£258,729	£45,361.22	£0
Nottingham	£628,697	£122,340.81	£650,414
Nottinghamshire	£0	£0.00	£881,891
Nuneaton and Bedworth	£166,978	£31,658.50	£0

Local authority	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Payment Allocation	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Admin Allocation	FYE March 2029 Housing Payment Allocation
Oadby and Wigston	£56,271	£8,623.00	£0
Oldham	£428,970	£82,571.73	£394,072
Oxford	£253,638	£36,120.79	£0
Oxfordshire	£0	£0.00	£883,528
Pendle	£105,741	£26,329.24	£0
Peterborough	£373,781	£66,263.14	£444,081
Plymouth	£423,350	£75,951.69	£311,114
Portsmouth	£428,432	£68,347.94	£383,886
Preston	£214,140	£43,368.41	£0
Reading	£367,440	£49,787.13	£360,004
Redbridge	£898,622	£101,488.76	£945,452
Redcar and Cleveland	£270,448	£46,269.03	£249,864
Redditch	£79,296	£18,022.88	£0
Reigate and Banstead	£182,823	£23,644.70	£0
Ribble Valley	£36,448	£6,162.64	£0
Richmond upon Thames	£303,855	£33,298.60	£294,820
Rochdale	£380,421	£76,487.51	£371,011
Rochford	£87,518	£11,633.03	£0
Rossendale	£69,985	£16,243.04	£0
Rother	£143,672	£22,204.87	£0
Rotherham	£427,584	£81,699.35	£432,027
Rugby	£112,474	£17,800.00	£0
Runnymede	£117,986	£15,261.09	£0

Local authority	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Payment Allocation	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Admin Allocation	FYE March 2029 Housing Payment Allocation
Rushcliffe	£84,908	£10,622.48	£0
Rushmoor	£160,572	£21,702.52	£0
Rutland	£22,594	£3,555.36	£32,505
Salford	£539,340	£99,902.45	£515,727
Sandwell	£714,430	£131,239.14	£686,557
Sefton	£495,361	£85,400.88	£424,983
Sevenoaks	£142,028	£19,562.28	£0
Sheffield	£743,428	£150,658.83	£666,108
Shropshire	£309,310	£57,295.24	£313,167
Slough	£501,546	£61,775.92	£446,273
Solihull	£239,499	£41,248.53	£234,236
Somerset	£687,570	£117,100.09	£581,798
South Cambridgeshire	£110,515	£15,633.58	£0
South Derbyshire	£85,732	£15,559.01	£0
South Gloucestershire	£252,639	£38,063.65	£255,841
South Hams	£93,848	£14,087.43	£0
South Holland	£87,577	£16,950.51	£0
South Kesteven	£155,861	£22,853.14	£0
South Norfolk	£115,933	£19,936.19	£0
South Oxfordshire	£135,465	£16,775.11	£0
South Ribble	£85,446	£16,722.13	£0
South Staffordshire	£87,179	£14,930.46	£0
South Tyneside	£308,014	£52,996.54	£242,628

Local authority	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Payment Allocation	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Admin Allocation	FYE March 2029 Housing Payment Allocation
Southampton	£449,031	£77,436.98	£419,869
Southend-on-Sea	£409,532	£55,745.21	£417,112
Southwark	£817,657	£113,910.53	£810,160
Spelthorne	£202,932	£24,731.69	£0
St Albans	£143,269	£17,311.12	£0
St. Helens	£340,641	£62,431.95	£342,197
Stafford	£93,829	£17,663.67	£0
Staffordshire	£0	£0.00	£853,470
Staffordshire Moorlands	£64,731	£13,359.48	£0
Stevenage	£141,827	£21,606.07	£0
Stockport	£283,604	£57,883.37	£283,125
Stockton-on-Tees	£314,139	£54,830.76	£307,747
Stoke-on-Trent	£408,213	£87,168.41	£405,141
Stratford-on-Avon	£116,848	£17,806.99	£0
Stroud	£58,498	£11,501.69	£0
Suffolk	£0	£0.00	£836,315
Sunderland	£269,369	£73,014.83	£535,333
Surrey	£0	£0.00	£1,671,822
Surrey Heath	£80,854	£9,837.28	£0
Sutton	£346,556	£43,556.30	£332,034
Swale	£260,758	£46,039.86	£0
Swindon	£294,823	£48,727.43	£276,509
Tameside	£388,501	£74,775.39	£357,083

Local authority	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Payment Allocation	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Admin Allocation	FYE March 2029 Housing Payment Allocation
Tamworth	£98,331	£17,626.80	£0
Tandridge	£113,042	£14,700.26	£0
Teignbridge	£163,919	£24,978.77	£0
Telford and Wrekin	£331,146	£54,715.68	£330,201
Tendring	£294,172	£50,600.22	£0
Test Valley	£119,892	£17,644.60	£0
Tewkesbury	£70,492	£11,826.78	£0
Thanet	£330,521	£52,348.59	£0
Three Rivers	£127,690	£14,822.36	£0
Thurrock	£373,896	£51,226.55	£443,444
Tonbridge and Malling	£158,698	£22,165.91	£0
Torbay	£314,561	£48,403.95	£244,074
Torridge	£70,333	£15,036.82	£0
Tower Hamlets	£1,161,275	£145,571.19	£1,067,254
Trafford	£288,315	£44,077.02	£264,222
Tunbridge Wells	£129,046	£17,194.77	£0
Uttlesford	£79,657	£10,625.83	£0
Vale of White Horse	£121,338	£15,245.40	£0
Wakefield	£548,018	£102,016.24	£524,684
Walsall	£540,168	£96,842.08	£508,995
Waltham Forest	£788,626	£105,213.88	£878,646
Wandsworth	£787,211	£93,447.61	£727,391
Warrington	£199,974	£39,258.77	£217,232

Local authority	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Payment Allocation	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Admin Allocation	FYE March 2029 Housing Payment Allocation
Warwick	£116,985	£19,004.77	£0
Warwickshire	£0	£0.00	£630,146
Watford	£210,139	£25,610.70	£0
Waverley	£113,643	£13,512.57	£0
Wealden	£170,709	£24,435.23	£0
Welwyn Hatfield	£182,366	£23,833.92	£0
West Berkshire	£181,226	£22,541.02	£178,057
West Devon	£127,233	£16,031.85	£0
West Lancashire	£145,991	£24,432.21	£0
West Lindsey	£105,255	£20,109.55	£0
West Northamptonshire	£435,684	£79,018.88	£503,940
West Oxfordshire	£107,528	£13,455.87	£0
West Suffolk	£168,976	£30,085.55	£0
West Sussex	£0	£0.00	£1,230,103
Westminster	£867,782	£93,083.85	£625,611
Westmorland and Furness	£292,634	£49,642.31	£171,118
Wigan	£436,756	£85,436.49	£482,146
Wiltshire	£320,453	£63,970.62	£538,406
Winchester	£104,807	£14,620.68	£0
Windsor and Maidenhead	£178,617	£20,463.47	£192,710
Wirral	£551,637	£101,288.27	£496,008
Woking	£131,398	£16,141.50	£0
Wokingham	£145,121	£15,641.77	£151,946

Local authority	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Payment Allocation	FYE March 2027 and FYE March 2028 Housing Admin Allocation	FYE March 2029 Housing Payment Allocation
Wolverhampton	£539,869	£94,195.83	£501,060
Worcester	£119,200	£22,643.58	£0
Worcestershire	£0	£0.00	£597,939
Worthing	£153,637	£22,859.84	£0
Wychavon	£112,099	£20,771.02	£0
Wyre	£138,017	£25,667.55	£0
Wyre Forest	£110,242	£21,709.32	£0
York	£163,991	£26,080.32	£139,435

**City of York Council
Equalities Impact Assessment**

Who is submitting the proposal?

Directorate:	Finance		
Service Area:	Customer Finance, Risk & Insurance		
Name of the proposal :	Crises and Resilience Fund 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029		
Lead officer:	David Walker		
Date assessment completed:	27 th January		
Names of those who contributed to the assessment :			
Name	Job title	Organisation	Area of expertise
Susan Wood	Welfare Benefits & Strategic Partnership Manager	CYC	Welfare Benefits
Debbie Plummer	Housing Benefits Manager	CYC	Welfare Benefits
Advice York	N/A	Advice York	Welfare Benefits
Citizens Advice York	Fiona McCulloch	CAY	Welfare Benefits

Step 1 – Aims and intended outcomes

1.1	What is the purpose of the proposal? Please explain your proposal in Plain English avoiding acronyms and jargon.
	To provide a support to financially vulnerable residents suffering financial shock across the 4 strands set out by central government within their Crises and Resilience Fund Scheme. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Crisis Payments2. Housing Payments3. Resilience Services4. Community Coordination
1.2	Are there any external considerations? (Legislation/government directive/codes of practice etc.)
	This is a Central Government scheme

1.3	<p>Who are the stakeholders and what are their interests?</p> <p>The key stakeholders are York residents and community organisations</p>
1.4	<p>What results/outcomes do we want to achieve and for whom?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of effective crisis support • Improving individuals' and local communities' financial resilience • Bolstering community level support

Step 2 – Gathering the information and feedback

2.1	<p>What sources of data, evidence and consultation feedback do we have to help us understand the impact of the proposal on equality rights and human rights? Please consider a range of sources, including: consultation exercises, surveys, feedback from staff, stakeholders, participants, research reports, the views of equality groups, as well your own experience of working in this area etc.</p>	
Source of data/supporting evidence		Reason for using

Income based benefit data	Indicates financial vulnerability
Council Tax Support Records	Indicates financial vulnerability
Advice York Partners	Stakeholder feedback
	.
Looking at evidence from other Local Authorities, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Yorkshire CC and borough councils - Warm Homes on Prescriptions https://es.catapult.org.uk/project/warm-home-prescription/ - Trussell Trust/ Leeds CC cash first pilot 	Learn from good practice.
Discussions with existing and potential delivery partners, including Citizens Advice, York Foodbank, Age UK and internal teams – Income Services, Housing, Local Area Coordination	We have used feedback from these sources around the HSF schemes since inception and the COVID support schemes before that. The proposals for CRF were discussed with Advice York leads, CAY and FISG. Feedback was positive towards the proposals,

Step 3 – Gaps in data and knowledge

3.1	What are the main gaps in information and understanding of the impact of your proposal? Please indicate how any gaps will be dealt with.		
Gaps in data or knowledge		Action to deal with this	
Since the implementation of the LIFT (Low Income Family Tracker) platform there is very little gaps in our information other than specific data that the DWP will not share.		Lobbying is ongoing with Central Government for the DWP to release all data pertaining to welfare benefits.	

Step 4 – Analysing the impacts or effects.

4.1	Please consider what the evidence tells you about the likely impact (positive or negative) on people sharing a protected characteristic, i.e. how significant could the impacts be if we did not make any adjustments? Remember the duty is also positive – so please identify where the proposal offers opportunities to promote equality and/or foster good relations.		
Equality Groups and Human Rights.	Key Findings/Impacts	Positive (+) Negative (-) Neutral (0)	High (H) Medium (M) Low (L)
Age	Will provide additional financial support for utility bills and Food. Will link residents to and raise awareness of other advice and support available, such as pension credit, CTS	+	H
Disability	Will provide additional financial support for utility bills and Food. Will link residents to and raise awareness of other	+	H

	advice and support available, such as universal credit, pension credit, CTS		
Gender	Will provide additional financial support for utility bills and Food. Will link residents to and raise awareness of other advice and support available, such as universal credit, pension credit, CTS	+	H
Gender Reassignment	Will provide additional financial support for utility bills and Food. Will link residents to and raise awareness of other advice and support available, such as universal credit, pension credit, CTS	+	H
Marriage and civil partnership	n/a		
Pregnancy and maternity	Will provide additional financial support for utility bills and Food. Will link residents to and raise awareness of other advice and support available, such as universal credit, Healthy Start, CTS	+	H
Race	Will provide additional financial support for utility bills and Food. Will link residents to and raise awareness of other advice and support available, such as universal credit, pension credit, CTS	+	H
Religion and belief	n/a		
Sexual orientation	n/a		
Other Socio-economic groups including :	Could other socio-economic groups be affected e.g. carers, ex-offenders, low incomes?		
Carer	Will provide additional financial support for utility bills and Food. Will link residents to and raise awareness of other	+	H

	advice and support available, such as universal credit, pension credit, CTS		
Low income groups	Will provide additional financial support for utility bills and Food. Will link residents to and raise awareness of other advice and support available, such as universal credit, pension credit, CTS	+	H
Veterans, Armed Forces Community	Will provide additional financial support for utility bills and Food. Will link residents to and raise awareness of other advice and support available, such as universal credit, pension credit, CTS	+	H
Other			
Impact on human rights:			
List any human rights impacted.	There are no known impacts of this scheme affecting any human rights detrimentally.		

Use the following guidance to inform your responses:

Indicate:

- Where you think that the proposal could have a POSITIVE impact on any of the equality groups like promoting equality and equal opportunities or improving relations within equality groups
- Where you think that the proposal could have a NEGATIVE impact on any of the equality groups, i.e. it could disadvantage them
- Where you think that this proposal has a NEUTRAL effect on any of the equality groups listed below i.e. it has no effect currently on equality groups.

It is important to remember that a proposal may be highly relevant to one aspect of equality and not relevant to another.

<p>High impact (The proposal or process is very equality relevant)</p>	<p>There is significant potential for or evidence of adverse impact The proposal is institution wide or public facing The proposal has consequences for or affects significant numbers of people The proposal has the potential to make a significant contribution to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights.</p>
<p>Medium impact (The proposal or process is somewhat equality relevant)</p>	<p>There is some evidence to suggest potential for or evidence of adverse impact The proposal is institution wide or cross-Unit, but mainly internal The proposal has consequences for or affects some people The proposal has the potential to make a contribution to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights</p>
<p>Low impact (The proposal or process might be equality relevant)</p>	<p>There is little evidence to suggest that the proposal could result in adverse impact The proposal operates in a limited way The proposal has consequences for or affects few people The proposal may have the potential to contribute to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights</p>

Step 5 - Mitigating adverse impacts and maximising positive impacts

5.1	<p>Based on your findings, explain ways you plan to mitigate any unlawful prohibited conduct or unwanted adverse impact. Where positive impacts have been identified, what is been done to optimise opportunities to advance equality or foster good relations?</p>
<p>There are no adverse impacts arising from the support the benefit to all groups is a financial one where they qualify. The key group are those on low income in any of the categories within the EIA.</p>	

Step 6 – Recommendations and conclusions of the assessment

6.1	<p>Having considered the potential or actual impacts you should be in a position to make an informed judgement on what should be done. In all cases, document your reasoning that justifies your decision. There are four main options you can take:</p>
<p>- No major change to the proposal – the EIA demonstrates the proposal is robust. There is no potential for unlawful discrimination or adverse impact and you have taken all opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations, subject to continuing monitor and review.</p>	

- **Adjust the proposal** – the EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. This involves taking steps to remove any barriers, to better advance quality or to foster good relations.
- **Continue with the proposal** (despite the potential for adverse impact) – you should clearly set out the justifications for doing this and how you believe the decision is compatible with our obligations under the duty
- **Stop and remove the proposal** – if there are adverse effects that are not justified and cannot be mitigated, you should consider stopping the proposal altogether. If a proposal leads to unlawful discrimination it should be removed or changed.

Important: If there are any adverse impacts you cannot mitigate, please provide a compelling reason in the justification column.

Option selected	Conclusions/justification
Continue with the proposal	This is a central government scheme that provides financial support to low income households and those households experiencing financial difficulties across the city as well as building community resilience. It is open to all residents.

Step 7 – Summary of agreed actions resulting from the assessment

7.1 What action, by whom, will be undertaken as a result of the impact assessment.			
Impact/issue	Action to be taken	Person responsible	Timescale
N/A			

Step 8 - Monitor, review and improve

8. 1	How will the impact of your proposal be monitored and improved upon going forward? Consider how will you identify the impact of activities on protected characteristics and other marginalised groups going forward? How will any learning and enhancements be capitalised on and embedded?
	All payments need to be recorded for Government records and internal control. This data provides information to the council on the Households receiving support. This is a cash first approach empowering households to manage their financial pressures arising from the cost of living crises. The scheme will also be reported on as part of 12 monthly reports to the Executive Member portfolio holders as part of a welfare benefits update report.

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Meeting:	Combined Executive Member Decision Session
Meeting date:	03 March 2026
Report of:	Garry Taylor, Director of City Development
Portfolio of:	Cllr Kent, Executive Member for Environment and Climate Emergency

Decision Report: North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) - Adoption

Subject of Report

1. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is a spatial strategy that seeks to map nature recovery actions and deliver the Governments England-wide nature targets. They are a statutory requirement as set out by the Environment Act 2021 as a new system of spatial strategies for nature throughout England.
2. North Yorkshire Council (NYC) was appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) as the 'Responsible Authority' (RA) for York and North Yorkshire, and City of York Council (CYC) as a 'Supporting Authority'. Consequently NYC Executive approved the publication of the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) in line with statutory guidance on 20 January 2026
3. This reports seeks to endorse the LNRS as part of City of York Council's evidence base supporting decision-making and future plan-making.

Benefits and Challenges

4. The LNRS is designed as a mechanism to drive more coordinated, practical and focussed action to help restore, join and halt nature decline. The strategy positively:
 - agrees priorities for nature's recovery,

- maps the most valuable existing areas for nature;
 - maps specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals;
 - Provides transparency and accountability in environmental decision-making providing a strategic understanding of our green infrastructure network;
 - Enhances and identify opportunities to support nature recovery and provides a clear set of priorities and spatial data that can be used to monitor progress;
 - Provides a shared spatial framework that enables cross-boundary collaboration between local authorities, statutory bodies, and landowners increasing ecological connectivity and resilience; and
 - supports the delivery of multiple policy objectives, including climate adaptation, flood mitigation, and public health strengthening the case for nature-based solutions in urban and rural settings.
5. Effective implementation of LNRS priorities will require ongoing coordination across internal departments and external partners. Ensuring alignment between planning, conservation, and climate teams may require additional governance structures or working groups. There is a risk that without sufficient resourcing, the strategy may not be fully embedded into decision-making or council-wide actions. While there is some initial funding provided for actioning Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), long-term delivery will depend on sustained capacity within planning and climate teams.
6. The success of the strategy depends on landowner engagement and voluntary uptake of nature recovery actions. Building trust and demonstrating benefits to landowners will be essential, and understanding the mechanisms government intends to use to support nature recovery with help achieve this. There is a real risk that interest may decline during the delivery phase if these mechanisms remain unclear. For example, government could integrate LNRS priorities into the assessment criteria for Environmental Land Management schemes. Demonstrating tangible benefits and securing central government support both financial and policy-based will be key to sustaining long-term engagement, particularly in areas where competing land uses exist.

Policy Basis for Decision

National Policy

7. The Environment Act 2021 is the statutory foundation for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). The Act establishes LNRSs as a key mechanism for reversing biodiversity decline and integrating nature recovery into spatial planning.
8. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local authorities to protect and enhance biodiversity, including through the identification of ecological networks. Current Government guidance is clear that LNRSs should be used by Local Authorities preparing Local Plans to inform the way those plans address the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requirement to protect and enhance biodiversity. Further guidance and updates to the NPPF are expected to set out how Local Planning Authorities comply with their duty to have regard to LNRSs through their planning functions
9. Natural Environment Guidance¹ provides that: *‘Local planning authorities should consider the priorities set out in the relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategy when determining how their local plan should contribute to and enhance the local and natural environment’*. It goes on to states: *‘Local Nature Recovery Strategy is an evidence base which contains information that may be a ‘material consideration’ in the planning system, especially where development plan documents for an area pre-date Local Nature Recovery Strategy publication. It is for the decision-maker to determine what is a relevant material consideration based on the individual circumstances of the case’*.
10. Defra are currently drafting guidance on the transition to delivery of LNRS (See Background section).

Local & Regional Strategy

11. The implementation of LNRS and BNG aligns directly with the sustainability priority of the Council’s 10-Year Strategy, which commits York to becoming carbon neutral and contributing to the

1. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment#local-nature-recovery-strategies>

regional ambition of being carbon negative. The strategy also supports the Council's vision of protecting iconic green spaces and enhancing the natural environment for future generations.

12. The LNRS complements the York Climate Change Strategy (2022–2032), particularly its focus on nature-based solutions, climate resilience, and ecosystem services. It provides a spatial framework for delivering these outcomes in partnership with landowners, developers, and community groups.
13. The LNRS also supports the delivery of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority ambitions to support opportunities for the green economy across the region and vibrant and sustainable places, including increasing woodland coverage, the number of hedgerows and peatland restoration.
14. The strategy underpins Policy GI1 'Green Infrastructure' of the adopted Local Plan (2025) and will also inform future reviews wherein nature recovery priorities will be embedded in land use planning and development management policies.

Financial Strategy Implications

15. North Yorkshire Council was provided a grant of £380k to lead the preparation of the LNRS.
16. A further allocation of £135k for years 2025-26 has been issued to North Yorkshire Council (NYC) as the Responsible Authority (RA) for the transition into delivery of the LNRS, once the strategy has been published.
17. It is not currently known whether further funding will be provided in future years or what costs will be ultimately incurred. These will be considered when further details are known.

Recommendation and Reasons

18. The Executive Member is asked to:
 - i. Note the decision by North Yorkshire Council to publish the LNRS;
 - ii. To accept the LNRS, as approved, as a statutory evidence base to inform planning decisions and plan-making.

Reason: To ensure compliance with the Environment Act 2021.

Background

19. Relevant decisions made during the preparation of the LNRS are set out in the background documents section at the end of report.
20. Now that NYC have published the strategy, we are entering a delivery phase to implement the strategy. CYC are aware that Defra hosted a national workshop for all LNRS RAs on 10 February 2026, to help shape future delivery, and Defra have circulated draft future guidance with RAs. Updates will be shared with LNRS advisory Group & LNRS Board in March 2026. All are waiting for Defra announcements on transition to delivery funding.
21. In draft guidance Defra envisages that the delivery role of the RAs will be made up of four key functions:
 - Lead and convene a delivery partnership
 - Embed LNRS into local decision making
 - Identify strategic project and facilitate project development
 - Monitor and report on delivery of LNRS priorities
22. What we know about these currently is:
23. Lead and convene a delivery partnership
 - Possibly the RA role will move from NYC to York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, as part of devolution developments.
 - The existing organisation and memberships of North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership might be utilised as part of a delivery governance role.
 - Set up a (or build on an existing) suitable delivery partnership; Provide direction to the partnership; Coordinate delivery among the partnership
24. Embed LNRS into local decision making
 - Use LNRS in plan making (Spatial Development Strategy, Local Plan, Minerals and Waste Plan or Neighbourhood Plan etc...)
 - Having regard for LNRS in your own organisation (biodiversity duty under Environment Act 2021)
 - Support other public bodies to have regard for LNRS
 - Support other external partners to use LNRS

25. Identify strategic projects and facilitate project development
 - Identify new potential projects using the LNRS
 - engage with potential project partners
 - Develop these new potential projects, along with relevant existing projects, to become ready to be delivered
 - Work with partners to ensure their project designs are shaped by the LNRS
 - Keep a record of planned projects
26. Monitor and report on delivery of LNRS priorities
 - Uncertain but it looks like RAs should collate nature recovery data that is not already monitored by Government schemes (eg not BNG).

Consultation Analysis

27. CYC endorsed the Publication Draft of the LNRS, in line with Regulation 15 of the Environment (LNRS) (Procedure) Regulations 2023 in December 2025². This stage included public consultation.
28. This stage is transitioning into delivery. Governance is yet to be agreed, but CYC will be a part of this, which can be reported in due course.

Options Analysis and Evidential Basis

29. The following options have been considered:
 - Option (i) (recommended) - Agree to accept the LNRS as statutory evidence base supporting planning functions.
 - Option (ii) - Do nothing to formally agree the LNRS.
30. The requirement for the production and publication of an LNRS is a statutory duty aligned to the Regulations (set out above). Taking a decision to accept the LNRS following publication by NYC actively endorses the strategy and it's use to inform planning functions and environmental priorities for the council; Option (i) is therefore recommended.

²To support the publication of the final LNRS;
<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7587>

31. Should CYC take no decision, the outcomes of the LNRS will still need to be used to inform planning decisions and plan-making aligned to the legislative requirements.

Organisational Impact and Implications

32. **Financial** - An allocation of £135k for years 2025-26 has been issued to North Yorkshire Council (NYC) as the Responsible Authority (RA) for the transition into delivery of the LNRS, once the strategy has been published. There are no immediate financial considerations as result of endorsing the LNRS.
33. **Human Resources (HR)** - There are no HR implications.
34. **Legal** - The Environment Act 2021 is the statutory foundation for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Procedures for the consultation and publication of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is set out in the Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023 (the Regulations).
35. **Procurement** - Whilst there are no direct procurement implications relating to report itself, should any priorities require procurement, all works and/or services must be procured via a compliant, open, transparent, and fair process in accordance with the council's Contract Procedure Rules and where applicable, the Procurement Act 2023. Further advice regarding the procurement process and development of procurement strategies must be sought from the Commercial Procurement team.
36. **Health and Wellbeing** – No implications.
37. **Environment and Climate action** - The LNRS demonstrates alignment with objectives of the York Climate Change Strategy, particular the focus on nature-based solutions, climate resilience, and ecosystem services. It provides a spatial framework for delivering these outcomes in partnership with landowners, developers, and community groups.
38. **Affordability** – No implications.
39. **Equalities and Human Rights** – The implementation of specific projects, developments and interventions will need to consider

Equalities and Human Rights on a site-specific basis the noting of proposed statutory regime in this report has no impacts. North Yorkshire Council will have considered Equalities and Human Rights in the development of LNRS strategy.

40. **Data Protection and Privacy** - The completion of data protection impact assessment (DPIA) screening questions evidenced there would be no processing of personal data, special categories of personal data or criminal offence data processed, so there is no requirement to complete a DPIA.
41. **Communications** - Communications support will be required during LNRS publication.
42. **Economy** - LNRS will impact the economy at a high level by its association with land use and practices. The economic affects are unquantifiable for the purposes of this report, but are intended to be beneficial in the long term, as part of an overall sustainable economy.

Risks and Mitigations

43. Risk: Insufficient Resources for Implementation - Delivery of LNRS priorities may be constrained by limited staff capacity, particularly in ecology, design, and conservation teams.

Mitigation:

- Utilise existing grant funding to support additional capacity, particularly for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) implementation.
- Explore further funding opportunities through Defra, LEP, and private sector partnerships.
- Prioritise actions based on available resources and strategic impact.

Wards Impacted

44. All wards will be impacts as the LNRS covers the entire local authority.

Contact details

45. For further information please contact the authors of this Decision Report.

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Date:	19.02.2026

Specialist officers:

- Andrew Mcilwraith, Ecology and Countryside Officer

Background papers:

- 12/10/2023 Executive [Biodiversity Net Gain \(including information on Local Nature Recovery Strategy\)ref: 6954](#)
- 20/05/2025 EMDS: [North Yorkshire & York, Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\) consultation draftref: 7425](#)
- 12/06/2025 [To provide written consent to public consultation on the draft North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\)](#)
- 04/11/2025 Executive: [North Yorkshire an York Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\) – Publication Draft](#) (item 168)
- 0512/2025 Officer Decision: [To support the publication of the final LNRS](#)
- North Yorkshire Council Decision to Publish the LNRS (Item 834): [Agenda for Executive on Tuesday, 20 January 2026, 11.00 am | North Yorkshire Council](#)

LNRS core documents published on NYC webpage³:

- [Document 1: a non-technical summary of the strategy for residents and those from a non-technical background \(pdf / 3 MB\)](#)
- [Document 2: a detailed overview of the strategy, for politicians, land managers, town planners and wider stakeholders \(pdf / 9 MB\)](#)
- [Document 3: Statement of Biodiversity Priorities, Part 1 – Description of our Strategy Area, for technical stakeholders and those involved in project delivery \(pdf / 2 MB\)](#)
- [Document 4: Statement of Biodiversity Priorities, Part 2 – Priorities and Measures, for technical stakeholders and those involved in project delivery \(pdf / 1003 KB\)](#)

See also NYC webpage for LNRS Local Habitat Map, LNRS Appendices and Guidance Notes.

Annexes:

- Annex A - LNRS Document 2 (February 2026): a detailed overview of the strategy, for politicians, land managers, town planners and wider stakeholders

Abbreviations:

BNG – Biodiversity Net Gain
CYC – City of York Council
Defra – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
LNRS – Local Nature Recover Strategy
NPPF – National Planning Policy Framework
NYC – North Yorkshire Council
RA – Responsible Authority
SA – Supporting Authority

³ <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/local-nature-recovery-strategy-documents>

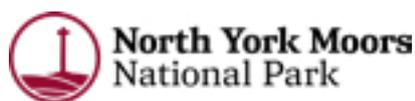


North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

Document 2: Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire
and York – Our Local Nature Recovery Strategy



February 2026



LNRS Document Navigation

The North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is split into 5 separate parts to help users of the strategy easily find the information that is most relevant to them. The 5 parts are set out in the table below, with a brief description of each one. To access other parts of the LNRS, please visit: www.northyorks.gov.uk/lhrs-documents

This is: **Document 2: Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Our Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

1	Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Non-Technical Summary Provides a non-technical summary of the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy intended for residents and readers from a non-technical background
2	Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Our Local Nature Recovery Strategy Provides a detailed overview of the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy intended for politicians, land managers, town planners and wider stakeholders
3	Statement of Biodiversity Priorities Part I – Description of Our Strategy Area Provides a detailed description of the strategy area of the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy
4	Statement of Biodiversity Priorities Part II – Priorities and Measures Sets out the priorities and measures for the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy
5	The Local Habitat Map Online mapping platform providing the Local Habitat Map for the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy, including existing Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIBs) and Areas that Could Become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACBs)
Appendix 1	LNRS Prioritisation methodology and scoring criteria
Appendix 2	LNRS Species prioritisation methodology
Appendix 3	LNRS Mapping methodology and datasets
Appendix 4	LNRS Nature recovery opportunities longlist
Appendix 5	LNRS Priority species list
Appendix 6	LNRS Online survey responses summary, February 2024
Appendix 7	LNRS Species measures

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Foreword

North Yorkshire and York supports an amazing diversity of landscapes and wildlife, from ancient woodlands and chalk hills to large expanses of open moorland and beautiful historic parklands. Nevertheless, the State of Yorkshire's Nature report¹ advises that nature is under threat across Yorkshire, with up to 2,000 species having disappeared in the last 200 years and nearly 1 in 5 species having declined by more than 25% in the last 20-30 years.

To try and address nature's decline across our geography, government appointed North Yorkshire Council in 2023 to lead the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), working closely with our five supporting authorities: City of York Council, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, North York Moors National Park Authority, York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority and Natural England.



Councillor Richard Foster

*North Yorkshire Council's Executive Member
for Managing our Environment*

The LNRS has been developed in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including land managers and farmers, environmental organisations, local interest groups, residents and young people.

As we share a common landscape and river network, and nature recovery needs to be enacted at scale, we will act as the lead authority and continue to work in partnership with City of York Council, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, North York Moors National Park Authority, York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority and Natural England.

I look forward to working with our partners and many stakeholders to implement this strategy.



Councillor Jenny Kent

*City of York Council's Executive Member
for Environment and Climate Emergency*

Climate change and the global loss of biodiversity are at critical tipping points, and creating diverse, healthy green spaces and waterways is vital for us all to thrive.

The LNRS identifies priorities to not only help reverse the decline in nature but allow it to flourish, and create a network of nature-rich sites that are bigger, better managed and more joined-up across the county and across the country.

Implementing LNRS is an important step forwards for a liveable future, protecting nature for our future generations, and an opportunity to work together to safeguard our natural spaces and wildlife.



Mark Corner

*Member Champion for the Natural Environment
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority*



Patrick James

*Chair, Conservation and Climate Change Forum
North York Moors National Park Authority*

With their iconic heather moorlands, ancient woodlands, hay meadows, coastal cliffs and river valleys, the North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Parks support some of our rarest and most important plants, animals and habitats. Atlantic salmon, curlew, turtle dove, black grouse and native juniper all rely on this special place, and LNRS will help us and our partners prioritise action for nature recovery so these and all other species can survive and flourish in the face of climate change.

Developing the LNRS with our landowners, farmers and land managers, our Management Plan partners, and our communities across the National Park, ensures a shared understanding of priorities and a collective commitment to reversing habitat loss, increasing biodiversity and bio-abundance, and building a resilient landscape.

As Supporting Authorities, we will have a responsibility to play a significant role in shaping and delivering the LNRS, working alongside other stakeholders to support sustainable, connected and naturally functioning landscapes where nature can thrive.



David Skaith

Mayor of York and North Yorkshire

The healthy, thriving communities I want to see across York and North Yorkshire are dependent on easy access to the region's vast and varied landscape. Getting out into nature boosts people's physical and mental health and is a great way to keep active.

But protecting nature not only means saving it for future generations – it also means tackling the challenges of climate change, while attracting visitors and creating jobs.

Restored habitats and landscapes can reverse the decline in biodiversity, help capture carbon from the atmosphere and provide protection from natural hazards such as flooding.

The LNRS is a collaboration which will be vital to the future of our region's natural landscapes and habitats, as well as helping York and North Yorkshire achieve its goal of becoming carbon negative by 2040.

¹ State of Yorkshire's Nature - Yorkshire Wildlife Trust www.ywt.org.uk/StateofNature

Executive Summary

Vision and Ambition

Our vision is to work together to *enhance, expand, restore, and connect* habitats across North Yorkshire and York, creating a region where nature thrives. By 2035 we aim to be a national exemplar for abundant nature, leaving our natural environment in a better state for both people and wildlife. This will support a resilient economy and help mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

As one of 48 Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) across England, our strategy contributes to a national Nature Recovery Network. This network will support species recovery and deliver a wide range of benefits from nature through inter-connected habitat improvements.

Challenges and Pressures

Nature in the UK is under severe pressure, with our country ranked among the most nature-depleted globally. There is evidence that our ability to adapt to a changing climate is reduced when nature is lost, and nature depletion is predicted to reduce national GDP by 6-12% by the 2030s. In Yorkshire alone, over 25% of species have declined in the past 30 years. In North Yorkshire and York, this is evident in the dramatic decline of species such as the Turtle Dove, White-Clawed Crayfish, Red Squirrel, and Burnt Orchid.

Key pressures on nature include habitat loss, pollution, invasive species and climate change. Less than 20% of our water bodies currently meet the criteria for good ecological status, underscoring the urgency of required action.

Strategic Response

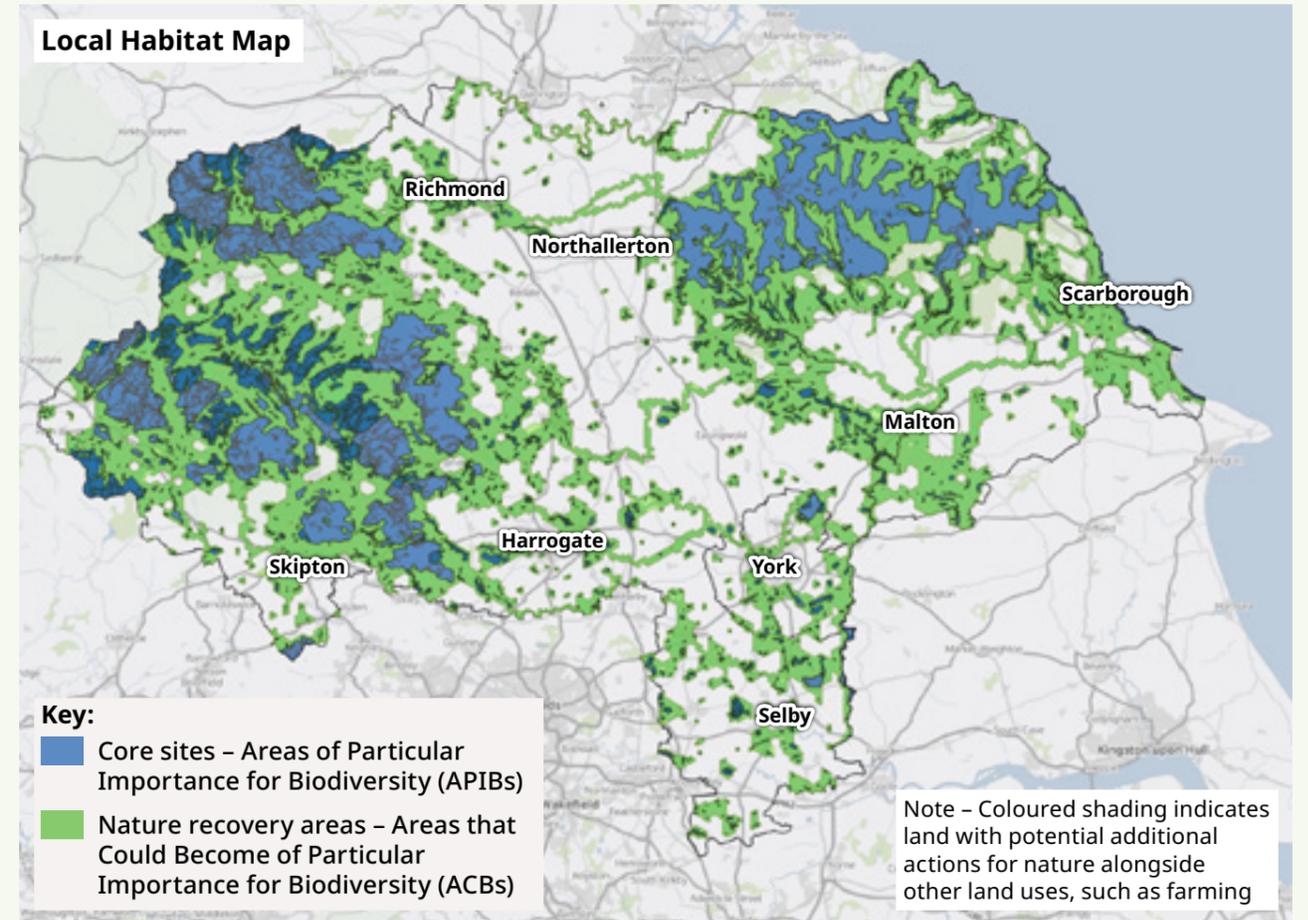
To address these challenges, we have worked with a wide range of expert stakeholders to develop 44 priorities and over 150 targeted measures across seven 'habitat' themes; farmland, upland, grassland, woodland, water and wetlands, urban, and coast.

These priorities are aligned with our proposed nature recovery network (Local Habitat Map) – a bold vision to make our habitats *bigger, better, more and more joined up*. This network will join up with our seven neighbouring LNRS. Better-connected habitats will help to reverse species decline and deliver wider benefits from nature such as climate regulation, cleaner water, and improved access to nature for people to benefit their health and wellbeing.

Call to Action

We are now transitioning to the delivery phase and Government has asked us to monitor changes in nature resulting from our proposed actions. Success with delivery will depend on collaboration across communities, businesses, public bodies, NGOs, and land managers and farmers.

There will be opportunities to integrate nature recovery into the government's growth agenda. Alongside public funding, we will help to explore opportunities for private investment into nature recovery.



1. Introduction

The intention of this document is to provide an overview of the scope of the LNRS, whilst also forming a signpost to, and summary of, more detailed information that can be found in the Description of Strategy Area (Document 3), Statement of Biodiversity Priorities (Document 4), the Local Habitat Map and the supporting appendices.

What is a LNRS?

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new system of spatial strategies intended to drive nature recovery, along with associated environmental improvements. Their preparation is a statutory requirement under the Environment Act 2021 and their main purpose is to identify appropriate actions and suitable locations to enhance existing habitats, or create new habitats, where this is most likely to provide the greatest benefits for nature and the wider environment.

Each strategy must:

- Agree priorities for nature's recovery
- Map the most valuable existing areas for nature
- Map specific proposals for enhancing or creating habitat for nature, along with wider environmental goals

This document is the LNRS for North Yorkshire and York, which has been led by North Yorkshire Council following appointment by Defra as the responsible authority for its preparation, in collaboration with a wide range of regional stakeholders.

In due course, Defra will require the responsible authority to review and republish the strategy as part of an ongoing cycle which considers what has been achieved, and proposes what further work is needed for nature to recover. It is expected that the first published LNRS will be reviewed within 3–10 years.

The strategy does not oblige landowners or land managers to make any changes or undertake any actions on the land that they own or manage. In addition, it does not confer any additional protections or change

existing protections and restrictions. Instead, the strategy seeks to drive collaborative, coordinated action for nature by setting out the most beneficial priorities and measures (actions) to enhance and create habitat, and identify where these could be carried out to have the greatest positive impact.

Why do we need an LNRS?

The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries on in the world². Nationally, all our ecosystems assets, like freshwaters and enclosed farmland, and the majority of the benefits they provide, like freshwater and cultivated crops, are deemed to be at high or medium risk. North Yorkshire and York, like the rest of England has suffered extreme biodiversity loss over the past 50 years. Many habitat areas across North Yorkshire and York are heavily fragmented, functionally isolated, and lacking in management, causing significant declines in biodiversity and ecological condition. Our area contains over 600 species considered to be endangered or vulnerable to extinction, including Tansy Beetle, Hen Harrier, Curlew, European Eel, Water Vole, and Frog Orchid. Human life too is affected by these changes. The ability to adapt to a changing climate is reduced when nature is lost, and nature depletion is predicted to reduce national GDP by 6-12% by the 2030s³.

As a result, the UK Government has made binding commitments to halt and reverse biodiversity decline in accordance with the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023, and to meet the global Conference of the Parties' (COP15) 30 by 30 commitment to protect 30% of UK land and sea for nature by 2030⁴.

² State of Natural Capital Report for England is now published – Natural England: <https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk>

³ Green Finance Institute: www.greenfinanceinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2024

⁴ Environmental Improvement Plan: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media>

What does this document contain?

- **Section 2** – Vision and principles – with our stakeholders we have co-created a vision statement with 10 supporting principles
- **Section 3** – Description of our natural environment
- **Section 4** – Outline of our state of nature
- **Section 5** – Overview of our broad areas and habitats
- **Section 6** – Priorities and measures (actions) for nature recovery that we have established with our stakeholders
- **Section 7** – Our nature network and Local Habitat Map – online map (spatial representation of the LNRS)
- **Section 8** – Links to other plans and strategies
- **Section 9** – How we go about delivery of the LNRS

We have facilitated seven webinars, nine briefings to Council Members, 33 in-person workshops, 33 stakeholder one-to-one interviews, 30 one-to-one sessions with land managers and farmers and engaged with 90 organisations and over 1500 individuals.

Key statistics from engagement undertaken up to August 2025



How has the strategy been prepared?

Preparation of the LNRS has been led by North Yorkshire Council, as the responsible authority, with work having commenced in September 2023. North Yorkshire Council has been supported by an advisory group (steering group) with representation from the Defra arm’s length bodies (Natural England, Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency), the protected landscapes in North Yorkshire (two National Parks and three National Landscapes), City of York Council, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, White Rose Forest, Dales to Vales River Network, North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC) and the National Farmers Union (NFU). During the development of the strategy, North Yorkshire Council has also elicited the views and expertise of many wider stakeholders across our geography.

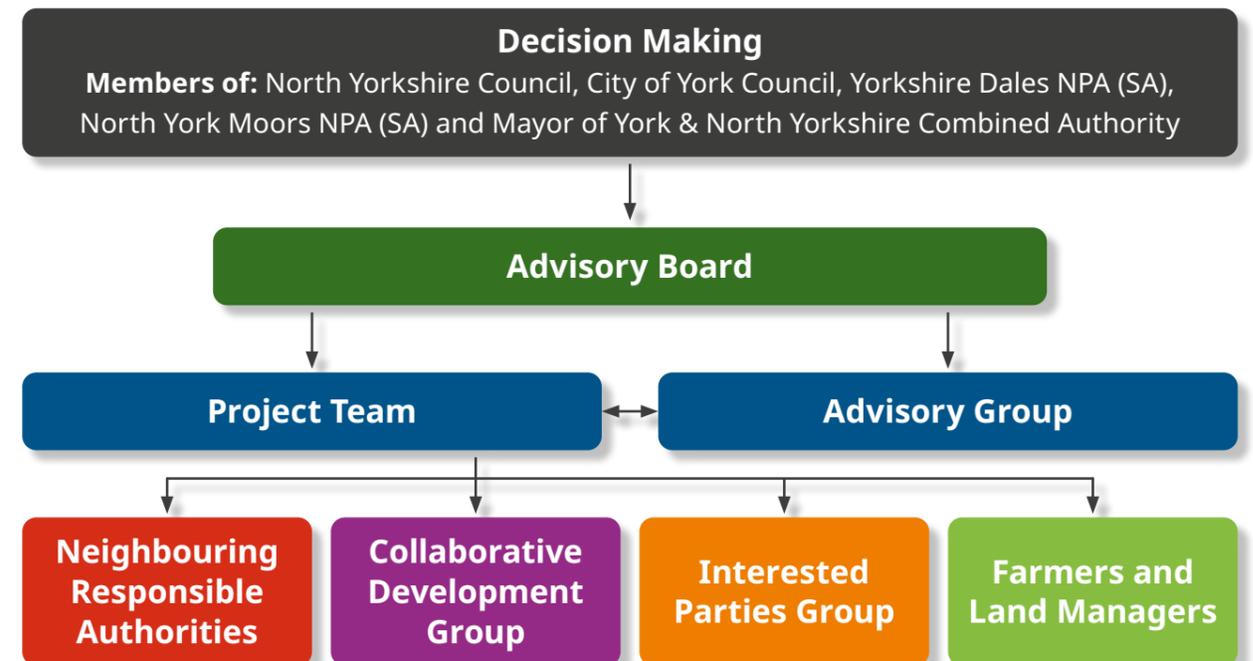
Who has been involved?

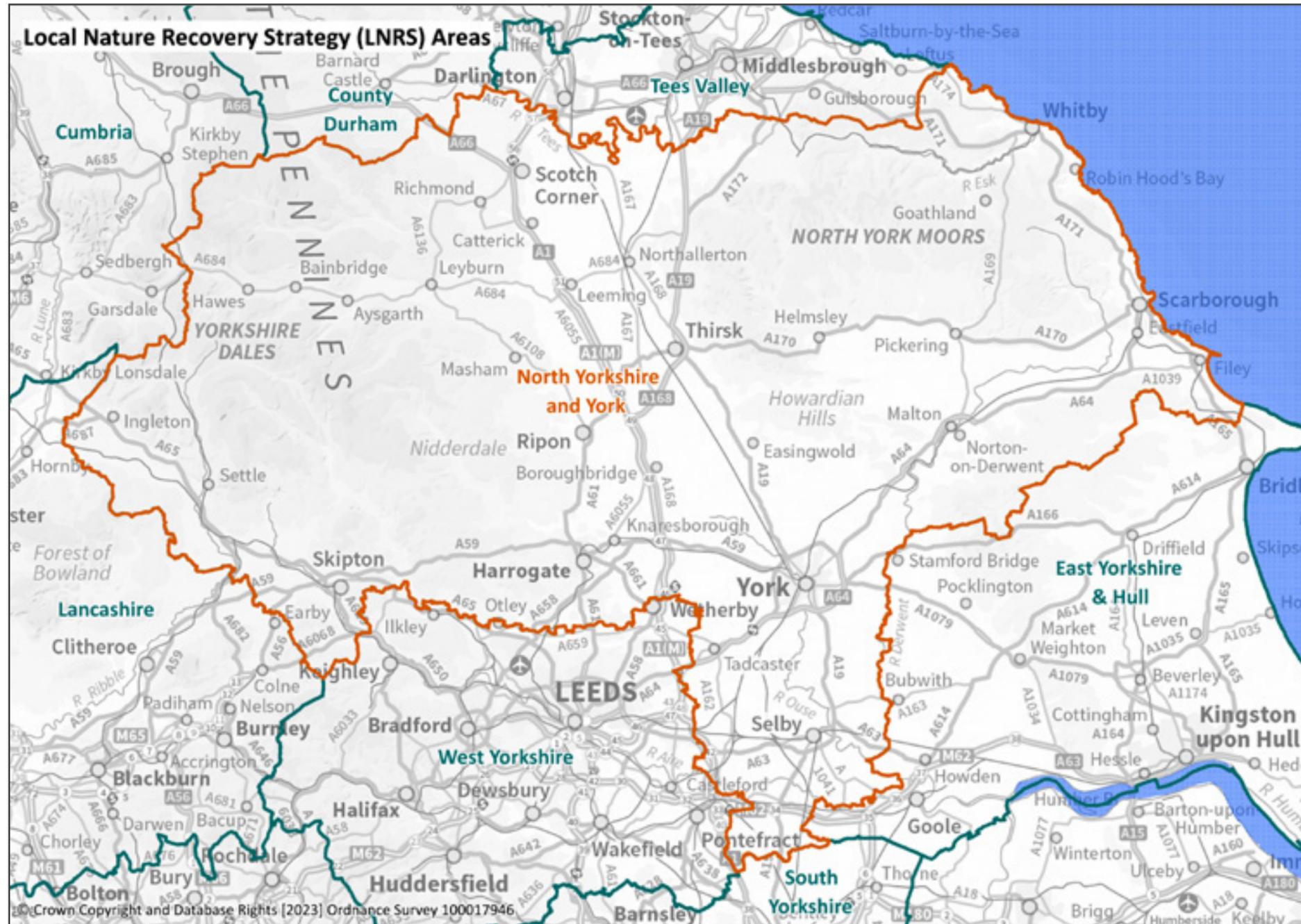
North Yorkshire Council developed a stakeholder engagement plan during summer 2023 to establish governance (working procedures and accountability), to raise awareness about LNRS, and determine which stakeholders to engage with. A working group from North Yorkshire Council and Natural England established a governance model for the LNRS (see diagram below), with the key groupings being:

- Lead Members from the responsible authority and supporting authorities – key decision makers
- Advisory Board – officers at director level, representing the responsible authority and supporting five authorities (Natural England, York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, City of York Council, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and North York Moors National Park Authority)

- Project Team – officers from North Yorkshire Council and the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership (LNP)
- Advisory Group – 18 advisory group members representing key stakeholder organisations
- Seven neighbouring LNRS responsible authorities (see plan overleaf)
- Two collaborative development groups – (i) habitat and species specialists (ii) experts from public health, climate change, natural capital, and economy
- Over 200 land managers and farmers
- Interested parties - local politicians, local authority senior officers, town and parish councils, environmental organisations, youth councils, our LNRS mailing list (over 500 contacts) and members of the public

Governance and stakeholder engagement





Who is the strategy for?

Everyone can take action for nature and play a part in local nature recovery. This strategy is for everyone across North Yorkshire and York, whether you are a landowner, farmer or local business owner, an environmental charity, developer or planner, a local resident, parks manager or community group.

How should it be used?

- **To encourage collaboration:** working across communities, businesses, public bodies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to help nature to thrive
- **To inform and provide evidence:** understand the local state of nature and the best actions we can all take to help nature recover, alongside other land use and development
- **To direct investment:** by setting out the best locations to focus action and resources to enhance habitat, including the delivery of Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMs), Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC).
- **To deliver wider benefits from nature:** Natural England’s State of Natural Capital (SoNC)⁵ report demonstrates how the stock of ecosystem assets underpins the provision of a suite of benefits from nature, which in turn contribute to the economy (see page 38)
- **To raise awareness:** encourage our citizens to appreciate the state of nature and to get involved in action on the ground
- **Monitor progress:** government will require us to review and republish our LNRS periodically, so we will need to monitor progress and map areas where action for nature recovery has been undertaken and whether those actions are having an impact



St Nicks launch of Wild York programme



Yorkshire Wildlife Trust’s Team Wilder empowerment day

Picture credit: Yorkshire Wildlife Trusts

⁵ State of Natural Capital Report for England – Natural England <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6683489974616064>

2. Vision

2. Vision

Our LNRS identifies locations to improve biodiversity and deliver wider benefits from nature, such as capturing carbon from the atmosphere, flood regulation, and providing greater access to nature-rich spaces where this is most needed for health and wellbeing.

Since embarking on the preparation of the LNRS, we have worked collaboratively with a wide range of stakeholders including farmers, landowners, habitat experts, local politicians, town planners and residents to ask what nature means to them, how we can reverse its decline and what many wider benefits nature recovery can bring to both people and wildlife. Together we have established a vision statement and an ambition for the coming decade.

Vision

Our vision for restoring nature is:

To work together to enhance, expand, restore and connect our region's habitats for thriving nature across North Yorkshire and York.

Our ambition is that by 2035 our sub region will be an exemplar for abundant nature, and we will leave our natural environment in a better state for people and wildlife species, while supporting a prospering economy and helping to address climate change.



Long Preston Floodplain project, near Settle

Principles

We have co-created 10 principles that will underpin our vision, statement of biodiversity priorities, and local habitat map. Principles 1 to 5 focus on what we need to do, with principles 6 to 10 focusing on how we can do it. The principles are set out below:

What we need to do:

1	Restore natural processes – restoring nature’s way of doing things, where people and wildlife are better able to thrive in a prospering economy, while mitigating the effects of, and adapting to, climate change
2	Produce food, fuel and timber in a nature-friendly way
3	Connect people to nature – helping people become more aware of nature, our responsibility to it and the health and wellbeing benefits it can provide
4	Manage our water sustainably for both people and wildlife
5	Enhance local character and distinctiveness

Principles 1-5 align closely with some of the benefits from nature referred to in the State of Natural Capital Report for England and this is covered in more detail on page 38.



Picture credit: Simon Vine

Sowerby Sport Village, Thirsk



Picture credit: Forestry Commission

Woodland planting in an upland landscape

How we can do it:

6	Work across and engage with communities, businesses, public bodies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to help nature to thrive
7	Put nature and natural processes at the heart of policy and decision-making
8	Attract funding and green finance into nature
9	Prioritise and promote jobs, education, apprenticeships, and skills in delivering nature recovery
10	Monitor and evaluate change – recording uplifts to species, tree cover and habitats over time

Principles 6-10 are considered in more detail in Section 9.0 Delivery – who can do what?



Picture credit: North York Moors National Park Authority

Monitoring river fly species to assess water quality



Decision making session in Council Chamber

3. Our Natural Environment

3. Our Natural Environment

Our Description of Strategy Area (Document 3) covers the natural environment in more detail and stakeholders engaged in nature recovery should read that document fully. The text below provides selective information from that document in a summary format.

Our land area of over 850,000 hectares (8,500 square kilometres) covers a range of geologies including limestone, sandstone and ironstone. Long term interactions between land, climate, and hydrology have resulted in distinctive topography, with uplands characterised by the Yorkshire Dales, North York Moors and Yorkshire Wolds, and neighbouring lowlands including the Vale of Mowbray, Vale of York and Vale of Pickering.

North Yorkshire and York has an extensive river network (see plan overleaf), with the rivers Swale, Ure, Nidd and Ouse flowing in a south-easterly direction towards York and then on into the Humber estuary. Other rivers joining the Ouse downstream of York include the Aire, Wharfe and Derwent. In the north, the Tees and Esk form their own, separate river catchments, while in the west the river Ribble finds its source in the Yorkshire Dales before flowing into neighbouring Lancashire.

Our rivers support a diverse range of habitats, including floodplain meadows, with approximately 15% of the national floodplain meadow resource being found within North Yorkshire and York. The Lower Derwent Valley, south east of York, supports one of the best examples of traditionally managed species-rich floodplain meadow habitat in the UK and supports internationally important populations of wintering waterfowl, along with the floodplain meadow adjacent to the River Ouse and its role in flood management for the City of York.

North Yorkshire is noted for its upland landscapes, dominated by heather moorland and blanket bog which support rare species such as Hen Harrier, Merlin, and Bog Asphodel. The upland areas of the county contain 27% of England's blanket bog resource⁶ and around 25% of the upland heathland resource, with the North York Moors having the largest block of continuous heather moorland in England. The Yorkshire Dales National Park contains approximately half of all Britain's limestone pavement and contains a significant proportion of the national upland hay meadow habitat, which the area is also famous for.

Lowland heathland is a rare habitat in England, and the York and Selby areas contain 2% of the country's resource, supporting rare species such as Pillwort, Slender Pond Snail, Adder and Nightjar.

⁶ Our peatlands - Yorkshire Peat Partnership www.yppartnership.org.uk/our-peatlands



Limestone habitats are especially rich in wildlife, and North Yorkshire is unique in having four different limestone types, each supporting unique habitats and species. These include the largest area of Carboniferous limestone in the Yorkshire Dales, the Permian Magnesian limestone running north to south through the centre of North Yorkshire, the Jurassic limestone on the southern edge of the North York Moors, and Britain's most northerly chalk outcrop (Cretaceous) in the Yorkshire Wolds. These support unique flora such as Lady's Slipper Orchid, Purple Milk-vetch and Perennial Flax. Almost half the plants of Conservation Concern in Yorkshire were linked with limestone and chalk. The Yorkshire Dales contains more than 40% of England's upland calcareous grassland resource.⁷

As a percentage of our total land area, woodland cover across North Yorkshire and York is 11.5%, compared with the England average of 14.9%,⁸ nevertheless we have important areas of ancient and long-established woodlands across our geography. The North York Moors National Park has the highest density of Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) in the North of England. North Yorkshire and York is known for its large number of country estates and associated parkland, including Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal, Duncombe Park, and Castle Howard, which support large numbers of veteran and ancient trees, an irreplaceable habitat.

The LNRS encompasses the North Yorkshire coastline between Staithes in the north and Filey Bay in the south. It is a highly distinctive coast with internationally important Jurassic and Cretaceous geology, including fossil-rich cliffs. Many of the softer coastal cliffs have a mosaic of habitats such as species-rich grasslands, scrub, wet flushes and bare ground which support a range of unusual plants and invertebrates. The hard cliffs provide important nesting sites for declining seabirds, such as Kittiwake, and the intertidal rock platforms are important for a range of rock pool species such as seaweeds and molluscs.



Curlew

Picture credit: Paul Harris

⁷ Flagship Habitats in North Yorkshire (2019), M Hammond

⁸ National Forest Inventory (NFI) and Outside Woods (TOW) data, Forest Research

North Yorkshire and York hosts a range of rare and iconic species from birds such as the Curlew and Barn Owl, to the Tansy Beetle, also known as 'the Jewel of York', as one of only two places it is found in the UK. The North York Moors National Park is now home to the only significant breeding population of Turtle Dove in the north of the UK and

our area is one of only a few places in the country left for endangered species such as Tassel Stonewort and Freshwater Pearl Mussel. The occurrence of the moth Dark Bordered Beauty at Strensall Common, near York, is the only known site in England for this species. Many of these rare and vulnerable species occur outside of our protected areas.



Adder

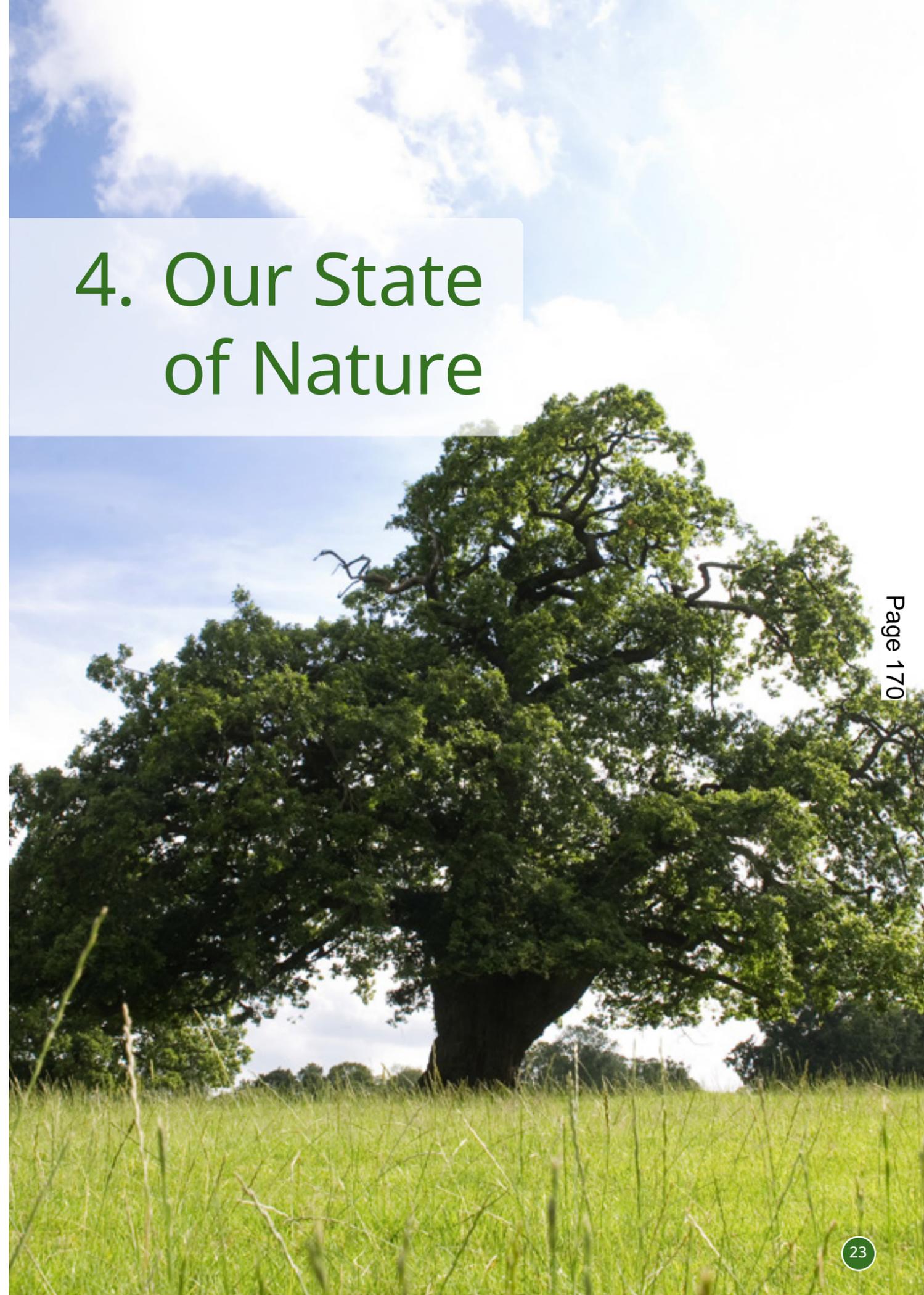
Picture credit: Will Askew



Kittiwake

Picture credit: Gareth Atkinson

4. Our State of Nature



Page 170

4. Our State of Nature

Our Description of Strategy Area (Document 3) covers the state of nature in North Yorkshire and York in more detail and stakeholders engaged in nature recovery should read that document fully. The text below provides selective information from that document in a summary format.

Species

In Yorkshire over 25% of species have declined in the last 30 years⁹ and this change can be seen in North Yorkshire and York by the dramatic decline of species such as Turtle Dove, White-Clawed Crayfish, Red Squirrel and Lady's Slipper Orchid. Our area contains over 8,600 species considered to be endangered or vulnerable to extinction, including Adder, Curlew, European Eel, Water Vole and Burnt Orchid. Species that may be thought of as common such as the Common Toad, European Hedgehog or Swift are classed as priority species due to their dramatic declines in numbers in recent years.

Designated Sites

12.1% of the total area of North Yorkshire and York is internationally designated as either Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Areas for Conservation (SAC) or Ramsar Sites. These range from the extensive upland heathland habitat in the North York Moors National

Park, blanket bog habitat in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and floodplain meadow in the lower River Derwent. 13.8% of our total area is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) including areas of floodplain meadow along the River Ribble near Settle and lowland heath in the York and Selby area. Alongside these are Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) covering 1.2% of our total area, Local Nature Reserves (0.04%) and National Nature Reserves (0.2%). Irreplaceable habitats found within North Yorkshire and York include ancient woodland, blanket bog, limestone pavement and lowland fen.

However, these designations do not ensure that this land is in good quality for nature, due to a wide range of pressures. For example, only 15% our SSSI sites are in 'favourable' condition, with 71% assessed as 'unfavourable - recovering', 9% 'unfavourable - no change' and 5% 'unfavourable - declining'.



Picture credit: Gareth Atkinson

Pressures

Pressures that have led to the decline in species and the condition of designated sites will continue to impact into the future if not addressed. Some of these include:

Habitat loss and fragmentation – urbanisation and agricultural intensification since the Second World War have historically led to the direct loss of habitat, as well as a reduction in the quality of remaining habitat. Rivers and their associated riparian habitats have been heavily modified for flood risk and land drainage reasons and many man-made structures and weirs present barriers to fish migration. These changes over time have created a fragmented network of sites for nature that have reduced the ability of species to migrate and made them more at risk of localised extinctions.

Water Pollution – less than 20% of North Yorkshire and York's waterbodies are classed as having good ecological status, highlighting the impact that issues such as pollution are still having on these ecosystems. More work is required to reduce the input of unwanted chemicals and nutrients from sewage treatment and runoff from roads and agriculture into our watercourses, to support the recovery of our river wildlife.

Air Pollution – in England, the two main sources of atmospheric pollutants are nitrogen oxides and ammonia. Nitrogen oxides result from the burning of fossil fuels, in both power stations and motor vehicles, while ammonia, nitrous oxide and methane are mainly emitted from agriculture. Overall, 96% of England's most sensitive wildlife habitats are affected by excessive nitrogen deposition.¹⁰

Invasive species – there are estimated to be around 2,000 Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) in the UK, with many being well established, such as the Grey Squirrel. Collectively, INNS are estimated to cost our national economy £1.84 billion a year and are a major threat to our nature. Some directly target our native wildlife (e.g. American Mink, Signal Crayfish), whilst others cause indirect harm, including undermining our riverbanks (Himalayan Balsam), damaging property (Japanese Knotweed), or impacting on human health (Giant Hogweed). Control of INNS has been identified as one of our overarching priorities within the strategy (see priority OVR_P03).

Pests and diseases – these are prevalent throughout our natural world, with more entering our country through human activity and climate change. Warmer average temperatures and wetter environments could increase the presence of pests and diseases even further. Ash dieback was first observed in England in 2012 and is expected to kill up to 80% of Ash trees across the UK,¹¹ which will change the landscape and threaten many species which rely on Ash.

¹⁰ We need to talk about Nitrogen - British Ecological Society www.britishecologicalsociety.org/need-talk-nitrogen

¹¹ Ash Dieback (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus) - Woodland Trust www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/tree-pests-and-diseases/key-tree-pests-and-diseases/ash-dieback

Climate change – the UK is predicted to experience warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. The impacts we are already experiencing from our changing climate are also impacting the species around us. Flooding during breeding seasons can lead to nests and habitats being washed out, while droughts can prevent access to essential water and food sources. Changes in temperature can cause flowering periods to fall out of sequence with emerging pollinating insects, leading to a lack of food at essential life stages. Changes in temperature will force animals to either survive in poor living conditions or migrate, which can be extremely challenging if the habitat they rely on is highly fragmented.

Land use – urbanisation and agricultural intensification since the Second World War have led to the direct loss in habitat, as well as a reduction in the quality of remaining habitat. This has created a fragmented network of sites for nature which has reduced the ability of species to migrate and made them more at risk of localised extinctions.

In the UK, the many demands on our land is an ongoing issue, including meeting the needs of agricultural production, employment and residential development, strategic infrastructure including renewable energy, nature recovery and leisure and recreation. It is understood that Government will publish its Land Use Framework (LUF) during 2025 to support better management of these competing demands on land. North Yorkshire and York faces all of these demands across its geography and it will need tools like the LUF and the planning system to help to manage them effectively.

5. Overview of our Land Uses and Habitats

5. Overview of our Land Uses and Habitats

Working with a wide range of experts, community groups, farmers, landowners and others, we have established a range of priorities and measures (actions) to help nature recover. These are covered in more depth in Section 6. We have grouped our area’s land uses and habitats into seven categories (see graphic below).

-  **Farmland**
-  **Upland**
-  **Grassland**
-  **Woodland**
-  **Water and wetlands**
-  **Urban**
-  **Coast**

We have used these ‘habitat’ categories throughout the strategy to allow easier identification of the priorities and measures that are most relevant to particular habitats or land use types. We recognise that there is some crossover between the categories, and that some of the categories primarily relate to land use or landscape type, rather than a specific habitat type.

In this section, we provide an overview for each ‘habitat’ category, along with a short case study demonstrating ‘nature recovery in action’.

Farmland *Overview*

Farmland makes up over 70% of the land area of North Yorkshire and York and, with over 6,900 farms¹² across our LNRS area, farming plays a significant role in community life. Agriculture also has an essential role in managing our region’s landscapes, flora and fauna, alongside its significant contribution to the local economy.

In broad terms, our flatter lowland areas and some parts of the coast tend to be occupied by larger arable and mixed farms, with our upland areas and foothills being occupied by smaller hill farms, typically focussed on livestock and mixed farming. Our engagement with farmers during 2024 suggests that across our geography there are pockets of land where landowners and farmers are taking action to help nature by including natural habitats alongside their farm business activity. This applies particularly in the protected landscapes, which have benefitted from the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) scheme, an initiative which provides advice and grants in respect of nature recovery and other objectives.

Elsewhere, there is evidence that post-war agricultural intensification has resulted in field amalgamation through the removal of features such as hedgerows, trees, copses and ponds, resulting in an environment with smaller and more fragmented areas of natural habitat, which is less able to support nature and wildlife.

Nature recovery in action – Birkdale Farm

Birkdale Farm in the Howardian Hills National Landscape is a 300-acre farm utilising regenerative agriculture principles to improve soil health and support biodiversity. The farm produces winter wheat with herbal leys as a ‘break crop’. 150 breeding New Zealand Romney ewes support the management of various environmental options, improving the diversity of grassland and grazing wheat in February to reduce the risk of virus, and therefore the use of fungicide spray. No insecticides have been used on the farm for the past eight years. A mid-tier Stewardship and Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) agreement supports rare arable plants, wildflowers, birds, invertebrates and newts, whilst also protecting soil, water and hedgerows.

The farm has reduced its reliance on inputs (fertilisers and pesticides), extended the hedgerow network and implemented traditional management, incorporated flower-rich field margins and plots to support pollinators and predatory insects. 18 species of dragonfly and 10 species of bat have been recorded on the site, and rare moths, Great Crested Newt and arable plants such as Corn Buttercup and Field Pennycress have also been recorded through regular surveys.



Pollen and nectar mix, Birkdale Farm

¹² Defra (2021), Farm type and farm size, Structure of the agricultural industry in England and the UK at June



Hay meadow, Ashes Pasture



Upland

Overview

Our upland landscapes are a stronghold for nationally and internationally important habitats, such as limestone pavement, upland heathland, blanket bog, upland hay meadows, calcareous grasslands, mires, flushes and other wetland features. These are home to a large number of specialist species reliant upon these unique habitats, but these species are often found in low numbers and can be very isolated populations. Our uplands are the source of multiple river systems in our area, and are thereby linked to opportunities to reduce water pollution and the impacts of flood events by storing more water upstream. Many of our upland habitats excel at storing carbon, but are damaged and are currently emitting this stored carbon into the atmosphere. Restoring habitat to stabilise these carbon stores is essential to our ambitions to reduce carbon emissions and will help to slow down and reduce the impacts of climate change.

These areas have also been subject to past policies that encouraged the drainage of upland habitats, resulting in de-wetting and drying out. Historically some of our upland habitats have been converted to grassland and some agricultural practices have resulted in overgrazing.

¹³ Resources – Yorkshire Peat Partnership
www.ypppartnership.org.uk/resources

Nature recovery in action – Yorkshire Peat Partnership

Yorkshire Peat Partnership (YPP) is restoring peatlands at scale in the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks and Nidderdale National Landscape. Their goal is to restore and conserve upland peat resources to ensure the long-term future of these unique and valuable habitats. To date YPP has been particularly active in peatland restoration in areas such as Swaledale, Wensleydale, Nidderdale and lower Wharfedale in the Yorkshire Dales, and Eskdale in the North York Moors. By the end of March 2024 YPP had delivered 46,952 ha of peat restoration work which is 50% of the estimated 94,220 ha peatland in their operational area.¹³

YPP is monitoring plots throughout their operational area to better understand how their work is affecting the peatlands they are restoring.



Peatland restoration



Grassland

Overview

Grasslands are important habitats for wildlife, both in their own right and through connecting and buffering other habitat types. Some of our grasslands are fantastically rich in wildflowers which make them vital homes and stepping stones for pollinators, whilst others are important feeding and nesting sites for species such as farmland and wading birds. Good populations of fungi, such as waxcaps, can highlight unimproved, low-nutrient grasslands, which are a rare and threatened habitat in England. However, these diverse grasslands tend to be found in small, fragmented sites, lacking wider connectivity.

Mirroring trends across England over recent decades, our geography has lost a significant proportion of its species-rich grassland. There has been a tendency for diverse grassland to be converted to less diverse 'improved' grassland for grazing and silage, and some associated field amalgamation has also occurred, with the loss of networks of hedgerow, hedgerow trees, copses and field margins.

In other areas, species-poor grasslands have often been lost in favour of creating other habitat types, such as woodland, or for other land uses such as housing, renewable energy or more 'productive' farmland. It is important we recognise their inherent value to support and connect nature in our decision-making.

Nature recovery in action – Nosterfield Nature Reserve

The main Nosterfield Nature Reserve is 150 acres of wet grassland and open water situated between the Rivers Ure and Swale in North Yorkshire and it is managed by the Lower Ure Conservation Trust (LUCT). The underlying magnesian limestone and its associated aquifer makes the location particularly distinctive. Sand and gravel were produced from a former quarry here until the late 1980s and it was designated a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in 2001. A dramatic rise and fall in the water levels, associated with the natural water table and rainfall, results in a huge range in water levels, typically 2.5 m per year, creating ideal conditions for many breeding waders, such as Curlew, Redshank and Avocet. LUCT also manages the west end of Nosterfield Quarry (100 acres), including reedbed (breeding Bittern and Marsh Harrier) and magnesian limestone grassland. In a survey carried out in 2018, more than 1,100 species were recorded in 24 hours, evidencing the growth in biodiversity in the nature reserve since its restoration.



Main Lake, Nosterfield Nature Reserve



Flasks Lake, Nosterfield Nature Reserve

Woodland

Overview

North Yorkshire and York contains a variety of wooded habitats of different ages and types. Our ancient woodlands have persisted since the 1600s, and long-established woodlands since 1893. These woodlands may have had their tree cover and woodland structure changed, from the original tree species to a range of woodland types, including conifer, mixed, and broadleaf woodlands (often after the Second World War). However, these woodlands still retain important woodland flora, contribute significantly to biodiversity and ecological resilience, and support a wide range of woodland species. Woodland cover is more prevalent in the eastern regions of our area, particularly in the North York Moors and Howardian Hills.

Elsewhere, woodlands tend to occur in isolated pockets, lacking wider connectivity, for example wooded valleys/ghylls are

important remnants of ancient woodland where trees were difficult to access by grazing animals. Across our total land area woodland cover is 11.5%, compared with 4% of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, 8% of Nidderdale National Landscape, 16% of Howardian Hills National Landscape and 23% of the North York Moors National Park.¹⁴

Parkland is an important habitat for our area as it is not only important historically and culturally, but hosts important populations of veteran and ancient trees. Each of these historic trees acts as an ecosystem, with some species such as oak supporting as many as 2,300 species¹⁵ including bats, birds, fungi, and invertebrates that can only survive on dead or dying wood. However, our veteran and ancient trees tend to be isolated and vulnerable to felling or toppling caused by high winds.



Picture credit: Woodland Trust

Snaizeholme, Yorkshire Dales National Park

¹⁴ Woodland cover figures referenced from respective Protected Landscape Management Plans

¹⁵ Oak trees and wildlife - Woodland Trust www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/oak-tree-wildlife

Nature recovery in action - Snaizeholme

Snaizeholme is a unique and complex habitat restoration and nature recovery project in the Yorkshire Dales, south of Hawes, and is being led by the Woodland Trust working with the National Park Authority and Forestry Commission. It is also one of the key sites of the Northern Forest project.¹⁶ In the first phase, there is a plan to plant almost 291 hectares (719 acres) with native tree saplings, creating one of the largest new native woodlands in England. It will join riverside pasture, wooded valley sides, peat bogs and limestone pavement to form a diverse mix of wildlife-rich habitats.

The careful approach to planting will create groves, glades and open woodlands that gently transition into, and connect with, the other habitats, all delivered without the use of plastic tree guards or herbicides.

This phase has been funded by the White Rose Forest through its Trees for Climate funding programme. Trees for Climate, part of Defra's Nature for Climate fund, ran to March 2025 and has provided grants for woodland creation within all Community Forest areas in England.



Picture credit: Woodland Trust

Tree planting at Snaizeholme

¹⁶ The Northern Forest: Planting 50 Million Trees <https://thenorthernforest.org.uk>



Picture credit: City of York Council

York Community Woodland walk event

Nature recovery in action - York Community Woodland

City of York Council and Forestry England are working in partnership to create an extensive new community woodland of predominantly native mixed broadleaf species on a 78-hectare site near the village of Knapton to the west of York. York Community Woodland opened to the public in August 2024, providing public access to this newly created habitat comprising of 200,000 planted trees and shrubs via a network of forest roads and tracks. The site contributes to the combined outline objectives of City of York Council and Forestry England to sequester residual carbon, enhance biodiversity, improve the health and wellbeing of residents and provide new green jobs, skills development and volunteering opportunities. The ongoing development of the site has been promoted through community engagement and activities such as woodland walks, wildflower meadow sowing, and tree planting. Forestry England is responsible for the future management and monitoring of York Community Woodland as the site continues to develop and mature.



Water and wetlands

Overview

A series of major rivers have shaped North Yorkshire and York’s landscape, with many having their source in the uplands of the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors before flowing into the Humber Estuary or to the coast. Much of our lowlands were historically covered by fens, marshes, bogs, ponds, and wet grasslands. Millennia of human activity has altered the shape and flow of all our rivers and in many cases disconnected them from their floodplains, created wildlife barriers such as weirs, and drained huge areas of wetland. Drainage of wetlands has occurred particularly in our low-lying areas such as the Vale of Mowbray, Vale of York and Vale of Pickering and this has largely impacted negatively on our wildlife.



Installed wooden weir allowing fish passage

Picture credit: North York Moors National Park Authority

Our rivers and canals face many pressures, including impacts from intensive land use, modifications, invasive non-native species, water pollution, and climate change. Resulting habitat degradation and fragmentation threatens local wildlife, both within our rivers and canals and across the wider landscape. These pressures can be addressed at a whole catchment scale by considering not only the river channel and feeder waterways, but the surrounding landscape with measures such as reducing water run-off from neighbouring fields and ‘slow the flow’ interventions such as tree and hedgerow planting.

Nature recovery in action – Ryevitalise

Ryevitalise is a National Lottery Heritage Fund landscape partnership scheme aiming to restore the western River Rye catchment, focussing on conserving, enhancing and reconnecting habitats to the river system. Part of the work has involved engaging with landowners and farmers to encourage habitat improvements on the land they manage within the catchment. These stakeholders have received payments for works to habitats and these are underpinned by conservation agreements. Alongside the catchment restoration is a citizen science programme, which has been supporting work on species and habitats including bats, ancient and veteran trees, aquatic invertebrates and juvenile fish. The Ryevitalise programme, running from 2019-2025, also aims to revitalise the Rye’s natural and cultural heritage, reconnecting people to the river, the history and wildlife of the area, and supporting the restoration of the landscape. From April 2025, the programme will be entering a legacy phase, however payments forming part of conservation agreements will continue until 2031. The partnership has prepared a number of ‘shovel ready’ projects for legacy delivery when future funding pots become available.



Citizen science - riverfly monitoring to assist with water quality assessment

Picture credit: North York Moors National Park Authority



Picture credit: St Nicks

St Nicks providing a demonstration of the floating habitat installation in the River Ouse, York



Urban

Overview

The city of York, along with our larger towns such as Harrogate and Scarborough, and the smaller market towns spread across the county, have all been shaped by the landscapes they sit within and by many phases of development over time. Infrastructure such as buildings, roads and railways have created barriers for nature and contributed to the decline in many species over the decades.

Wildlife can be found in a variety of places in our settlements, within the remnants of semi-natural habitats such as woodlands, meadows and ponds, as well as human-created spaces such as parks, gardens, schools and business parks. Many of these spaces can be low in biodiversity due to intensive management and a limited number of tree, shrub and flower species, with many of these being non-native and less suitable for pollinators.

17 St Nicks - Green Corridors York
www.stnicks.org.uk/green-corridors-york

Nature recovery in action - Green Corridors York

York has a rich abundance of green spaces, and these green corridors act as vital green ‘lungs’ breathing life into the city. Connecting these are the city’s two main rivers, their surrounding floodplains, disused railway lines, medieval strays and city wall embankments. The biodiversity of these crucial green ‘lungs’ and connecting corridors are declining due to human pressures, pollution and lack of resources affecting their management.

Green Corridors York,¹⁷ led by the environmental charity St Nicks, strives for “more, bigger, better and more joined up” green spaces by conserving nature, whilst supporting neighbouring communities. The initiative, started in 2018, encourages collaboration between land managers, conservation groups and volunteers to improve land management, reduce pollution and challenge harmful developments. It is supporting the expansion of habitats and species such as floodplain meadow, Water Vole and Tansy Beetle.



Picture credit: St Nicks

Team from St Nicks carrying out maintenance in a watercourse



North Yorkshire coast south of Scarborough

Picture credit: Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership

Coast

Overview

Yorkshire’s coastal environment is diverse and unique. It is connected to both inland environments through coastal streams and estuaries, and to offshore environments via important tidal systems and currents. Human influences and associated pressures are felt across the coastline, with multiple industries being reliant on services provided by our marine ecosystems (such as fishing, offshore developments, mineral extraction and shipping), combined with a large coastal tourism sector centred around our seaside towns like Whitby, Scarborough and Filey.

These pressures can result in the displacement of species due to offshore developments and underwater noise, less prey available due to intensive fishing practices, toxins and litter resulting in poor water quality, and changes in tidal currents, temperatures and storm events due to climate change. The impacts of these pressures are most often reflected in the declining health and populations of charismatic seabird species.

North Yorkshire’s coast is a mix of hard cliffs and soft coastal slopes made of calcareous clays. Beyond these slopes, the area is characterised by sheltered sandy bays which

disappear into rocky shore and wave-cut platforms. The River Esk, culminating in the natural harbour formed by its mouth in Whitby, where it flows into the North Sea, provides an important migratory route for salmon and sea trout. Smaller coastal streams, such as Staithes Beck and Scalby Beck in Scarborough also provide key migratory routes for fish and discharge nutrients directly into coastal waters.

The extensive intertidal rocky shore communities are an important source of food for migratory and over-wintering birds, which feed on a variety of molluscs and coastal invertebrates. The rocky outcrops and platforms also provide valuable space for Grey and Common Seals to rest, breed and pup at various locations. Each spring, breeding seabirds return to the sheer cliffs scattered along North Yorkshire’s coastline, attracted by the nutrient-rich seas.

The LNRS will focus its priorities and measures on species and habitats out to mean low water (average height of all low tides). Nature recovery work further out to sea will be led by the Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership.

Nature recovery in action – Concrete Coast

Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership’s Concrete Coast programme¹⁸ is working to create new opportunities for intertidal species to thrive on our coast. By adapting man-made coastal structures (such as coastal defences and harbour walls) through appropriate habitat creation measures, we will encourage coastal wildlife like limpets, mussels and shore crabs to return to the shorelines they once lived on.

Sections of Yorkshire’s coastline remain in a natural state, however there are also extents of man-made infrastructure including sea defences to protect towns and businesses, and harbours and slipways to provide safe havens for the fishing fleets. In creating such infrastructure, we change the natural landscape of the coastline and reduce the amount of habitat available to wildlife.

Many intertidal habitats are shrinking in size, or being lost altogether, due to sea level rise. Natural coastal habitats are unable to retreat further inland because of the walls, barriers and structures we have built. This project explores how we can encourage wildlife to colonise artificial habitats fixed onto man-made infrastructure through simple and cost-effective methods, without changing the function or integrity of coastal structures. In the future, these methods could be used to support intertidal communities where habitat is being lost through the impacts of climate change.



Groyne adapted to encourage marine wildlife



Mussel box installed on piling to encourage colonisation by intertidal species

Picture credit: Julian Blumenroeder

¹⁸ Concrete Coast Project – Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership - YMNP
<https://yorkshireremarinaturepartnership.org.uk/discover/research-and-active-projects/concrete-coast-project>

6. Priorities and Measures (Actions)

6. Priorities and Measures (Actions)

Priorities and measures are covered extensively in the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities (Document 4) and stakeholders engaged in nature recovery should read that document fully. This Section provides a summary from that document, with the full list of measures (actions), benefits from nature and focus species set out in Document 4.

Working with a wide range of stakeholders, we have established a range of priorities to help nature recover, alongside providing benefits from nature. These priorities are considered the 'what' and the 'why' of nature recovery; what we are seeking to do, and why we are seeking to do it. With our stakeholders, we have co-created five high-level 'overarching' priorities which are relevant to all nature recovery activity (see page 39). These are supplemented by 39 priorities spread across our seven 'habitat' categories as listed below:

Measures (actions)

Each priority has a number of associated measures, which are the practical 'on the ground' actions that would help to deliver the aims of the priority. They can be considered as the 'how' and the 'where' of nature recovery; how we could do it, and where we could do it.

Species

North Yorkshire and York is home to a significant number of rare and threatened species that will, to some degree, benefit from habitat improvement measures, however they may also need very specific actions. For example, research and survey work that will help to better understand their distribution, abundance and ecology, as well as more specific measures to provide their unique habitat requirements. This section refers to 'focus species', which is a shortlist of species to be prioritised in this first iteration of the LNRS. Species are covered extensively in the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities (Document 4) and stakeholders engaged in nature recovery should read that document fully.



Farmland



Upland



Grassland



Woodland



Water and wetlands



Urban

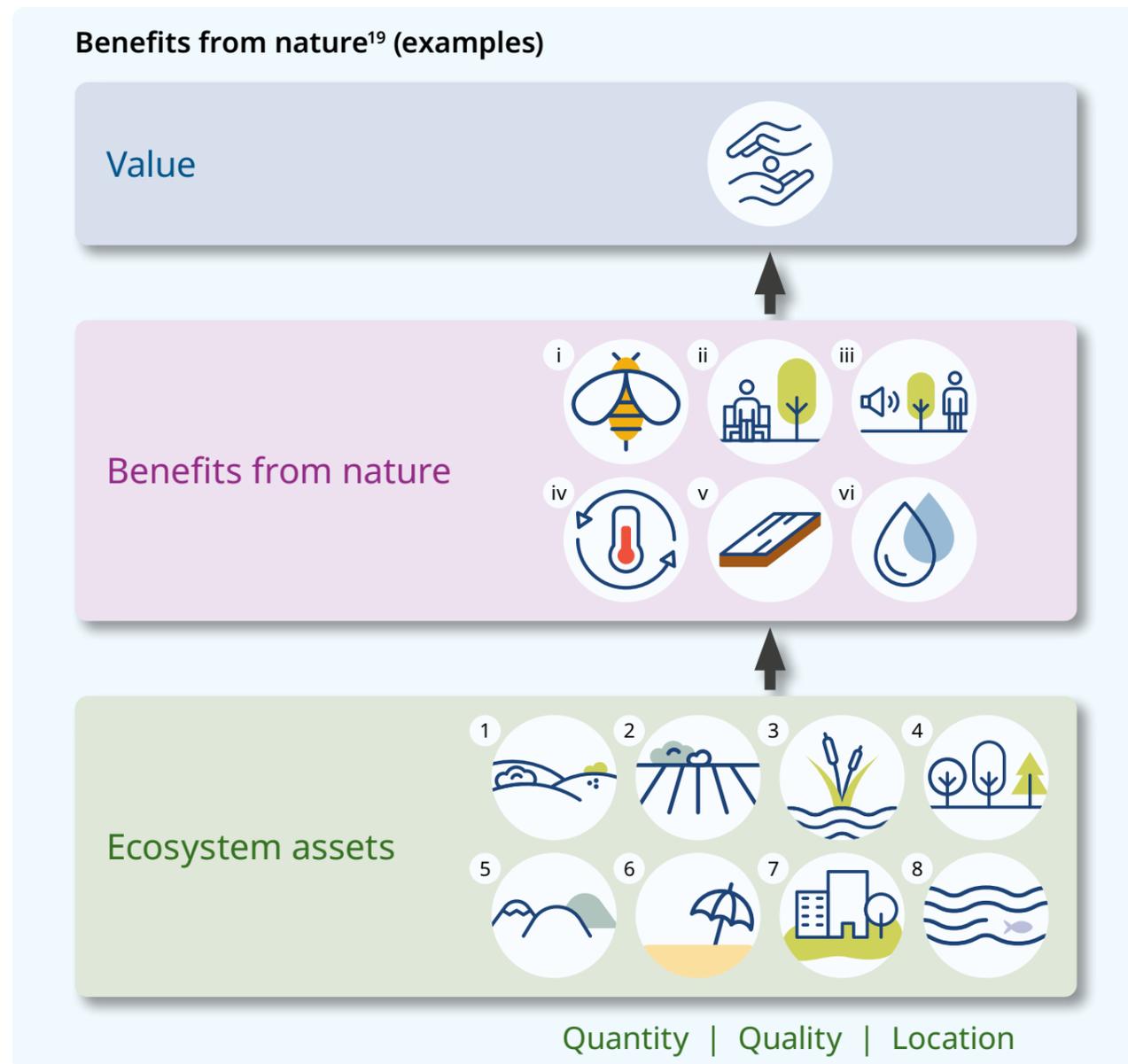


Coast

Benefits from nature

We have also stated which wider benefits from nature are relevant to each priority, using concepts from Natural England’s State of Natural Capital (SONC) Report for England 2024. This makes the case that our economy and society depend on complex natural systems for our daily needs and our ability to regulate climate change. It refers to the natural capital logic chain, where ecosystems are the natural capital assets that underpin

the benefits on which society depends (see diagram below). How much of an asset we have (quantity), what condition it is in (quality) and where it is (location), determine the benefits the asset provides. The graphic below presents six examples of benefits from nature relevant to our priorities and measures. Refer to Document 4 for the full list of benefits from nature relevant to our strategy area.



19 State of Natural Capital (2024), Natural England



Overarching priorities

Through discussion with stakeholders, we decided that the strategy needed to include several high-level 'overarching' priorities, which are relevant across all habitat types. These priorities followed recurring themes that emerged during stakeholder workshops, such as enhancing habitat connectivity and controlling invasive non-native species (INNS) across our geography.

Key to graphic opposite:

Benefits from nature

(i) pollination (ii) urban cooling (iii) noise regulation (iv) climate regulation (v) timber & other wood products (vi) clean water

Ecosystem assets

(1) semi-natural grasslands (2) enclosed farmland (3) freshwaters & wetlands (4) woodlands (5) mountains, moorlands & heaths (6) coastal margins (7) urban (8) marine

Each overarching priority contains wider objectives that would help to support nature recovery across North Yorkshire and York.

- Enhance the connectivity between areas of good-quality existing habitat through the creation of appropriate new habitat between existing sites, to improve connectivity for key species.
- Undertake actions to benefit key species, particularly those requiring specific interventions.
- Control and seek to eradicate invasive non-native species (INNS).
- Work collaboratively with all sectors to enhance coordinated regional action to benefit nature and seek to increase public knowledge, awareness and understanding of nature and its wider benefits.
- Enhance the ecological data and evidence base and share knowledge between all organisations and individuals undertaking actions to benefit nature.

Habitat priorities



Farmland

Around 70% of North Yorkshire and York’s land area is farmed. To achieve our ambition to better connect our important habitats and allow species to move freely, we must maximise opportunities to create additional connecting habitat such as hedgerows and trees, flower-rich field margins and ditches within our farmed landscapes. We can make small and big changes to the way our farms are managed which can help to make farm businesses more resilient to pests, diseases, drought and flood events, whilst also creating more space for nature to thrive within these working landscapes.

Our engagement with landowners and farmers indicated an appetite to work more closely with their neighbours, so that priorities and their associated measures (actions) can extend across land ownership boundaries and our wider geography. There are several farmer clusters in our geography that share ideas, best practice and implement measures on a landscape scale, across land ownership boundaries, with the opportunity to set up more of these in the future.

Priorities & example measures (actions)

see Document 4 (Priorities and Measures) for full schedule

Priority (short name)	Example Measure (action)
Enhance and expand arable field margins	Increase the abundance and diversity of wildflowers in field margins through promotion of relevant funding options.
Expand trees outside woodlands	Increase tree and scrub cover by identifying existing less sensitive pasture that would be suitable for infield agroforestry.
Promote high nature value farming practices	Promote established and innovative farming techniques, (e.g. precision farming, drones) to enable farmers to be able to adopt such techniques.
Promote changes in grassland management	Encourage uptake of more diverse and sympathetic grazing practices such as rotation of stock and use of different livestock breeds.
Expand the hedgerow network	Identify and map fragmented patches of woodland that would benefit from being connected by hedgerows.

Benefits from nature include:

- Carbon storage
- Reduced chemical use
- Soil health
- Water quality
- Flood protection
- Cultivated crops
- Erosion control
- Pest and disease control
- Animal welfare

Focus species include:

- Harvest Mouse
- Turtle Dove
- Tree Sparrow
- Rare arable flowers



Harvest Mouse

Picture credit: Natural England/Julian Dowse



Hedgerow establishing

Picture credit: Leanne Fox

 **Upland**

The upland areas of the county contain 27% of England’s blanket bog resource, which not only provides valuable wildlife habitat, but also wider ecosystem services such as regulating water quality, mitigating flood risk and sequestering carbon. The ongoing enhancement of blanket bog is highlighted as a priority through enhancing the wetness of existing sites, and adjacent land, to prevent drying out. Related habitats include dry and

wet heath which, depending on location, tend to sit at the margins of blanket bog. Priorities for dry and wet heath include restoring and creating new areas of upland dry heathland and enhancing and expanding wet heath adjacent to existing blanket bog. Stakeholders have also highlighted our region’s limestone-related habitats as priorities and the need to expand species-rich connecting habitat between the existing core areas.

Priorities & example measures (actions)

see Document 4 (Priorities and Measures) for full schedule

Priority (short name)	Example Measure (action)
Management and connection of Limestone Pavement habitats	Identify and map Limestone Pavement coverage to understand its current state and potential location for calcareous grassland to be restored as a buffer.
Enhance and restore upland calcareous grassland	Enhance upland calcareous grassland through optimal grazing management (adjust stock numbers, alter stock type to include more cattle), and manage scrub to an appropriate percentage.
Enhance upland hay meadows	Enhance and maintain existing upland hay meadows through traditional management e.g. cut and collect with aftermath grazing.
Enhance acid grassland	Enhance existing upland acid grassland through appropriate grazing, no mechanical operations in breeding season, and re-wetting or adding scrapes where required.
Enhance upland dry heath	Enhance and restore existing upland dry heathland by amending grassland grazing regimes and grazing species to encourage the development of heath.
Enhance wet heath	Enhance existing wet heath by amending grazing regime and type where required (e.g. reduction in sheep, increase in cattle) and introduce species (e.g. sphagnum and cotton grass) where required.
Enhance blanket bog	Use peat maps to identify former extent of peat resource and understand ability to restore active hydrological processes to identify areas where blanket bog has been lost, and where peat formation could be re-started.
Expand moorland fringe habitats	Create a suitable mix of habitats adjacent to existing sites via different mechanisms, e.g. tree planting, natural colonisation, deer control, livestock exclusion, targeted wildfire mitigation zones.



Limestone pavement, Ingleborough National Nature Reserve

Picture credit: Natural England/Neil Pike

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Benefits from nature include:

- Access to nature
- Sense of place
- Carbon storage
- Climate regulation
- Pollination
- Soil health
- Plentiful water
- Water quality
- Flood protection

Focus species include:

- Adder
- Black Grouse
- Curlew
- Juniper



Black Grouse

Picture credit: Whitfield Benson



Picture credit: Caroline Thoroughgood, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Magnesium limestone grassland, Sherburn Willows



Grassland

Over recent decades we have lost a significant proportion of our species-rich grassland and stakeholders have prioritised the enhancement of our distinctive grassland habitats, including species-rich grassland, lowland calcareous grassland, acid grassland, and roadside verges. We are seeking to expand our areas of species-rich grassland through alternative management practices, and to enhance our lowland calcareous grassland with appropriate

grazing and mowing regimes. Expanding acid grassland can be achieved by buffering our lowland heath sites using appropriate grazing and other management measures. Our large geography is served by an extensive road network and so we have also prioritised the enhancement of our roadside verges for improved biodiversity and better connectivity for species across North Yorkshire and York.

Priorities & example measures (actions)

see Document 4 (Priorities and Measures) for full schedule

Priority (short name)	Example measures (actions) include:
Enhance species-rich grassland	Implement alternative management practices to maximise biodiversity, including favourable cutting regimes.
Enhance and connect strategically important grasslands	Enhance strategically important grassland sites by utilising existing funding schemes, thus increasing the diversity of structure and species.
Enhance lowland calcareous grassland	Enhance existing lowland calcareous grassland sites through appropriate grazing / mowing regimes and scrub management as required.
Enhance and expand magnesian limestone grassland	Create species-rich grassland at suitable sites across the Magnesian Limestone. Use arable reversion methods, seeding/ green hay spreading, plug planting of specific key species.
Expand acid grassland	Buffer lowland heath by managing adjacent grassland sites, using appropriate grazing and other management measures.
Restore and re-create lowland heath	Undertake creation/restoration of lowland heath utilising seed-rich brash, green hay and other material from appropriate local donor sites, and ongoing sensitive management.
Enhance road verges	Expand the cut and collect of verge arisings, learning from the 2024 North Yorkshire Highways pilot, including anaerobic digestion where appropriate.



Short-eared Owl

Picture credit: Gareth Atkinson

Benefits from nature include:

- Carbon storage
- Soil health
- Pollination
- Flood protection

Focus species include:

- Lapwing
- Short-eared Owl
- Tormentil Mining Bee
- Bird's-Eye Primrose



Lowland Heath, Strensall Common

Picture credit: Tris Terry

Woodland

In quantitative terms, woodland coverage is 11.5% of the land area of North Yorkshire and York, somewhat lower than the national figure of 14.9%, with the UK legally binding target being to achieve 16.5% coverage across England by 2050. During the delivery phase of the LNRS process, it is envisaged that targets for North Yorkshire and York will be devised to increase tree and woodland cover, and our stakeholders have identified a range of priorities for our woodland habitats that are both quantitative and qualitative.

Veteran trees are identified as important habitats, both in their own right and to facilitate the movement of species, and we propose to both protect our existing

resource and plant additional trees that will become the veterans of the future. We propose the enhancement and expansion of wood pasture, wood meadows and open mosaic habitats, as they provide good connecting habitats between existing woodland and grassland sites.

Our ancient woodlands are rich in biodiversity; however, they are geographically dispersed and the interface with various other land uses can potentially negatively impact them. We plan to enhance, buffer and better connect these isolated woodlands, and improve all woodland types, to provide greater habitat diversity, better woodland condition, and encourage improved species movement.

Priorities & example measures (actions)

see Document 4 (Priorities and Measures) for full schedule

Priority (short name)	Example measure (action)
Protect and expand veteran tree resource	Protect existing veteran trees and potential future veterans with suitable fenced enclosures to protect from livestock and other herbivores.
Enhance and expand wood pasture, wood meadows and open mosaic habitats	Create and expand wood pasture habitat as an appropriate buffer and connecting habitat between woodland and grassland sites.
Enhance and connect ancient woodland	Restructure existing conifer plantations to buffer and connect patches of ancient woodland to maximise biodiversity.
Enhance, expand and connect new and existing woodland	Create new species-diverse woodlands. Ensure all woodland creation through planting or natural colonisation is established and managed according to the UK Forestry Standard.

Benefits from nature include:

- Access to nature
- Health and wellbeing
- Educational resource
- Sense of place
- Carbon storage
- Climate regulation

Focus species include:

- Red Squirrel
- Hawfinch
- Northern Hairy Wood Ant
- Juniper

Expanding existing woodland



Picture credit: White Rose Forest

Wood pasture



Picture credit: Robyn Guppy



Water and wetlands

Reinstating natural processes in our river catchments, by making more space for water, will not only increase the diversity of species and the size of their populations, but will also reduce the impacts of flood events in our settlements. Many wetland habitats are also excellent carbon sinks, helping to reduce our carbon emissions. Implementing nature-based solutions in our rivers and adjacent landscapes can also help to reduce water pollution, creating healthier rivers for both humans and wildlife.

Working with stakeholders, our priorities for water and wetland habitats include enhancing and expanding river habitats, by extending waterside vegetation beyond the riverbank. We are also seeking to restore natural river processes, which includes the reconnection of rivers to their floodplains by altering existing engineered barriers.

Priorities & example measures (actions)

see Document 4 (Priorities and Measures) for full schedule

Priority (short name)	Example Measure (action)
Enhance and expand watercourse habitats	Implement in-channel mitigation measures for all water bodies and improve in-channel habitat diversity.
Restore natural river processes	Remove, address or realign artificial and engineered barriers and modifications, where feasible, to allow re-establishment of natural river processes.
Expand and restore pond networks	Buffer existing ponds by increasing and improving the quality of marginal habitat and encourage creation/restoration of surrounding terrestrial habitat.
Enhance, expand and connect fen habitats	Create fen habitat where feasible, e.g. by expanding fen species into neighbouring ditches.
Restore, enhance and expand existing flushes	Enlarge wetlands at known key areas for breeding and wintering bird populations, including floodplain meadows, wet grassland, moorland edge, and mineral extraction sites.
Restore floodplain meadows	Increase floodplain meadow habitat, where appropriate, by allowing flooding to take place on appropriate grassland sites through reengineering flood protection embankments and water control structures.
Expand riparian woodland	Create new riparian woodland planting with a minimum width of 15-20m to either one or both sides of watercourse.
Restore, enhance and expand wet woodland	Identify wet areas of land hydrologically connected to existing wet woodland that have scope to become new 'wet woodland' habitat.



Picture credit: Adam Harland

Our region's ponds tend to be isolated, with limited marginal habitat, and so we plan to enhance and expand the pond network to support the resilience of our wetland species. Our geography hosts a significant proportion of the national resource of floodplain meadow habitat (15%) and we intend to restore our existing poor quality sites and expand meadow habitat onto neighbouring land, whilst accommodating the needs of agriculture. A further priority is to expand the amount of riparian woodland along our watercourses, at all elevations, providing better habitat connectivity across our region.

Benefits from nature include:

- Access to nature
- Health and wellbeing
- Plentiful water
- Water quality
- Flood protection
- Water cooling/shading

Focus species include:

- Tansy Beetle
- Curlew
- Lapwing
- Water Vole
- Common Frog
- Freshwater fish



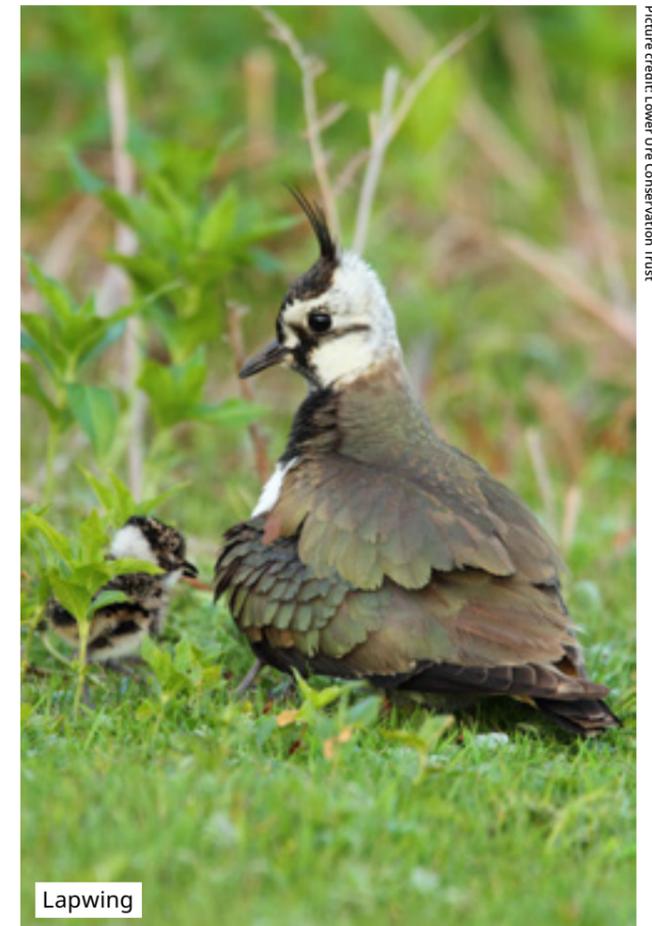
Water Vole

Picture credit: Natural England - Paul Lacey



Picture credit: Martin Hammond

Fen habitat, Lower Ure Conservation Trust



Lapwing

Picture credit: Lower Ure Conservation Trust



Urban

Across the built environment of North Yorkshire and York, there is scope to introduce more habitat for species to make homes alongside people. Implementing these kinds of changes, alongside enhancing and creating more green spaces in urban areas, will support human health and wellbeing through improvements to air and water quality, cooling down our urban environments and helping to store water, to help reduce the impacts of flood events.

We intend to incorporate more green infrastructure into our built environment by providing more habitat for nature, and plan to do this at a strategic level by working with our local authorities in their preparation of Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategies that will inform their Local Plans. On a more practical level, we will recommend that features for birds and bats are incorporated into both our new and existing buildings, and we intend to enhance and expand our existing nature-rich urban spaces, such as churchyards. Our areas of urban grassland tend to be intensively managed and we propose that maintenance



Derwenthorpe, York

Picture credit: Tris Terry

and mowing regimes are modified to improve the diversity of these habitats. In terms of our human resource, there is great potential for our citizens to engage in nature-friendly practices within private gardens, schools and other publicly-accessible spaces. We intend to promote public action in this regard to achieve better connectivity for nature.

Priorities & example measures (actions)

see Document 4 (Priorities and Measures) for full schedule

Priority (short name)	Example Measure (action)
Incorporate nature into the built environment	Work with local planning authorities in the development of their Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategies to maximise natural features within new developments, using Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework.
Enhance urban nature-rich spaces	Buffer and connect urban nature-rich spaces by identifying neighbouring land with partners to restore or create suitable habitat.
Modify the management of urban grassland	Modify the mowing and management regimes for amenity grasslands to encourage more species diversity.
Promote public action for better nature connectivity	Promote nature and climate change adaptive options for residential properties, including a variety of native plants/flowers and water harvesting for sustainable garden irrigation.

Benefits from nature include:

- Access to nature
- Health and wellbeing
- Educational resource
- Sense of place
- Carbon storage
- Climate regulation
- Pollination
- Plentiful water
- Water quality
- Flood protection
- Clean air
- Noise regulation
- Urban cooling

Species supported include:

- Common Toad
- Garden Tiger
- Hedgehog
- Swift
- Emerald Damselfly
- Bats



Emerald Damselfly

Picture credit: Natural England, Alan Drewitt



Picture credit: Natural England, Alan Drewitt



Coast

Our rocky shores are home to a huge variety of wildlife and are an important way for people to learn about marine life. Many residents and visitors enjoy the diversity of our coastal habitats, but associated disturbance can put pressure on the wildlife that lives within these places. Sea birds, of which some populations are rapidly declining, nest on the region’s cliffs and within our coastal towns, where their presence can lead to conflict with humans.

The coastal priorities devised with our stakeholders cover rocky shores, habitats for seabirds, and a unique area of saltmarsh along the North Yorkshire coast. In the earlier ‘Our State of Nature’ section, we highlighted the work of the Concrete Coast programme

and we plan to continue to prioritise this work of adapting man-made coastal structures, with the necessary consents, to encourage coastal wildlife like limpets, mussels and shore crabs to return to the shorelines they once lived on. We propose the enhancement of habitats for our seabirds, both on our cliffs and in our urban areas, to help resolve pressures from human activity and the impacts of climate change. North Yorkshire has a very small area of existing saltmarsh near Whitby, which is unique to the coast between Middlesbrough and Spurn Point. We plan to enhance this existing habitat with appropriate management, and establish the feasibility of further expanding the resource in the locality.

Priorities & example measures (actions)

see Document 4 (Priorities and Measures) for full schedule

Priority (short name)	Example Measure (action)
Enhance rocky shore habitat	Work with the Concrete Coast programme to install ecological enhancements on ‘hard’ infrastructure, where ecologically and structurally appropriate, to create new habitat.
Enhance habitats for seabirds	Monitor and protect sea bird colonies on the North Yorkshire Coast from the effects of development and disturbance.
Enhance and expand existing saltmarsh	Enhance existing saltmarsh through sympathetic management and identify opportunities to expand this resource.

Benefits from nature include:

- Access to nature
- Health and wellbeing
- Educational resource
- Sense of place
- Carbon storage
- Climate regulation

Species supported include:

- Kittiwake
- Fulmar
- Adder
- Blue Mussel
- Strawberry Clover



Picture credit: Gareth Atkinson

7. Our Nature Network – the Local Habitat Map

7. Our Nature Network – the Local Habitat Map

Spatial vision

Our nature network (Local Habitat Map) provides a spatial vision for this first iteration of the LNRS, with the ambition to create a comprehensive and connected network across North Yorkshire and York. It will form a component of the national Nature Recovery Network²⁰ across England.

Our nature network is made up of existing core sites, areas of priority habitat within our National Parks and potential nature recovery areas. We define each of these elements below and set out the principle

of 'bigger, better, more, and more joined' up from Making Space for Nature²¹ that underpins the nature network (see reference to Lawton Principles on page 58). This guiding principle is also reflected in our vision: *'To work together to enhance, expand, restore and connect our region's habitats for thriving nature across North Yorkshire and York'*.

We also explain the use of hexagonal 'planning units' in the Local Habitat Map, and how our priorities and measures (actions), introduced in Section 6, relate to the nature network.



River Wharfe

²⁰ The Nature Recovery Network - GOV.UK www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-recovery-network

²¹ Making space for nature: a review of England's wildlife sites published today - GOV.UK www.gov.uk/government/news/making-space-for-nature-a-review-of-englands-wildlife-sites-published-today

Core sites – Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIBs)

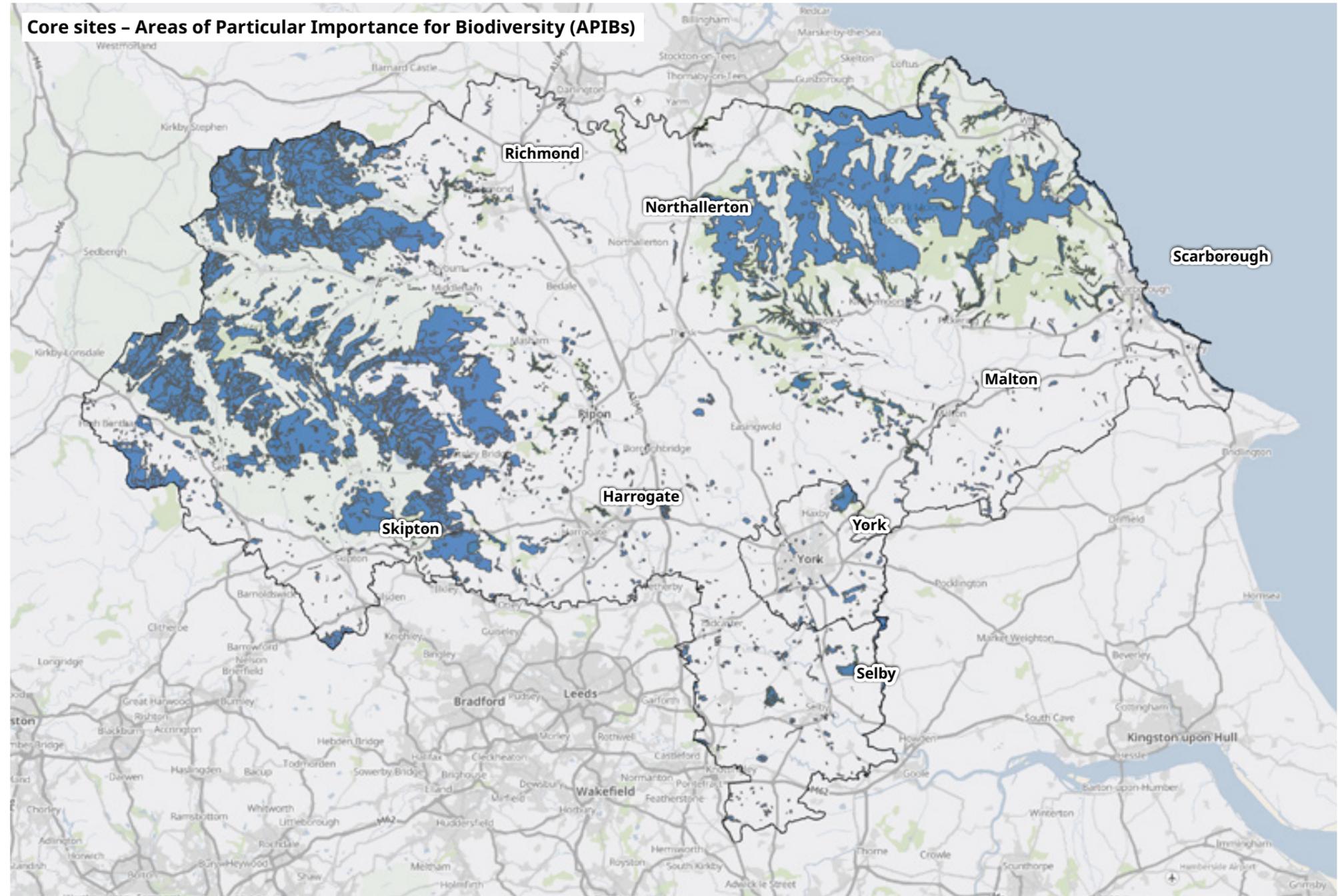
In preparing the LNRS, we are required to identify and map all existing nationally-designated conservation sites (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)), Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites and areas of irreplaceable habitat, which form the core of our nature network.

Priority habitat within our National Parks

In developing our approach to mapping for the LNRS, stakeholders highlighted the importance of mapping areas of existing priority habitat within our National Parks to become part of the nature network, as there are no locally designated sites (e.g. Local Wildlife Sites) within their geography.

Nature recovery areas – Areas that Could Become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACBs)

Additionally, we are required to map areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity (ACBs) in the future. These are areas where the responsible authority and our local partners propose that nature recovery efforts should be focused to achieve the greatest benefits for biodiversity and the wider environment.



Bigger, better, more, and more joined up – the Lawton Principles

A key approach to the development of this LNRS are the Lawton Principles. These emerged from a review by Sir John Lawton (2010) to assess how England’s nature sites and wider ecological networks could be improved to help nature thrive in the face of climate change and other pressures. The review concluded that England’s nature sites did not comprise a coherent or resilient ecological network and that a step change was needed in nature conservation action.

The Lawton Principles guide our nature recovery network by identifying areas where it may be possible to increase the size of existing areas of core habitat (including core sites), improve their condition, and provide additional protection through buffering (offsetting by a certain distance from the perimeter of the existing habitat), create areas of new habitat, and create new linkages across our landscape. Each of these principles has been incorporated into our mapping process and the development of our nature network, as set out adjacent.

Bigger

Working out from our existing core sites in nested concentric rings to identify opportunities to expand or buffer areas of existing habitats and create sympathetic habitats in close proximity to existing ones.

Better

The mapping process involved first identifying all core areas of existing habitat, where their condition can potentially be improved through enhanced habitat management.

More

Alongside the existing core areas, the process then identified opportunity areas where additional areas of key habitat could be created.

More joined up

The process then looked for opportunities to link these clusters of existing and new habitat across the landscape with stepping-stones and corridors to increase their ecological functionality and allow for enhanced movement of species throughout our region.

For each of these elements, we have followed an evidence-based modelling process to create a bigger, better and more joined-up strategic nature network.

The diagrams below are intended to demonstrate how a fragmented landscape, without a coherent or resilient ecological network can be transformed into a healthy and resilient landscape by following the Lawton Principles.

A fragmented landscape

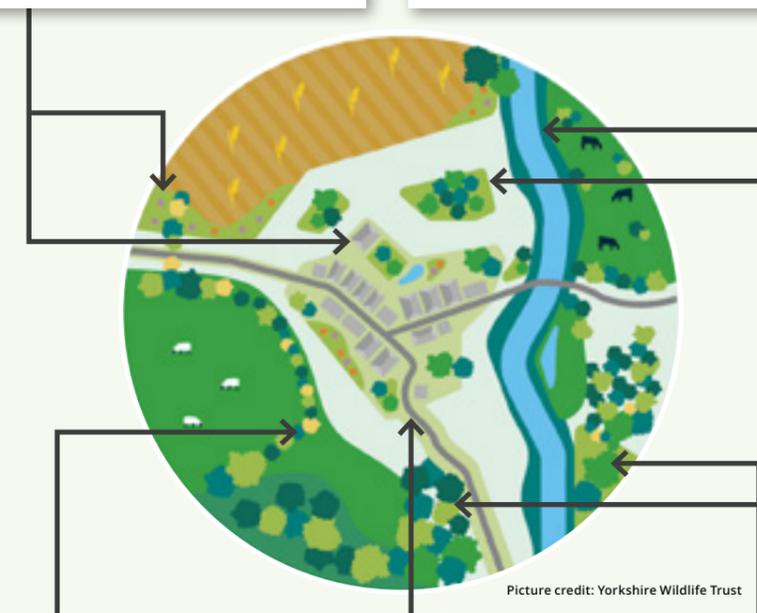


Picture credit: Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

A healthy and resilient landscape

More – increase the overall extent of land and water dedicated to nature conservation. E.g. Create arable margins and more urban green spaces benefiting both nature and people, as well as new protected areas

Better – improve the quality of existing habitats through better management and restoration. E.g. Improved management of woodlands and re-naturalising rivers, improving water quality, removing artificial barriers



Picture credit: Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Joined – create connections on and between land, water and sea, allowing for wildlife movement and genetic exchange through corridors and stepping stones. E.g. Create and restore hedgerows and manage road verges to increase biodiversity

Bigger – create larger, more contiguous areas of habitat, to reduce fragmentation. E.g. Increase the extent of woodlands and create buffer zones around sensitive sites

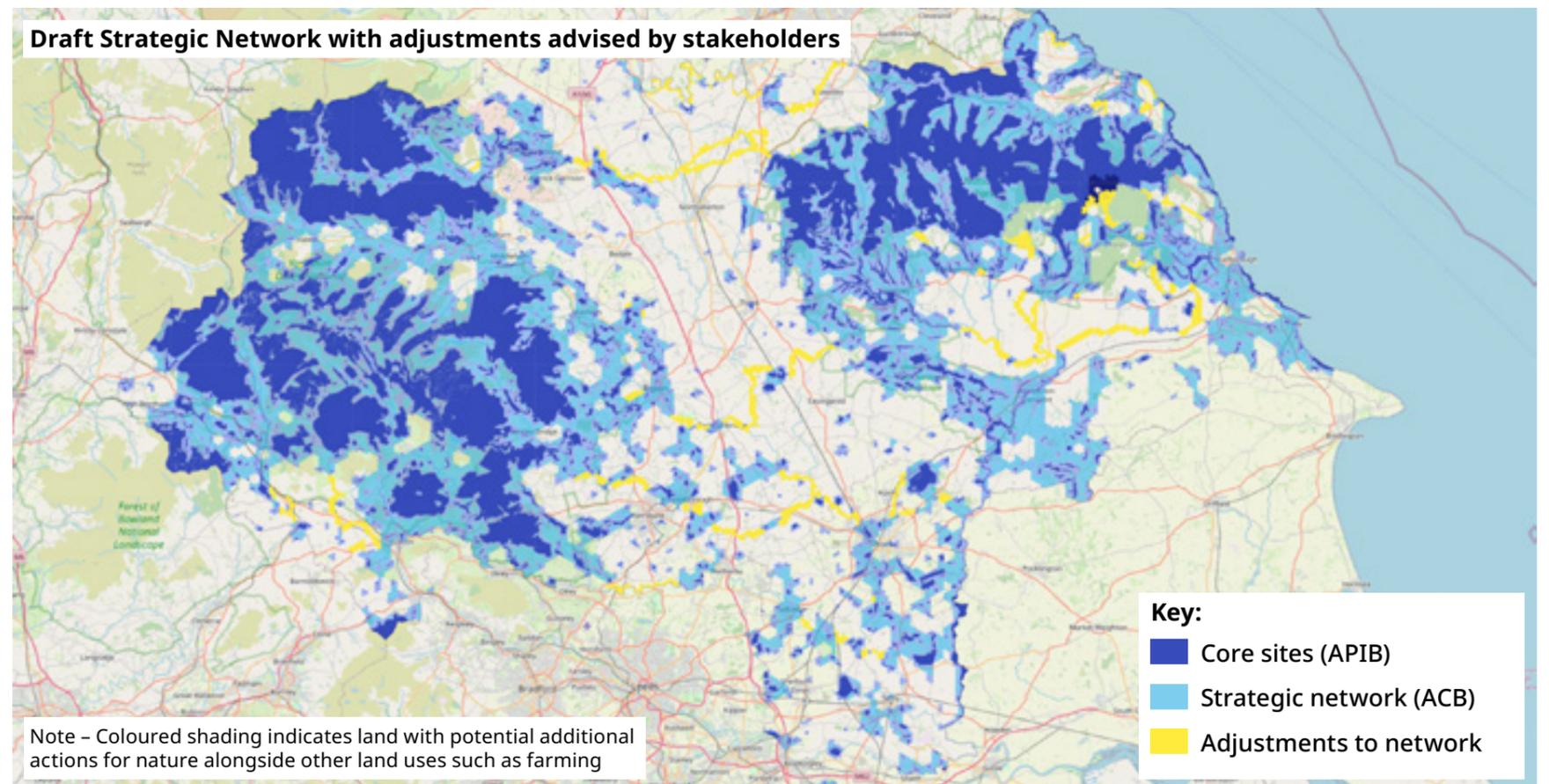
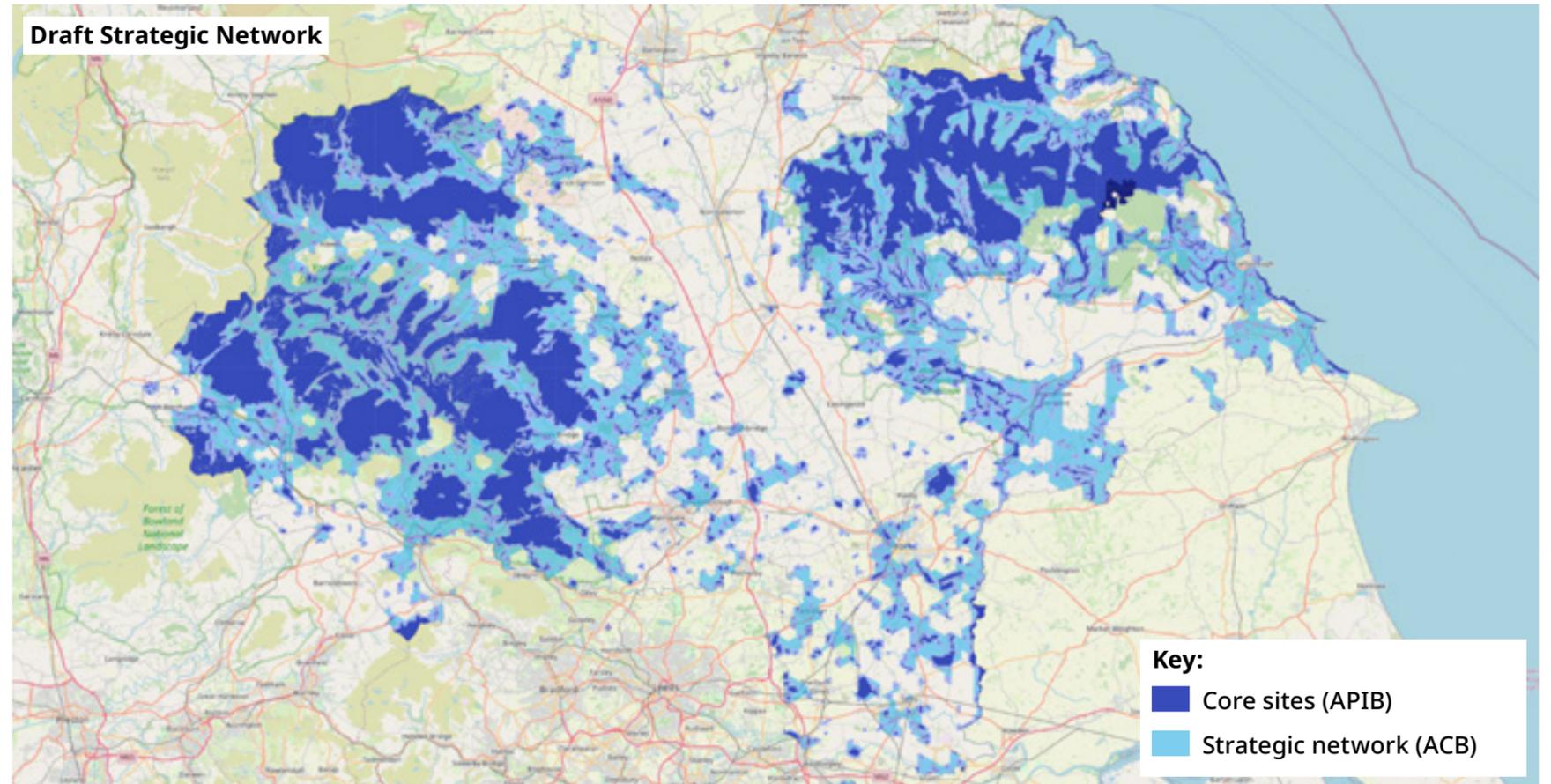
Creating a strategic network

Underpinning this first iteration of the LNRS is the need to identify an optimum nature network that can contribute to an overarching target across our geography. To identify an optimum network we employed the modelling software tool Marxan, which is based on the well-established methodology of Systematic Conservation Planning.²² In summary, the procedural steps of the methodology were:

- Establish a regular grid of hexagonal ‘planning units’ across our geography, each with an area of 20 hectares (ha)²³
- Programme the software to include all existing core sites (APIBs) as part of the network solution
- Set targets for each habitat and opportunity type such that the total area of the optimised network would cover approximately 55% of the total area of North Yorkshire and York
- Inform the software’s selection of an optimised network with additional data relating to wider benefits from nature (the software is more likely to select planning units that align with wider benefits from nature)
- The software generates many network solutions by selecting individual planning units, and the optimum solution is chosen that best meets the target criteria with the most efficient network footprint
- The optimum network solution generated by the software is scrutinised by expert stakeholders and any necessary adjustments to the network are made

²² Systematic Conservation Planning - an overview | ScienceDirect Topics www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-sciences

²³ 20ha equates to the approximate footprint of 28 football pitches



How do priorities and measures relate to the nature network (Local Habitat Map)?

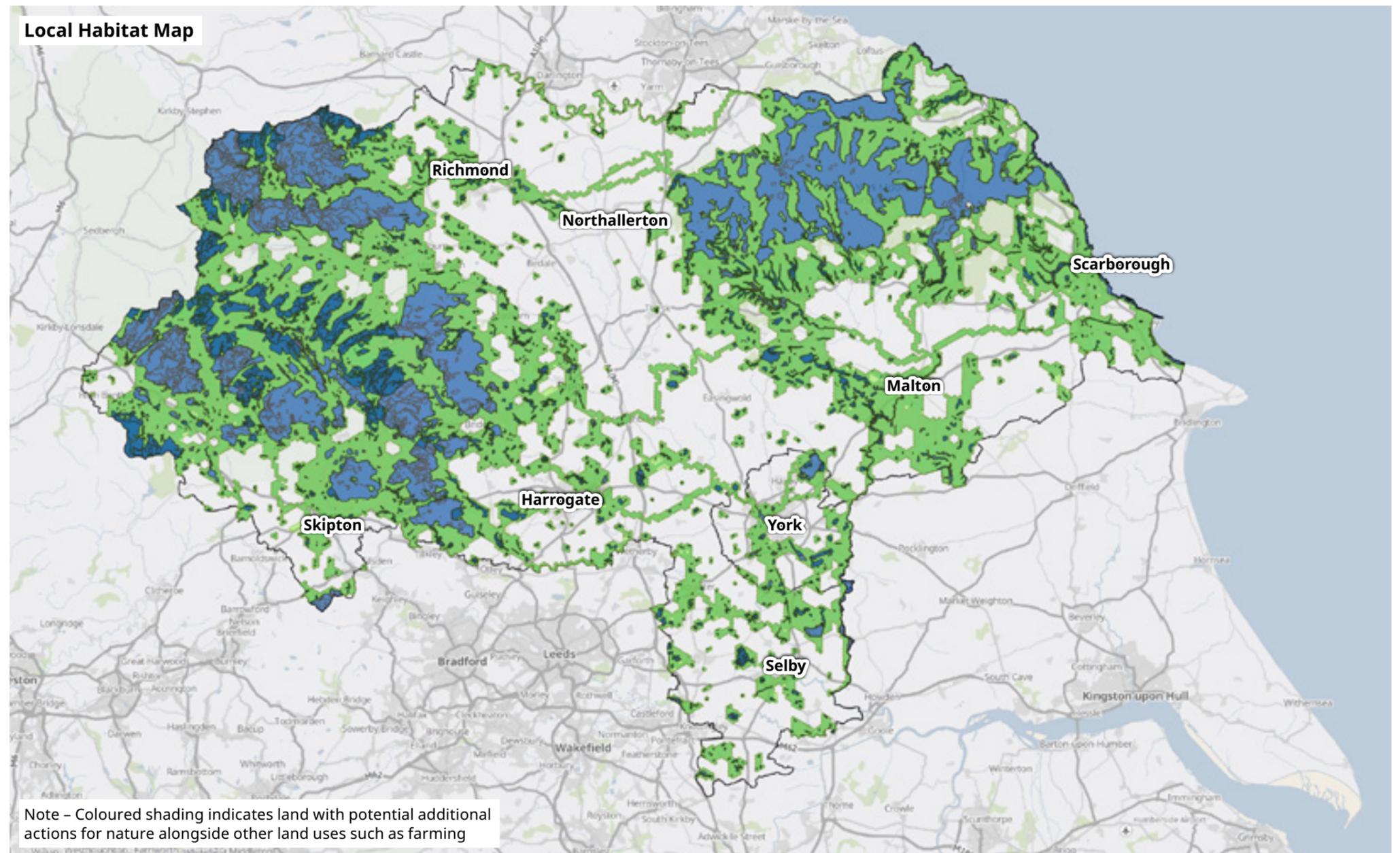
Our priorities and measures are directly linked to the Local Habitat Map. The map layer titled ‘Areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity (ACB)’ shows the strategic network that has been identified as the most beneficial places for habitat enhancements to be undertaken across North Yorkshire and York. Each hexagonal ‘planning unit’ has several measures associated with it, which are considered to be the most appropriate and beneficial measures that could be implemented in that location.

Clicking into a hexagonal ‘planning unit’ within the ACB layer will show the relevant measures that could be implemented along with the priorities that those measures are associated with.

Unmapped measures

Measures can be undertaken anywhere in North Yorkshire and York (not just within the strategic nature network) and there are a large number of more generic, unmapped measures that are not location-specific (e.g. all of the farmland measures) which could be undertaken more widely across our geography.

Unmapped measures are particularly relevant to the ‘central belt’ of North Yorkshire (the area in between the A1 and A19 road corridors), with the Vale of York and Vale of Mowbray having a relatively small number of focus areas with mapped measures in the Local Habitat Map. The prevalence of agricultural land in these areas of the county provides considerable opportunity to enhance linear connectivity for nature through implementing the unmapped Farmland measures. Unmapped measures are covered in more detail in the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities (Document 4).



Key:

- Core sites – Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIBs)
- Nature recovery areas – Areas that Could Become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACBs)

To access the Local Habitat Map, please visit: www.northyorks.gov.uk/lnrs-documents

8. Links to other plans and strategies

8. Links to other plans and strategies

Many organisations are already engaged in nature recovery activity across North Yorkshire and York and we have engaged with them and associated plans and strategies to ensure that the LNRS aligns with their work.

Nature North

Nature North is a cross sector, pan-regional partnership of businesses and agencies working for nature recovery across the North of England. The collaboration is led by the Environment Agency; Natural England; National Landscapes in the North of England; the National Parks in the North of England; The National Trust; The Wildlife Trusts; RSPB England; The Rivers Trust; The Woodland Trust; The National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. Nature North's 'Investing in Nature for the North, A Strategic Plan for a Nature Positive Regional Economy',²⁴ launched in February 2025, aims to scale up green investment across the region.

River Basin Management Plans

North Yorkshire and York's river network falls under three river basin districts - the Humber, Northumbria and the North West. The Humber River Basin District is the largest and covers the majority of the LNRS area. Within the Humber

River Basin there are five management catchments, each with its own catchment management plan: Derwent, Esk and Coastal Streams, Wharfe and Lower Ouse, SUNO (Swale, Ure, Nidd and Upper Ouse), Aire and Calder in addition to the Tees (Northumbria), Lune and Ribble (North West). The Humber River Basin is the largest in England and drains approximately 20% of the country's total land area. The Catchment Based Approach is a policy framework which established catchment partnerships to work collaboratively across each of the River Management Catchments to help deliver water quality and River Basin Management Plan objectives, whilst involving local communities in decision-making.

Flood Risk Management Plans

These set out how flood risk management authorities and stakeholders will work together to manage flood risk in England. Land use and management is closely linked to flood risk management. Land drainage can speed up the rate at which water can get into rivers and land management can increase erosion. Natural flood management and working with natural processes play an increasingly important role in managing flood risk at the catchment scale, and often go hand-in-hand with benefits for ecology and water quality.

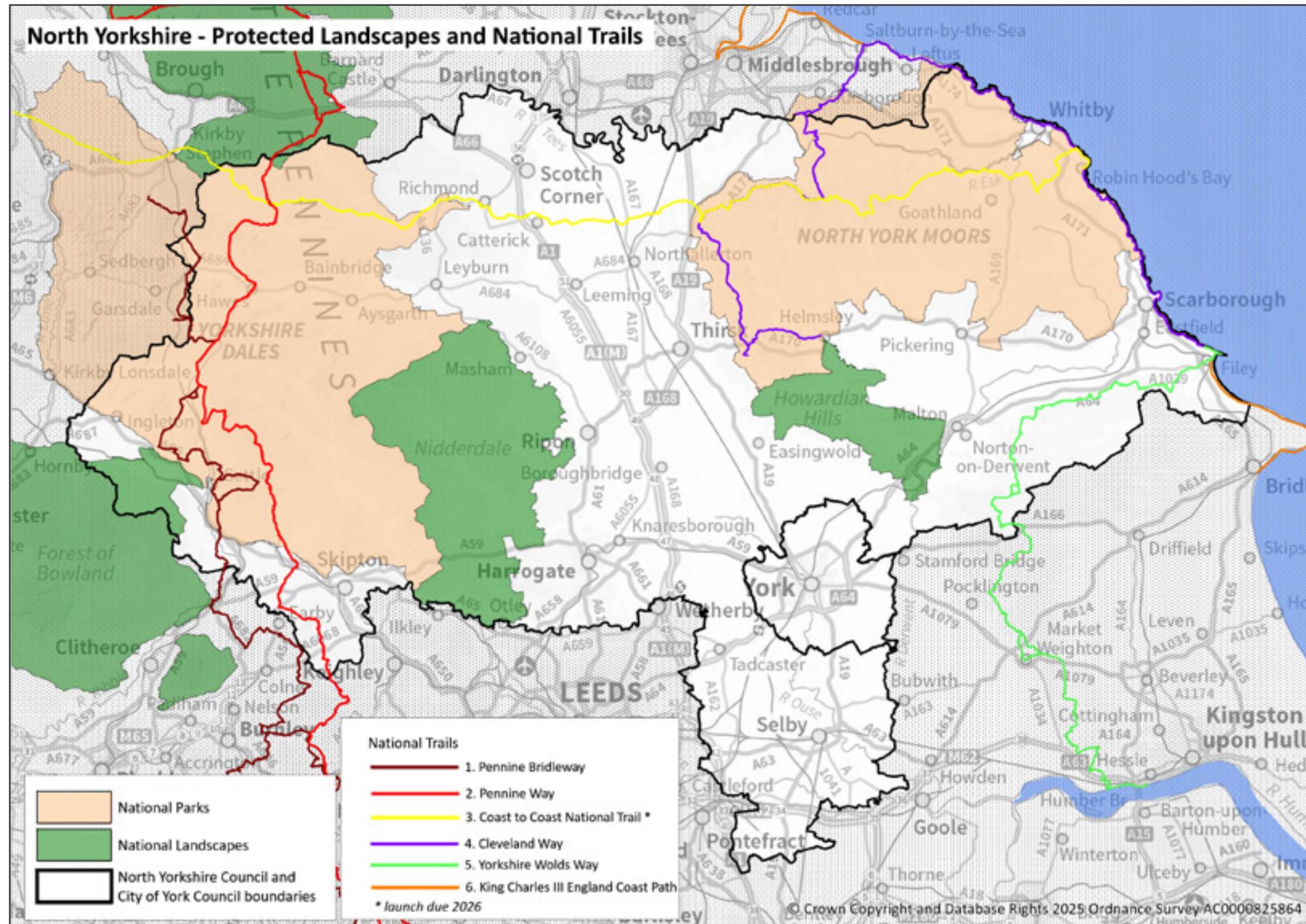
National Trails

National Trails are long-distance footpaths and bridleways in England and Wales, managed by local trail partnerships with guidance and support from Natural England. Six National Trails pass through the North Yorkshire area and these are shown on the map overleaf.



24 Strategy - Nature North www.naturenorth.org.uk/strategy

Protected landscapes



Nature Recovery Plans

North Yorkshire’s five protected landscapes: Yorkshire Dales National Park, North York Moors National Park, Forest of Bowland National Landscape, Nidderdale National Landscape and Howardian Hills National Landscape cover approximately 50% of the county’s footprint. Each has its own Nature Recovery Plan (NRP) setting out a vision for an enhanced natural environment and describing what action is needed, within a prescribed period, whilst also informing the LNRS. It is a statutory requirement for each protected landscape to periodically update its own Management Plan aligned to its statutory purpose(s), which the NRP will also feed into.

State of Yorkshire’s Nature

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust’s (YWT) State of Yorkshire’s Nature Report (2024) is based on new analysis of the distribution and abundance of Yorkshire’s biodiversity. It recognises that Yorkshire is important for British biodiversity, but that the region’s nature is under threat. YWT’s goal is for a nature network extending across the region with a broad range of habitats. YWT considers that all areas of Yorkshire have a role to play in nature’s recovery, including farmland, urban areas, protected landscapes and the coast and sea, but highlight that water and limestone are significant key habitats in the national context.

Bringing Yorkshire’s Nature Back – a blueprint for nature’s recovery

During late 2025 Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) published its blueprint to secure a third of Yorkshire’s land and sea for nature. It identifies seven opportunities for delivering 30 by 30 in Yorkshire. The blueprint aims to be complementary to Yorkshire’s four LNRS – each of which will contribute to a county-wide nature network, delivered through collaboration and strong partnerships.



White Rose Forest led community tree planting at Broughton Hall Sanctuary, near Skipton

Picture credit: White Rose Forest

White Rose Forest

The White Rose Forest is the community forest for North and West Yorkshire, working in partnership with local authorities, landowners, businesses and communities to increase woodland cover across the region and improve our natural environment. The White Rose Forest Strategic Plan 2025-50 sets out the vision, aspirations and targets for tree and woodland establishment and management in North and West Yorkshire over the next 25 years.

York and North Yorkshire's strategy for a sustainable future

The Strategy aims to deliver a step-change in climate action that transforms the economy and supports healthy, thriving communities, ensuring York and North Yorkshire becomes England's first carbon negative region by 2040. The implementation of the Strategy seeks to achieve three key outcomes for the region:

- economic transformation
- healthy and thriving communities
- England's first carbon negative region by 2040

Three strategic pillars will help deliver these key outcomes: securing energy independence, moving towards circular economy and enhancing our environment.

The latter pillar sets out to use nature to capture carbon and support climate resilience. This will improve the quality of the natural environment for local people and support key sectors that are reliant on the environment, including farming, food and drink manufacturing, and tourism. It is expected that the Strategy will be adopted by the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority during 2026.

Climate Change Strategies

Our constituent local authorities (North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council) have recently adopted Climate Change Strategies arising from their declared climate emergencies. The three pillars of the strategy in North Yorkshire (2023 to 2030) sets out the plan to:

- reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- prepare for the changing climate; and
- support nature to thrive

Underpinning the strategy is for the Council to work with partners to achieve the ambition to be a carbon negative region by 2040 and encourage residents, businesses and visitors to take climate responsible actions.

City of York Council announced a climate emergency in 2019 and set an ambition for York to be a net-zero carbon city by 2030.

Local Investment in Natural Capital

The Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC) programme is a Defra and Environment Agency initiative designed to mobilise private investment to deliver nature recovery, climate adaptation and climate resilience across the region. North Yorkshire and York LINC was one of four pilots set up in 2023. It aims to unlock institutional investment into nature across our geography and is developing over 50 nature-led infrastructure schemes that will become investible. Initial investments into the pipeline are likely to be on a project-by-project basis, matching those projects ready for investment to investors' mandates, returns horizons and risk appetite. Initial investments will aim to dovetail with other strategic programmes such as the LNRS.

Planning Practice Guidance

In February 2025, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) published the planning practice guidance (PPG) providing guidance on the role of LNRS in planning.²⁵ The guidance explains how local planning authorities (LPAs) should interpret their legal duty to "have regard" to LNRS and how LNRS should be used to help meet existing national planning policy on protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

Local Plan

North Yorkshire Council (NYC) started work on its Local Plan following its investiture in April 2023 and plans for its adoption anticipated to be in 2029. We have worked closely with a group of NYC planning policy officers to keep them updated on the strategy. NYC will be preparing a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy (GBIS) as an evidence-base for the Local Plan and we are establishing

links with the officer team leading on the GBIS to create alignment with the LNRS.

City of York Council's (CYC) Local Plan was adopted in February 2025 and we have worked closely with the CYC Planning Policy team to ensure they have been engaged with the process of preparing the LNRS.

Health and Wellbeing Strategies

Our constituent local authorities (NYC and CYC) both have adopted health and wellbeing strategies which aim for residents to enjoy happier, healthier and longer lives. They set out key priorities and approaches to improve health and wellbeing for the local population. These include goals to reduce sedentary lifestyles amongst adults so they become more physically active and live with good mental health. Good access to nature and greenspace is an incentive to encourage more people to engage with these goals and the nature network proposed by the LNRS will help to support these initiatives.

Alignment to other plans and strategies

We are confident that our LNRS aligns with other plans and strategies in our locality, following our document and policy review and through ongoing engagement with representatives from the protected landscapes, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, river catchment partnerships and local authorities. These representatives have been involved in key decisions during the development of the strategy, to ensure the outputs of their own plans and strategies inform the LNRS.

²⁵ Natural environment - GOV.UK www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment#local-nature-recovery-strategies

9. Delivery – who can do what?

9. Delivery – who can do what?

Everyone in North Yorkshire and York can contribute to our vision *'to work together to enhance, expand, restore and connect our region's habitats for thriving nature across North Yorkshire and York'*. In Section 2, we established five 'How we can do it' principles for the delivery of nature recovery, these are:

1. Working across communities, businesses, public bodies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to help nature to thrive
2. Putting nature at the heart of policy and decision-making
3. Attracting funding and green finance into nature
4. Promoting jobs, education, apprenticeships, and skills in delivering nature recovery
5. Monitoring and evaluating change – recording uplifts to species, tree cover and habitats over time

Working across communities, businesses, public bodies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to help nature to thrive

Residents and community groups can help nature to thrive in their local area, while landowners, land managers, farmers and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) can work at a more strategic scale to aid nature recovery, particularly by working in partnership.

To date, Defra has confirmed one year of LNRS 'transition to delivery' funding and the expectation is that an LNRS delivery team will be set up by the responsible authority to coordinate and support communities, businesses and organisations with their plans for nature.



Workshop with land managers & farmers, Selby Auction Mart



Volunteers working at Nosterfield Nature Reserve with the Lower Ure Conservation Trust

Landowners, land managers and farmers

Why?

Over 70% of our land area is farmed and we also have a number of large estates across our geography. Much of this land is managed for food, fuel or timber, but there is great potential to better integrate natural habitats alongside these productive uses, bringing down costs for farmers through reduced input costs, supporting nature and making our land more resilient to climate change.

How?

Landowners, land managers and farmers can use the LNRS to:

- understand how their land fits within the Local Habitat Map and the strategic nature recovery network
- inform the measures (actions) they could carry out on their land
- inform and support applications for funding and delivery of projects

NGOs and partnerships

Why?

NGOs and partnerships such as Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, White Rose Forest, the Lower Ure Conservation Trust (LUCT) and the Dales to Vales River Network have established action plans and management plans and are already leading on nature recovery projects, working with volunteers, landowners and farmers to take action and demonstrate the importance of partnership working for nature recovery. These organisations have been closely involved in the preparation of the LNRS.

How?

NGOs and partnerships can use the LNRS to:

- help galvanise collaborative working with their partners
- inform the measures (actions) they can carry out on their land
- inform and support applications for funding and delivery of projects

Developers and planners

Why?

There are targets to build approximately 20,500 homes across North Yorkshire, and 4,100 homes in the City of York, over the next five years. Future growth and development in our area will depend upon, and benefit from, a healthy natural environment and there is great opportunity to fully embed nature into our plans for growth.

How?

Developers and planners can use the LNRS to:

- support the integration of nature into the planning and development process
- understand how development sites fit with the Local Habitat Map and the strategic nature recovery network
- inform the selection of on-site and off-site Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) sites
- inform the formulation of Local Plan policies on the protection, enhancement and recovery of nature

Under the Environment Act 2021, local planning authorities and decision-makers must have regard to the LNRS in their policies, including those within their Local Plans. Taking account of the LNRS when considering proposed developments can help developers move more smoothly through the planning process.

Investors

Why?

Private sector investors are increasingly factoring environmental concerns into their investment decisions, including their dependency on natural capital or need to mitigate offsets for water or greenhouse gas emissions. The Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC) programme is designed to mobilise private investment and to support landowners and farmers in the delivery of nature recovery, climate adaptation and climate resilience actions across our geography.

How?

Investors can use the LINC programme and the LNRS to:

- connect with landowners and farmer clusters who are seeking the finance for nature-based solutions and nature-led infrastructure projects on the land they manage
- understand how these potential projects fit with the LNRS priorities, Local Habitat Map and the strategic nature recovery network



Derwenthorpe, York



North Yorkshire Climate Coalition convened an Inspiring Community Climate Action day in March 2025

Local authorities, Town and Parish Councils and Community groups

Why?

Local organisations and coalitions, such as Holmedale Nature Network in Richmondshire, Kirkbymoorside Town Council and North Yorkshire Climate Coalition, are at the forefront of nature recovery and other causes, such as action for climate change. They work to bring together groups of volunteers to survey their local area, draft management plans and schedule tasks and operations to benefit wildlife species and habitats. Those involved in these activities also benefit from their involvement through learning new skills and enhancing their health and wellbeing.

How?

Local authorities, Town and Parish Councils and Community groups can use the LNRS to:

- understand their local natural environment in the context of the Local Habitat Map and the strategic nature recovery network
- inform the measures (actions) they can carry out in their local community
- inform and support applications for funding and delivery of projects
- create their own nature recovery plan for their area, town or parish

Schools, nurseries and colleges

Why?

This is a significant opportunity to transform the way climate and natural environment education is taught in schools, nurseries, colleges and youth councils and to support young people to act and increase biodiversity across England. The National Education Nature Park programme²⁶ has been developed for this purpose and is led by the Natural History Museum with the Royal Horticultural Society and partner organisations. The programme aims to embed nature-based learning in the curriculum, and encourage children and young people all over the country to take action to improve their site for both people and wildlife. The programme involves a five-step process:

1. Getting to know your space
2. Identifying opportunities
3. Making decisions
4. Making change happen
5. Recording change

Barrowcliff School in Scarborough has a volunteer-led garden club which is incorporating nature into the site, including corners of the playing field with an orchard, an area for compost and hedgerow planting along the site boundary.

During 2024, the school and garden club was in receipt of a National Education Nature Park grant which has funded some large timber planters sited in the playground with space for planting and seating and plans for a small pond. The monies have also covered the cost of wildflower planting along the margins of the playing field.

How?

Schools, nurseries and colleges can use the LNRS to:

- understand their local natural environment in the context of the Local Habitat Map, the strategic nature recovery network and biodiversity priorities
- inform the measures (actions) they can carry out on their site
- inform and support applications for funding and delivery of projects
- create their own nature recovery plan for their site



LNRS workshop with Skipton Youth Council

²⁶ National Education Nature Park www.educationnaturepark.org.uk

Promoting jobs, education, apprenticeships, and skills in delivering nature recovery

Nature North has highlighted how investment in nature recovery can play a key role in the generation of green jobs. Targeting disadvantaged urban communities and rural and coastal regions can result in jobs and skills generation in economically vulnerable areas. The expectation is that jobs can be created at both entry and graduate level. Skilled staff are required in the restoration and creation of habitats as well as in their maintenance, monitoring and management. Nature North references a study by RSPB and Cambridge Econometrics³⁰ which estimates that a significant number of temporary and long-term jobs would be established through initiatives such as woodland creation and peatland restoration.

More locally, the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority is funding a series of initiatives to support our working population with specific pathways into green jobs. These include the York & North Yorkshire Careers Hub for young people, Skills Bootcamps, Adult Skills Fund and the Skills Innovation Fund.³¹ Askham Bryan College is a land-based college with a campus on the western fringes of York. A significant proportion of the 1,500 students on the site are engaged in agriculture, horticulture, arboriculture, nature or conservation studies, meaning there is a pool of talent to take up green jobs in the region.

We have already highlighted the work of NGO's such as Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, St Nicks and the Lower Ure Conservation Trust, who

facilitate apprenticeships and volunteering. Through these initiatives, individuals enter into the nature recovery sector gaining knowledge, expertise and experience with the anticipation that they choose to stay in the nature sector for the duration of their career or remain supportive throughout it.



Young people at Nature North event



Askham Bryan College, York



Yorkshire Wildlife Trust apprenticeships

Picture credit: Askham Bryan College

Monitoring and evaluating change – recording uplifts to species, tree cover and habitats over time

Government has mandated that LNRS responsible authorities monitor changes in nature recovery that occur as a result of the published strategies. At the outset of the preparation of the LNRS for North Yorkshire and York the Advisory Group (steering group) highlighted the importance of making use of monitoring and reporting tools to verify the impact of changes taking place over time.

During December 2024 over 30 locally-based stakeholders contributed to a workshop considering 'What does LNRS delivery look like?' for our region. This included a section on monitoring and reporting requirements, with some of the key findings including:

- Attendees would value dedicated LNRS resource to help facilitate a central reporting system for all stakeholders involving both numerical and spatial (GIS) records
- The importance of setting up baseline monitoring to determine any changes as a result of nature recovery activity
- To devise a GIS reporting system for 'activity' with a traffic light reporting system (with coloured polygons related to a step-by-step process, moving sequentially through (i)-(iv): (i) idea (ii) started (iii) finished (iv) achieved intended goal)
- The value of measuring outcomes as opposed to outputs (e.g. assessing key indicator species may be a better way forward rather than detailed monitoring)



Recording nature on site

Picture credit: Simon Pickles



Devising a reporting system for mapping changes in natural species

Picture credit: NEVEDC

³⁰ The economic costs & benefits of nature-based solutions_final report_FINAL_V3.docx www.camecon.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03

³¹ Skills in York and North Yorkshire <https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/skills>

Glossary

Acid Grassland: Grassland that grows on nutrient-poor, free-draining soils with a low pH of approximately 4 to 5.5. It often occurs on acidic rocks or superficial deposits such as sands and gravel.

Agroforestry: The practice of integrating trees and shrubs into farming systems, combining agriculture and forestry on the same land, while maintaining or enhancing agricultural outputs.

Ancient Woodland: Woodland that has existed continuously since at least 1600 CE (common era), supporting unique biodiversity and ecosystems.

Ancient Trees: A tree that has reached full maturity and is old, or aged, in comparison with other trees of the same species. In this ancient stage the tree may remain alive and healthy for many decades and often centuries.

Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIBs): An LNRS category used to refer to all existing nationally and internationally designated conservation sites (such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest), Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites, and areas of irreplaceable habitat. APIBs form the core of the LNRS's strategic nature network.

Areas that Could Become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACBs): An LNRS category used to refer to areas identified within the LNRS where nature recovery efforts should be focused to achieve the greatest benefit for biodiversity and the wider environment. ACBs form the remainder of the LNRS's strategic nature network (outside of APIB areas).

Biodiversity: The variety of plant, animal, and microbial life within a specific habitat or ecosystem.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG): A legislative requirement for development to leave biodiversity in a measurably better state than before development took place. Achieved through habitat creation, restoration, or enhancement.

Blanket Bog: A type of peatland found in cool, wet climates, characterised by layers of peat that cover large, undulating areas of ground. Generally an upland habitat, it can be found where peat has accumulated to a depth of at least 0.5 metres, typically on flat or gently sloping ground where drainage is poor.

Citizen Science: Research that is undertaken by members of the public, often in collaboration with a research organisation or a non-governmental organisation (NGO), and often utilising modern recording technologies such as smartphone apps.

Climate Resilience: The ability of habitats or species to adapt to, and recover from, the impacts of climate change, such as increases in extreme weather events over time.

Connectivity: The degree to which different habitats are linked to allow the movement of species and the flow of ecological processes, essential for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Corridors: Linear features (e.g. hedgerows and rivers) that can connect fragmented habitats, allowing species movement between them.

Countryside Stewardship Scheme: Countryside Stewardship (CS) sits under ELMs (see below) and provides financial incentives for farmers, foresters and land managers to look after and improve the environment, including setting aside part of their land for nature.

ELMs (Environment Land Management Schemes): Environmental land management schemes pay farmers and landowners to deliver environmental benefits and is an umbrella term covering the following schemes: Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI), Countryside Stewardship (CS) schemes and Landscape Recovery (LR) schemes.

ELMs replace the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) which existed under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

Fen: A wetland, groundwater-fed habitat that supports a wide range of plant and animal life. Fens are usually peat-forming habitats and the water table is near the ground surface for much of the year.

Floodplain Meadow: Wet grassland in lowland floodplains, crucial for flood management, biodiversity, and pollinators.

Flush: A wetland habitat where groundwater emerges at the surface and is held up by impermeable soils and rock creating a linear flow of water across the ground.

Focus Species: A condensed list of species that have been identified as top priorities for nature recovery action within the LNRS. The species have been selected for their strategic importance for nature recovery and can be used to help monitor changes and engage land managers and the public.

Green and Blue Infrastructure: A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, both urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and their prosperity.³²

Hedgerow: Lines of shrubs or small trees often used as field boundaries, essential for wildlife corridors, shelter, and pollination.

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS): Species introduced to an area that are not native to that area, such as Signal Crayfish or Himalayan Balsam, that harm local ecosystems.

Landscape Recovery (LR): A scheme that sits under ELMs (see above) and aims, through financial incentives, to support large-scale projects that deliver landscape-scale environmental benefits. This could include actions such as flood alleviation, natural flood management, and improving water quality.

Local Habitat Map: An online map developed as part of the North Yorkshire and York LNRS that shows existing Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIBs) and a strategic network of Areas that Could Become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACBs).

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS): A strategic plan developed at a local level to guide actions for nature recovery, enhancements to biodiversity, and improvements to ecosystem services, involving collaboration among various stakeholders. LNRS are a statutory requirement, introduced by the Environment Act 2021.

Long Established Woodland: Woodlands that have been present for a significant period, typically since at least 1893.

Lowland Calcareous Grassland: Grasslands on lowland limestone or chalk soils, known for their rich plant diversity, including rare orchids.

Lowland Heath: Heathlands typically found below 300m above sea level and characterised by infertile soils, heathers, and gorses.

Lowland Meadow: Grasslands traditionally used for hay production, rich in wildflowers and supporting pollinators and ground-nesting birds.

Magnesian Limestone Grassland: Grasslands that are unique, species-rich habitats that grow on outcrops of Magnesian Limestone.

Measures: Practical 'on the ground' actions that will help to deliver the aims of an LNRS priority.

National Landscape: A designated area of land in the UK, previously known as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), that is of national importance for its natural beauty and is protected in the national interest. The Nidderdale National Landscape and the Howardian Hills National Landscape both sit within North Yorkshire.

National Park: An area of the UK countryside that is protected by law to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area and to promote public understanding and enjoyment of these qualities. Both the North York Moors National Park and the Yorkshire Dales National Park are primarily located within North Yorkshire.

Nature Recovery Network (NRN): A strategic network of ACBs where nature recovery activity should be focused to create bigger, better, and more joined up natural habitats.

Natural Capital: Elements of nature (e.g. rivers, woodlands, soil) that provide goods and services essential for human life and well-being.

Non-governmental Organisation (NGO): An entity that is not part of government and can include non-profit or for-profit entities.

Open Mosaic Habitat: A biodiversity-rich mix of different habitats that features a patchwork of bare ground, patchy grassland and other vegetation like scrub and flowers. They are an important habitat for a large number of rare invertebrates.

Parkland: A mosaic habitat with grazing animals, valued for their trees, especially veteran or ancient trees, and the plants and animals they support. They have their origins in medieval hunting forests and 19th Century designed landscapes.

Priority: An objective that has been identified as being particularly important for our region and can contribute to the end results that an LNRS is seeking to achieve. In essence what we are seeking to do and why we are seeking to do it.

Priority Species: A longlist of 634 species that are in decline or suffering persecution and require some form of intervention. These species are included in the LNRS so they can be prioritised for funding and further projects to enable their recovery.

Riparian Woodland: Wooded areas along rivers and streams that support rich biodiversity, prevent erosion, and improve water quality.

Saltmarsh: A coastal wetland ecosystem regularly flooded by saltwater tides and characterised by salt-tolerant plants and fine sediments.

Species-rich Grassland: An open, grassy habitat with a high diversity of native wildflowers and grasses, maintained by traditional methods like grazing and cutting.

Stepping Stones: Small areas of habitats that provide refuge and facilitate species movement between larger habitat areas.

Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI): A scheme that sits under ELMs (see above) and rewards farmers financially to undertake sustainable farming practices. This includes actions such as improving soil health, managing hedgerows and field margins, growing cover crops and reducing inorganic fertiliser use.

Veteran Trees: Trees that are usually in their second or mature stage of life and have developed some features found on ancient trees, such as decay or dead wood.

Upland Calcareous Grassland: Grassland habitat found at higher altitudes on shallow, lime-rich soils over underlying rock such as limestone, typically occurring at elevations of 250-300 metres above sea level.

Wet Grassland: Floodplain habitats with seasonal waterlogging that support diverse wildlife, including breeding waders and pollinators.

Wet Heath: Damp areas found within lowland and upland heathlands normally found on flat ground between dry heath and valley mires.

Wet Woodland: Waterlogged woodlands dominated by species like Willow, Alder, and Birch, providing flood control and biodiversity benefits.

Wood Pasture: A mosaic habitat with trees and grazing animals, created through traditional management like grazing and pollarding. Veteran and ancient trees can often be associated with this habitat.

To access other LNRS documents

Online: www.northyorks.gov.uk/lhrs-documents

A paper copy of the documentation is available to view at the North Yorkshire Council Customer Services Hub, Campus Buildings, Treadmills, East Road, Northallerton, DL6 1AU (open office hours, Monday to Friday)

Contact us

Online: northyorks.gov.uk/contact-us

By telephone: For further information call **0300 131 2131** and say **'nature recovery'** when prompted

North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD

You can request this information in another language or format at northyorks.gov.uk/accessibility



Meeting:	Executive Member Decision Session
Meeting date:	3 March 2026
Report of:	Garry Taylor, Director of City Development
Portfolio of:	Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Economy and Culture

Decision Report: York Cultural Strategy

Subject of Report

1. The York Cultural Strategy sets a clear direction for arts, heritage and cultural development, placing culture at the heart of York's economic, social and civic future. It describes how culture shapes how the city functions, how people create and engage with it, and how York's culture attracts talent and investment to benefit residents across all our communities.
2. In addition, it sets the clear ambition that York will be the first city to achieve cultural entitlement for all children and young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds and with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
3. This report invites the Executive Member for Economy and Culture to adopt the strategy on behalf of the city.

Benefits and Challenges

4. The benefits of the Cultural Strategy are to provide a direction for culture in York to ensure culture is integral to the city's growth and offer to residents.
5. It will ensure York continues to be internationally recognised as a city with outstanding culture, heritage and arts, driving the successful visitor economy and providing a rich and vibrant city for residents to enjoy and benefit from.

6. The Cultural Strategy has been reviewed by different organisations representing the sector and is designed to help attract additional investment into the city, strengthening the cultural sector during a challenging operating environment and setting out the steps to deliver its ambitions.
7. The challenge of adopting the Cultural Strategy is that it creates an expectation the council will be able to provide much needed investment. Although the council is no longer funded to support culture, the strategy provides an ambitious and bold step forward, designed to support the council use its convening power, and relationship with regional and national bodies to continue to raise the incredible value and opportunities culture brings to the city.

Policy Basis for Decision

8. The national *Industrial Strategy* has developed a *Creative Industries* sector plan that aims to create a pipeline of talent that continues to shine a light on the global significance of culture in the UK.
9. The creative and cultural industries are recognised as one of five competitive advantages in the *York and North Yorkshire Local Growth Plan*.
10. *York 2032*, the city's 10-year plan, sets out a City Partnership economic growth action to embed the culture offer and place culture at the heart of placemaking, raising York's profile nationally and internationally. Supporting the 10-year ambition, *York's Prospectus – Going for Growth with Innovation, Culture and Heritage at its heart*, sets out a series of projects to unlock York's untapped potential. This includes projects designed to strengthen York's cultural offer.
11. The Cultural Strategy presented continues the ambition set out in *York's Creative Future Cultural Strategy 2020-2025* which was adopted by Executive in February 2021.

Financial Strategy Implications

12. The Council is facing a significant financial challenge over the next 3 years, with an annual budget gap of c£10m. As a result, it is vital to ensure that any Council spending is focussed on delivering

value for residents and that we continue to seek external funding where possible.

Recommendation and Reasons

13. The Executive Member is asked to commit the council to adopt the York Cultural Strategy

Reason:

- York continues to be internationally recognised for its exceptional heritage and unique arts offer.
- Residents and businesses in York benefit from York's unique cultural offer, improving life outcomes and health and wellbeing.
- The cultural offer fuels our economy, supporting growth and regeneration.
- All residents will be able to participate and engage in culture, with a focus on inclusive and relevant activities.

Background

14. York is a living, breathing city, where centuries of stories and world-class heritage are dynamically combined with contemporary arts, technology, and community spirit, to create a unique cultural tapestry woven into the fabric of the city.
15. York's unique culture stems from a rare blend of deep, multi-layered history (Roman, Viking, Medieval) with cutting-edge contemporary creativity, highlighted by the status as the UK's first UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts.
16. Our diverse heritage, vibrant independent arts, numerous festivals, and a strong culinary scene combine history, modern innovation, and an inclusive community spirit are second-to-none, and rightly a source of great pride for residents and businesses alike.
17. To harness all the activities involved in culture, from arts and heritage, combined arts, dance, libraries, museums, music, theatre and the visual arts, as well as residents own' creative participation in culture is what makes the Cultural Strategy so important for the city, the residents and the economy.
18. *York's Creative Future: A Cultural Strategy for York 2020-2025* was launched in the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The

environment in which it was developed and delivered is markedly different from the context for York's cultural offer to thrive today.

19. In 2022, Full Council approved the Economic Strategy and *York 2032*, the 10-Year City Plan. Co-designed with city partners who articulated an action to embed York's cultural offer: *York's ambitious [Cultural Strategy 2020 to 2025](#) ensures culture is inclusive, relevant and accessible to everybody in York, including children and young people. It supports residents' health and wellbeing throughout their lives, placing culture at the heart of placemaking, ensuring talent development and retention, and raising York's profile nationally and internationally, as both a city renowned for its heritage and for its cutting-edge, contemporary approach to creativity.*
20. In 2023, the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority was established. The election of the Mayor 2024 led to the development of the Local Growth Plan. To align with the national Industrial Strategy, regions were required to identify their key economic sectors that would drive growth and in York and North Yorkshire. The creative industries were selected as one of five key competitively advantageous economic sectors, in part due to the contribution the creative sector makes to the region's GVA, with over 1,500 people working in the industry.
21. York continues to buck trends and attract visitors from across the world. In 2024, 9m visitors experienced York's culture, contributing over £2bn to the regional economy.
22. To refresh York's Creative Futures which expired in 2025, arts, culture and heritage organisations were invited to collaborate on the review, and consider how to strengthen community engagement and inclusivity, support the creative workforce which enhances York's cultural identity and encourage innovative partnerships across the sector.
23. Although the council contributed a small amount of funding from UKSPF, York's Cultural Strategy was developed with a wide variety of cultural stakeholders, facilitated by North Yorkshire Council. The Strategy is from and for the whole city.
24. As a result, York's Cultural Strategy sets out six key priorities with specific ambitions for the city. These are designed to give people a sense of identity and connect individuals to their community, their

heritage and their traditions, helping them understand where they come from and who they are, so culture is accessible to all.

25. The Cultural Strategy was shared with over 250 local, regional and national organisations from culture, business, education and public sector on 22 January 2026, at *Reignite XII* at Yorkshire Museum. The Strategy was well received with case studies and panel discussions focused on the future of culture in the city and nationally and the opportunities that will bring.

Strategic Priorities and delivery plan

26. The Cultural Strategy is focused on six key strategic priorities with specific ambitions for the city. These are:
 - I. Culture is inclusive, relevant and accessible to everybody in York, regardless of age, background or postcode.
 - II. Culture is fully embedded into local investment and city planning developments, with arts and heritage and cultural wellbeing integral to development processes.
 - III. York will be the first city to achieve cultural entitlement for all children and young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds and with special education needs and/or disabilities.
 - IV. York's creative and cultural sectors thrive and contribute to strengthening and diversifying York's economy: through universities and colleges providing clear routes to skilled employment and creative workspaces attracting and retaining creative talent in the city.
 - V. York is recognised nationally for its innovative work in culture for health and wellbeing, including social prescribing, which residents can benefit from throughout their lives.
 - VI. York's outstanding arts, culture and heritage and its status as the UK's first UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts are championed and celebrated, raising the city's profile nationally and internationally.
27. The Heritage Programme was approved at Executive Decision Session in November 2025. The Heritage Programme is designed to develop a 10-year Strategic Delivery Plan for the city's heritage estate. Many of these buildings also house museums, libraries, theatres and other cultural experiences.
28. On adoption of the Cultural Strategy, the council will work with the Creative and Cultural Advisory Group and wider sector, to:

- a) Expand the remit of the Heritage Programme to include supporting the cultural and creative sector (this will also provide council governance and oversight to further support the sector).
- b) Develop the business and investment case for the *Creative Catalyst*, one of the projects set out in *York's Prospectus – Going for Growth with Innovation, Culture and Heritage at its heart*.
- c) Develop actions that respond to the Cultural Strategy, which include identifying opportunities delivered through the Local Plan, celebrate the UNESCO city of media arts, focus on wellbeing derived from participation in cultural activities and support children and young people participate in culture.
- d) Work with YNYCA to support more residents work within the creative and culture sector, including through including through Trailblazers year 2 and the Get York and North Yorkshire Working Plan (currently in development).
- e) Explore shared opportunities to strengthen the case for investment in York's cultural sector (both public and private sector funding).

Consultation Analysis

29. York's Creative Futures: the cultural strategy 2020-2025 was developed following an extensive engagement and consultation exercise with York's residents, cultural organisations, artists and practitioners. It took on board what matters most to the people who live, work and study in the city. Following this, in 2019 the council's Executive adopted a vision and principles, on behalf of the city, as the basis on which to take the strategy forward.
30. The Cultural Strategy is based on a refresh of the previous strategy and was developed in collaboration with arts, culture and heritage organisations across the city.

Options Analysis and Evidential Basis

The Executive Member is invited to adopt the Cultural Strategy on behalf of the city.

Rationale

31. The strategy has been developed in close collaboration with different organisations across the city and was publicly launched on 22 January 2026.

Organisational Impact and Implications

- **Financial** There are no direct financial implications to the Council arising from this report.
- **Human Resources (HR)**, There are no direct human resources implications to the Council arising from this report.
- **Legal** There are no direct legal implications to the Council arising from this report.
- **Procurement** There are no direct procurement implications to the Council arising from this report.
- **Health and Wellbeing** The Culture Strategy prioritises the links between culture and wellbeing. Work commissioned by DCMS in 2024 from Frontier Economics shows that across a range of culture and heritage opportunities, culture positively impacts health, with particular evidence around general cultural engagement and improved mental health, engagement in arts and music-based activities and improved self-esteem, well-being and quality of life, and visiting theatres, art galleries, exhibitions or museums and incidence of dementia and depression. Estimates of the economic impact of these health benefits, including healthcare costs avoided and productivity impacts, range from £200 million to £8 billion per year at current levels of cultural engagement'
- **Environment and Climate action** The cultural and creative sector has an important role in responding to the challenge of climate change. Many of our culturally significant assets and creative organisations are energy intensive and challenging to decarbonise. The Council will work with partners to identified opportunities for emissions reductions and sharing best practice. The sector is also particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and we will work in partnership to identify opportunities to build resilience and preserve our cultural heritage
- **Affordability** The Cultural Strategy sets the ambition for culture in York to be inclusive and relevant, with all residents able to engage and participate in culture within their local communities. The council will work with the sector to ensure the rich and varied culture offer remains affordable where possible, attracting investment to help provide subsidies if appropriate.

- **Equalities and Human Rights.** An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been completed because the strategy was developed independently of the council. However, the strategy has equality, diversity and inclusion at its core and actions taken forward will ensure this continues.
- **Data Protection and Privacy** The data protection impact assessment (DPIAs) screening questions were completed for the recommendations and options in this report and as there is no personal, special categories or criminal offence data being processed to set these out, there is no requirement to complete a DPIA at this time. However, this will be reviewed following the approved recommendations and options from this report and a DPIA completed if required.
- **Communications and engagement** will support the outcomes of the strategy, working with partners in the sector and across the city where appropriate. This is likely to be delivered via targeted communication or engagement work to deliver particular outcomes or projects linked to successful funding bids. The focus of the council's communications activity should be around supporting community inclusivity with the strategy, to maximise the benefits back to all residents.
- **Economy** York's cultural offer has an incredible and positive impact on the economy of place. It drives investment, talent and acts as an attractor, with the benefits felt across the city. The council will continue to recognise and celebrate York's cultural offer, taking the steps set out in the report to attract additional investment and support delivery of the strategy.

Risks and Mitigations

Funding: Accessing available funding for the sector is highly competitive, with no local authority funding, and instead bidding processes that are not always successful. By working collectively, and combining with the heritage programme, it is anticipated that York will have a stronger, single voice, representing the sector and attracting investment to distribute across multiple organisations.

Community: Cultural activities take place across the city. In village halls, upstairs of cafes, basement bars, open spaces, and shared public areas, including in shared living accommodation. Culture is not owned

by anyone or contained to the city centre. There is a risk that the Cultural Strategy only focuses on the locations that are more well known and side-lines the activities that take place in the hidden corners and forgotten spaces all across the city. The council's role is to bring the city together and as a result, it's role in supporting delivery of the Cultural Strategy will be focused on all our communities, wherever they are or go.

Diversity: Just as cultural activities take place all over the city, so the appeal is vibrant, diverse, and provides an experience as unique as the people who live in York. What constitutes "good culture" cannot be defined or curtailed and as a result the council's role will be to openly embrace and encourage a truly diverse and inclusive cultural offer for residents and communities to take pride in. This also means exploring ways to access so cultural activities are affordable for all our residents.

Wards Impacted

32. All

Contact details

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Specialist officers

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Background papers

Policy context

- Local Growth Plan [York and North Yorkshire's Local Growth Plan > York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority](#)
- Creative Sector plan [Creative Industries Sector Plan - GOV.UK](#)
- York 2032 [10 Year Plan – York 2032](#)

York's Creative Future: Cultural Strategy for York 2020-2025
[Decision - York's Creative Future: A Culture Strategy for York, 2020-2025](#)

York's Prospectus

[Report Template](#)

[Item 15 - Yorks Prospectus Going for Good Growth with Innovation Culture and Heritage at our hea.pdf](#)

[Annex A EMDSYorkSocialValueReport0126.pdf](#)

The Heritage programme

[EMDS 04.11.25 Heritage Programme initiation 1-0.pdf](#)

[Annex A The Heritage Programme.pptx - Read-Only](#)



York Cultural Strategy

ISSUED NOV 2025



Introduction

York's Creative Future was developed throughout 2019 to be launched in 2020 and set the strategic direction of cultural development in the city over the subsequent five years. It therefore coincided with the Covid-19 pandemic and has been delivered within the context of a fast-changing world.

Now in a post-pandemic cultural landscape that has seen significant evolution, and in the final year of the original strategy, sector leaders and City of York Council have come together to undertake a review of York's Creative Future – and what follows is a refreshed and focused plan for culture and creativity across the city of York area.

The updated strategic blueprint is deliberately undated, in-keeping with our partners in the wider North Yorkshire County. We will come together annually as sector and community members to reflect on successes and achievements of the preceding year, and to decide on priority focuses, changes and developments for the coming year based on evaluation and feedback. This will keep us focused and better able to be responsive to what our city and its communities need, and agile in response to opportunities.



Cover image: Harland Miller 2025 exhibition at York Art Gallery. © Duncan Lomax (Ravage Productions)



SIN: After Hours at York Art Gallery, 2022. © Mediale



→ 'Submergence' by Squid Soup at York Art Gallery. © Duncan Lomax (Ravage Productions)



What is Culture

→ **So, what is culture?**

For the purpose of the Cultural Strategy, it is defined as all activities involving arts and heritage, including collections, combined arts, dance, libraries, literature, museums, music, theatre and the visual arts, as well as people's own creative participation in, and interpretations of, culture. Culture and creativity are also at the heart of a vital economic driver for the UK, the creative industries.

↑ Yorkshire Museum school visit © Anthony Chappel-Ross

Vision & Aims

→ **Our Vision**

York is known as a city where everyone feels able to benefit from the city's outstanding, renowned heritage, which comes together with a cutting-edge contemporary approach to creativity.

→ **Our Aims**

- Culture, creativity and heritage are integral to everything that happens in York.
- York's cultural offer is inclusive and relevant: residents of all backgrounds are creative, can engage and participate in culture in their local communities
- There is an ongoing local commitment to UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts status.

York Key Cultural Assets Map

York is a unitary authority area and historic UNESCO city in the county of North Yorkshire which sits at the confluence of the rivers Ouse and Foss, roughly halfway between London and Edinburgh.

York Wards

- Acomb
- Bishopthorpe
- Clifton
- Copmanthorpe
- Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
- Fishergate
- Fulford and Heslington
- Guildhall
- Haxby and Wigginton
- Heworth
- Heworth Without
- Holgate
- Hull Road
- Huntington and New Earswick
- Micklegate
- Osaldwick and Derwent
- Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
- Rural West York
- Strensall
- Westfield
- Wheldrake

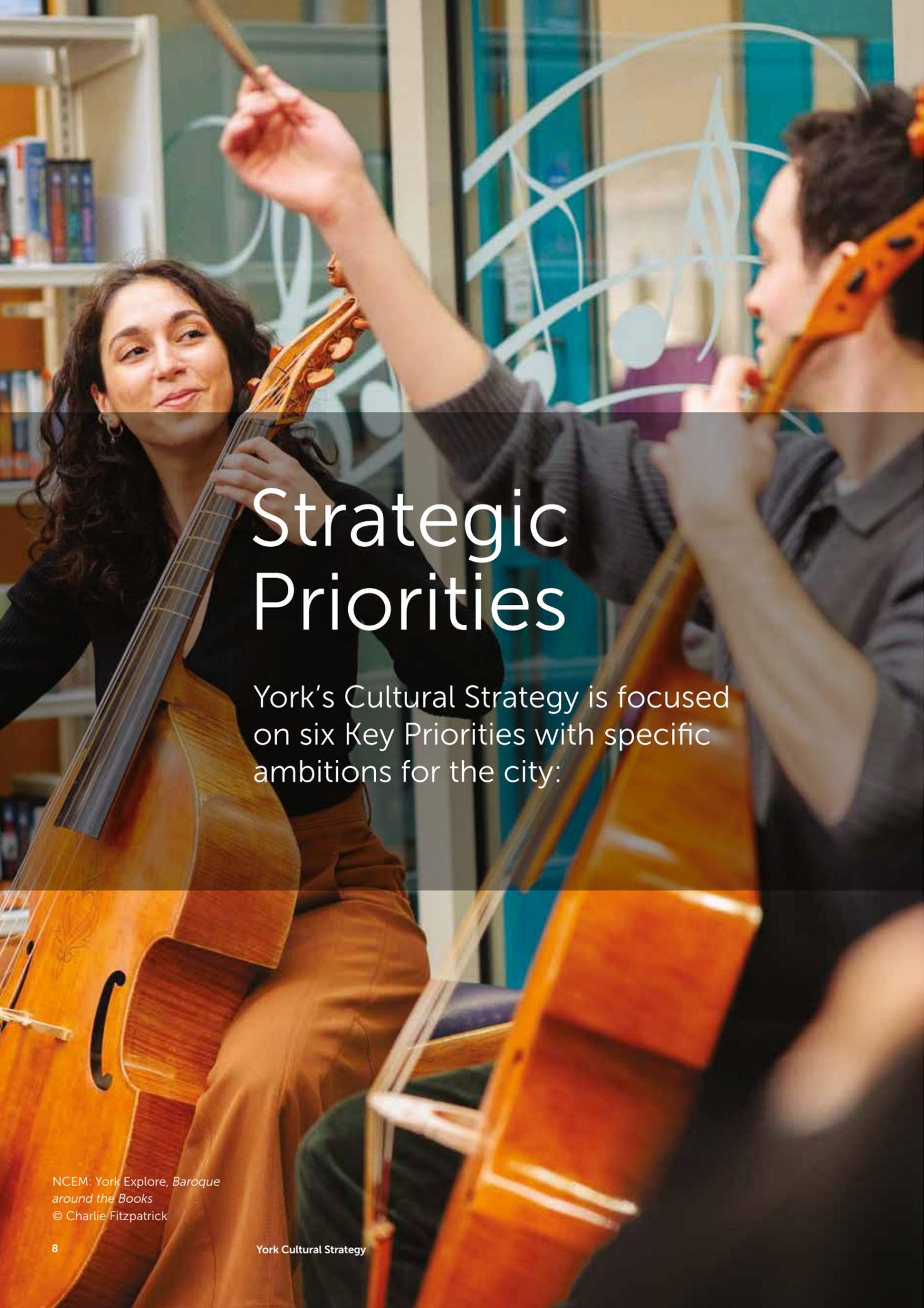
Wider York Key Cultural and Heritage Venues

- A City Centre Venues
- B Acomb Explore Centre
- C Clifton Explore Centre
- D Joseph Rowntree Theatre
- E Tang Hall Explore Centre
- F York Archeological Trust Resources Centre



York City Centre Key Cultural and Heritage Venues

- 1 Explore York Libraries & Archive
- 2 Fairfax House
- 3 Grand Opera House
- 4 Jorvik
- 5 Merchant Adventurers' Hall
- 6 National Railway Museum
- 7 National Centre for Early Music
- 8 Pilot Theatre
- 9 York Archaeological Trust
- 10 York Art Gallery*
- 11 York Barbican Centre
- 12 York Castle Museum*
- 13 York Minster
- 14 Yorkshire Museum*
- 15 Yorkshire Museum Gardens*
- 16 York Theatre Royal



Strategic Priorities

York's Cultural Strategy is focused on six Key Priorities with specific ambitions for the city:

1

Cultural Engagement, Participation and Relevance

Culture is inclusive, relevant and accessible to everybody in York, regardless of age, background or postcode.

Key outcomes:

- York's cultural offer is inclusive and relevant: residents of all backgrounds are creative, can engage and participate in culture in their local communities, and there is local commitment to UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts status.
- There is more diversity and intergenerational engagement in arts and heritage, and in volunteering, including people from the LGBTQ+ community, those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, D/deaf or disabled people, and those from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.
- Participation in cultural activities in the city will be measured and evaluated to demonstrate inclusion and relevance, and this will exhibit a measurable increase.

Additional benefits:

- Organisations involved with delivering the strategy agree consistency of evaluation methods to demonstrate impact collectively
- Arts and heritage organisations benefit from an enhanced volunteer base.

2

Place Making

Culture is fully embedded into local investment and city planning developments, with arts and heritage and cultural wellbeing integral to development processes.

Key outcomes:

- New cultural leadership will deliver effective communication and advocacy in embedding culture into major infrastructure developments as a normal requirement of the city planning system.
- Engagement with residents, heritage research and exploring the meaning of place will result in redefined meanings of spaces, creating briefs for public spaces and using culture to define places.
- York will work to fund sustainable business models which underpin its creative industries while securing the future of the heritage fabric which provides the home for so many of our anchor institutions.

Embedding culture into city, town and village developments is a shared priority of North Yorkshire and City of York.

We will ensure that culture, arts, heritage and creative health are integral to place-making and reflecting the relationship our people have with their places. Together, and with national bodies, we will work to maximise the value, and ensure the sustainability, of heritage and cultural assets. We commit to increasing our focus on accessibility and inclusion, creating spaces in which everyone feels welcome and can experience culture, heritage and creativity without barriers.

Our work will contribute to Combined Authority Priorities for **Vibrant & Sustainable Places**.

3

Children and Young People

York will be the first city to achieve cultural entitlement for all children and young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds and with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Key outcomes:

- Every child and young person will have the chance to create and make culture, helping them develop a wide range of key skills and attributes, which will support their educational outcomes, health and wellbeing, and employment opportunities.
- Creativity, arts and heritage engagement will be part of the core offer within schools and informal learning environments, supported by a creative partnership between schools and learning providers, and cultural and heritage partners.
- All children and more young people, particularly the most disadvantaged and those with additional needs and/or disabilities (SEND), will participate in, and experience arts and heritage activity and sign up for appropriate arts and heritage learning and accreditation schemes.

4

Talent Development and Retention

York's creative and cultural sectors thrive and contribute to strengthening and diversifying York's economy: through universities and colleges providing clear routes to skilled employment, and creative workspaces attracting and retaining creative talent in the city.

Key outcomes:

- Increased levels of student demand for cultural activity and engagement in cultural volunteering.
- Significant collaborations between artists, practitioners and audiences/ participants from the city, with cultural initiatives and events organised by the city's universities and colleges.
- New funding secured to support culture leveraged in response to new collaborations (e.g. UK Research Council funds) and encompassing international partnerships.
- Increased number of students staying in the City.
- More start-ups with demonstrable sustainability beyond 2-5 years
- Increase in incubation support for emerging businesses and social enterprises

Creative and cultural education, skills and sector development is a shared priority of North Yorkshire and City of York.

We recognise and embrace the fact that the creative sector is one of the fastest growing economies in the UK, making significant contributions to employment opportunities, export of goods & services, and to tourism.

1 in 4 UK jobs are in creative industries, employing 2.3 million in 2021 and contributing £124bn to the economy in 2022.

Filled jobs growth rate from 2011 to 2021 in the creative industries was almost five times faster than the UK total overall – so we know how important it is to support sector development in North Yorkshire. This starts with access to creative subjects in education, and access to creative and cultural opportunities outside of school for all young people – and continues with routes to employment, support for creative businesses to access training, business development and investment. We will work together across our local authority services, with our creative education networks FORGE & CREATE, within the Combined Authority, and with our sector partners to progress, attract and retain creative talent and a thriving workforce in North Yorkshire.

Our work will contribute to Combined Authority Priorities **for Boosting Business & A Thriving Workforce.**

5

Culture and Wellbeing

York is recognised nationally for its innovative work in culture for health and wellbeing, including social prescribing, which residents can benefit from throughout their lives.

Key outcomes:

- York establishes an innovative and comprehensive system for social prescribing using arts and heritage engagement, to improve the health and wellbeing of York residents.
- Evidence indicates improved engagement and less isolation for vulnerable older people.
- Enhanced data collection demonstrates the impact the arts and heritage have on people's health and wellbeing.

Transformation of the wellbeing and resilience of our residents and communities is a shared priority of North Yorkshire and City of York.

We will be revolutionary and ambitious in our approach, embracing Creative Health as a core component of both of our cultural strategies.

We will work in collaboration across local authority care teams, creative health organisations, and Integrated Care Systems to maximise the health, life opportunities and sense of belonging for everyone that calls North Yorkshire home.

Our work will contribute to Combined Authority Priorities for **Healthy & Thriving Communities.**

6

York's National and International Profile

York's outstanding arts, culture and heritage and its status as the UK's first UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts are championed and celebrated, raising the city's profile nationally and internationally.

Key outcomes:

- Clear positioning of York's cultural offer within the York city brand achieves a wide awareness of York as a place where outstanding internationally renowned heritage comes together with a cutting edge, contemporary approach to creativity.
- Increased international partnerships bring financial resources into the city which support international exhibitions, theatre, film and music activities.
- Increased international partnerships support UK based students in their career development.
- Number of partnerships inside and outside the YCC area.
- Number of collaborations for touring exhibitions.



York Art Gallery's
'Wall of Women'
© Anthony Chappel-Ross

Delivery of the Strategy

In the process of the strategy review a new Creative & Cultural Advisory Board was created for York, which brings together key leaders from across the sector to advocate for, strengthen and champion creativity and heritage in the city.

This group, along with City of York Council directorates encompassing cultural economy and community services, will come together to provide oversight for directing and delivering strategic aims. This will include development of a delivery plan and coordinated approach to evaluation and measures of success.

Collaboration with North Yorkshire Council and the Mayoral Combined Authority for York & North Yorkshire will also be facilitated through the Advisory Board and Local Authority partnership, and together will help to shape policy, drive collaboration and unlock new opportunities.

It is envisaged cultural sector organisations and individual practitioners in York will use the strategy alongside their organisational and development plans, to identify collaborations, apply for funding, direct their work, and deliver on the priorities set out here.



Case Studies

**Demonstrating evidence of progress
2020-2025**

A range of case studies have been selected by advisory board members to demonstrate best practice in cultural delivery across the strategic priorities.



Baroque Around the Books

Who

National Centre for Early Music, and Explore York

What

In December 2024, free and accessible early music performances with the young ensemble "Intesa", was presented in four of York's community libraries; Acomb, Clifton, Tang Hall and the Central Library.

High quality early music was brought to audiences in trusted settings, reaching people who may not normally have had the opportunity to hear early music. They may face barriers in attending concerts due to access, affordability or confidence. By providing high-quality, unexpected cultural experiences, new audiences were encouraged to see libraries as creative, cultural and social spaces. The artists involved were given a development opportunity to learn new skills in engaging with the public in new ways.

"This was a delightful surprise as I just popped in to get a book. Even though I had other things to do I stayed for the whole performance which I loved. A quality experience."

Impacts:

- Attracted regular library users who came specifically for the performance
- Engaged with an audience of 320 across the 4 performances
- Reached new audiences who had attended the library for other activities
- Attracted new library users who had attended for the concert

Aligned to strategic priorities:

Cultural Engagement, Participation and Relevance
Culture & Wellbeing

"It was an emotional experience and my heart feels full. Thank you, I can't afford concerts often and feel they are too 'posh' but I loved this."



NCEM: York Explore, *Baroque around the Books*
© Charlie Fitzpatrick

Funded by Arts Council England, City of York Council, Mayfield Valley Arts Trust, National Centre for Early Music, and Explore York.



Wonderlab

Who

National Railway Museum

What

Wonderlab in the Bramall Gallery is a hands-on, architect designed interactive gallery for young people based within the National Railway Museum. The Gallery uses interactive displays to enable young people to act like engineers in their everyday lives – being creative, trying, testing, failing and trying again, working together and thinking big.

"I've spent all day in here this is my favourite part of the museum"

Wonderlab was co-developed with extensive input from local groups of young people with lived experience of SEND and disability. Access and equality were at the forefront of the brief, including the design approach, the choice of interactive displays, the way the gallery is interpreted, and the friendly, open and welcoming approach to science and engineering that the gallery embodies.



Wonderlab: The Bramall Gallery. A STEM-led interactive family gallery at the National Railway Museum. Photographer: Jody Kingzett © The Board of Trustees, Science Museum Group

www.railwaymuseum.org.uk

Impacts:

- Attracted almost 180,000 visitors since opening in July 2023
- 69% of visitors stated it was their main reason or a reason to visit
- 62% of visitors from the Yorkshire and Humber region
- Over 90,000 of the visitors are children of a wide age range

Aligned to strategic priorities:

Cultural Engagement, Participation and Relevance
Children & Young People
York's National & International Profile

"My son and I have had a truly magical day today. It was truly wonderful watching him explore everything within the Wonderlab which is incredible and stunning all wrapped up in a whole lot of fun. He did not stop smiling all day and when I said I think this is your happy place he responded 'this is happy, this is joy'... Truly inspiring the engineers of the future."



Eboracum Roman Festival

Who

York Museums Trust, York Minster, York Civic Trust, York Archaeology & University of York

What

In 2025, for the first time the Eboracum Roman Festival was a partnership event encompassing York Museums Trust, York Minster, York Civic Trust, York Archaeology and University of York. The joint programme included schools' resources and educator's professional development events, public talks, family trails and activities as well as a living history camp.

9,000 people engaged with the living history camp and parade over two days, 100% of those surveyed had a memorable experience and 670 people attended talks headlined by Roman historian and broadcaster Mary Beard.

Impacts

- 86% of attendees learned something new
- 85% of attendees felt more engaged with history
- 9 out of 10 visitors found the festival to be something out of the ordinary that will remain with them as a positive memory
- Visitors felt a strong sense of belonging and connection to the event

Aligned to Strategic Priorities:

Cultural Engagement, Participation and Relevance
Children & Young People



Roman Festival York 2025
© Gareth Buddo



Aesthetica Film Festival

Who

Aesthetica

"Thank you so very much for having me this year at Aesthetica. The festival was incredible – from screenings to the events, I was so impressed by the audiences and the mix of filmmakers you bring to York."

What

The Aesthetica Film Festival is the destination for independent cinema and is the leading UK festival for new talent. It is an opportunity to meet talented creatives from across the globe, and hear from industry experts through masterclasses, workshops and networking sessions. The festival is the first UK Film Festival to launch a Games Lab, which redefines what we mean by screen, and engaging all forms of interactive storytelling. Attracting widespread industry engagement from organisations such as Sledgehammer, Ubisoft and BAFTA Games. Other significant industry to attend includes The New York Times, Ridley Scott Associates, Framstore, DNEG, Industrial Light & Magic, alongside broadcasters such as BBC and Film4.

Impacts

- Attracts over 50,000 admissions between in-person and online events and screenings
- 300 film screenings in competition
- 100 workshops, masterclasses and panels
- Brings over £3m of economic benefit to the city and region.
- The festival has been BAFTA qualifying since 2014.
- Opportunities for filmmaking, coding and stop motion animation for up to 250 York children.

Aligned to Strategic Priorities

Talent Development & Retention
York's National and International Profile

"Thank you again for the most amazing experience, for your warmth and for bringing together such a lovely family of dedicated artists, filmmakers and beautiful humans. Your mission is one of great urgency and I am so humbled to be able to have been a part of this year's festival"



Launch
© Aesthetica

www.asff.co.uk



Shush, Snip, Rip – Disability Arts & Archives

Who

Explore York, artist Stephen Lee Hodgkins & York People First

What

Artist Stephen Lee Hodgkins and representatives from York People First collaborated with Explore York archivists to create an easy-read summary about the York Union Workhouse in 1899, which was showcased at a public event during York Disability Week 2023.

“Art allows me to say what I can’t say in words. It gives me access to communicate. I looked at York archives from the workhouse and how people with disabilities were sent there and the words used to describe disability. A lot has changed but a lot still the same.”

Alfie Fox, artist

It in turn inspired “Shush, Snip, Rip” Disability Arts showcase in July 2024. This creative response was a collaboration between disabled artists, York People First, Blueberry Academy, and the Leeds-based Pyramid Arts.

Visitors to the exhibition said how it had brought untold stories to light and connected historical and current issues, highlighting the ongoing challenges faced by disabled people and the need for further progress.



The 44, Stephen Lee Hodgkins. Photography © Louis Wong www.exploreyork.org.uk/york-disability-week-2024

“Shush, Snip, Rip” powerfully demonstrated how artistic collaboration can amplify marginalised voices and foster a deeper understanding of both historical and contemporary disability issues.

Impacts

- Enabled inclusive participation through co-creation with disabled artists and disability advocacy organisations.
- Fostered emotional connection and empowerment through creative expression.
- Deepened understanding of disability and identity by linking past and present.
- Supported disabled artists development and developed partnerships across cultural and disability advocacy organisations across York and Leeds.

Aligned to Strategic Priorities

Cultural Engagement, Participation & Relevance
Talent Development & Retention
Culture & Wellbeing

“Absolutely fabulous powerful and moving”



York Early Music Festival

“Well organised events, international standard and packed with music that was new to me as well as old favourites.”



NCME: York Early Music Festival *The Sixteen*, York Minster © Christopher Roberts

www.ncem.co.uk

Who

The National Centre for Early Music

What

The York Early Music Festival is one of Europe’s key early music festivals, working to celebrate the City of York and to keep its musical reputation flying high. Supported by BBC Radio 3, concerts from York are heard throughout Europe.

Established in 1977 and celebrating its 50th edition in 2026, the festival attracts visitors and artists into the city from across the world, celebrating music from the medieval through 500 years of history to the classical – sharing the music of the past through the canvas of York’s extraordinary built heritage.

At the heart of the festival – and the work of its sister organisation the National Centre for Early Music – is an overwhelming commitment to sharing the joy of music making with the young people of the city, with emerging professionals from across the UK and beyond, and with our audiences.

In 2024 the Flanders Government recognised the festival’s importance to European culture at a reception at York Mansion House, and by supporting a

series of Flanders ensembles within the festival. In 2025 the festival celebrates a new three-year partnership with the Institute Cervantes & Embassy of Spain and throughout 2026 development of the relationship with the French Institute will continue.

Impacts

- Attracts long-stay visitors into the city from across the world
- Concerts are regularly broadcast on BBC Radio 3 clearly identifying York as THE place for early music
- Supports a youth instrumental ensemble, a student ensemble and showcases emerging musicians from across Europe.
- Brings international musicians into York – who are themselves ambassadors for the city
- Celebrates York’s historic environment through music of the period

Aligned to Strategic Priorities

Cultural Engagement, Participation & Relevance
Talent Development & Retention
Culture & Wellbeing
York’s National & International Profile

“Incredible value”



Reignite

Who

Aesthetica & Make It York

What

A major initiative launched in 2023 to ensure that the city was engaging with the UNESCO city of Media Arts Designation. This is about ensuring that the sector is not siloed, but to create a place where all sectors – retail, hospitality, transport, services, heritage and creative could come together to network and collaborate. Each event has a key theme and citywide partners for delivery. Events have included the following topics: reframing the creative industries through the economic impact, large scale cultural programming, global stages, the next generation, unexpected collaborations, and culture makes places.

“Reignite is all about bringing together our amazing creative talents, and working out how we can do even more to make York and North Yorkshire a brilliant place to live and work.”

Impacts

- Attracting on average 250 people per event
- Playing a major role in shifting perceptions and galvanising the entire city around the UNESCO City of Media Arts Designation

“The thing I really love about Reignite is how inspiring it is for the next generation.”

Aligned to Strategic Priorities

Place Making

York’s National and International Profile

“Reignite brings the creative people together with the business people. Everybody who is here can find out what technology and art can do for their businesses, and that only happens because of Reignite. It is a fantastic thing to do, and it is a great way to consolidate York as a UNESCO City of Media Arts.”



Aesthetica Film Festival 2024
© Aesthetica

www.reignite.org.uk



The Producing Hub

Who

Next Door But One

What

Across 2024-2025, Next Door But One has supported local creatives with 1:1s, coaching and mentoring, and a programme of bespoke professional development workshops. Local performing arts professionals were assisted to address gaps in opportunities to develop. Practice-based workshops run by directors, writers, dramaturgs and composers, and career development sessions exploring casting, fundraising, marketing, producing, equality, diversity and inclusion and touring models were all delivered through 13 workshops delivered in partnership with York Theatre Royal. A year’s programme of coaching was delivered to 3 emerging/developing theatre companies to advance their work, invest in the growth of their business and realise new ambitions. This provision was driven by next Door But One sharing their areas of best practice with the three companies so they could develop similar infrastructure.

Impacts

- 59% of participants developed an existing skill or interest
- 54% developed a new idea or something they wanted to explore or develop further
- 43% gained more confidence in their own abilities
- 41% appreciated most the insight/knowledge into the business of the arts
- 35% had a noticeable increase in confidence over how to maintain/grow a career in the arts
- 90% would agree or strongly agree with the statement “I know I will apply what I have gained from this professional development to my career and/or personal development”

Aligned to Strategic Priorities

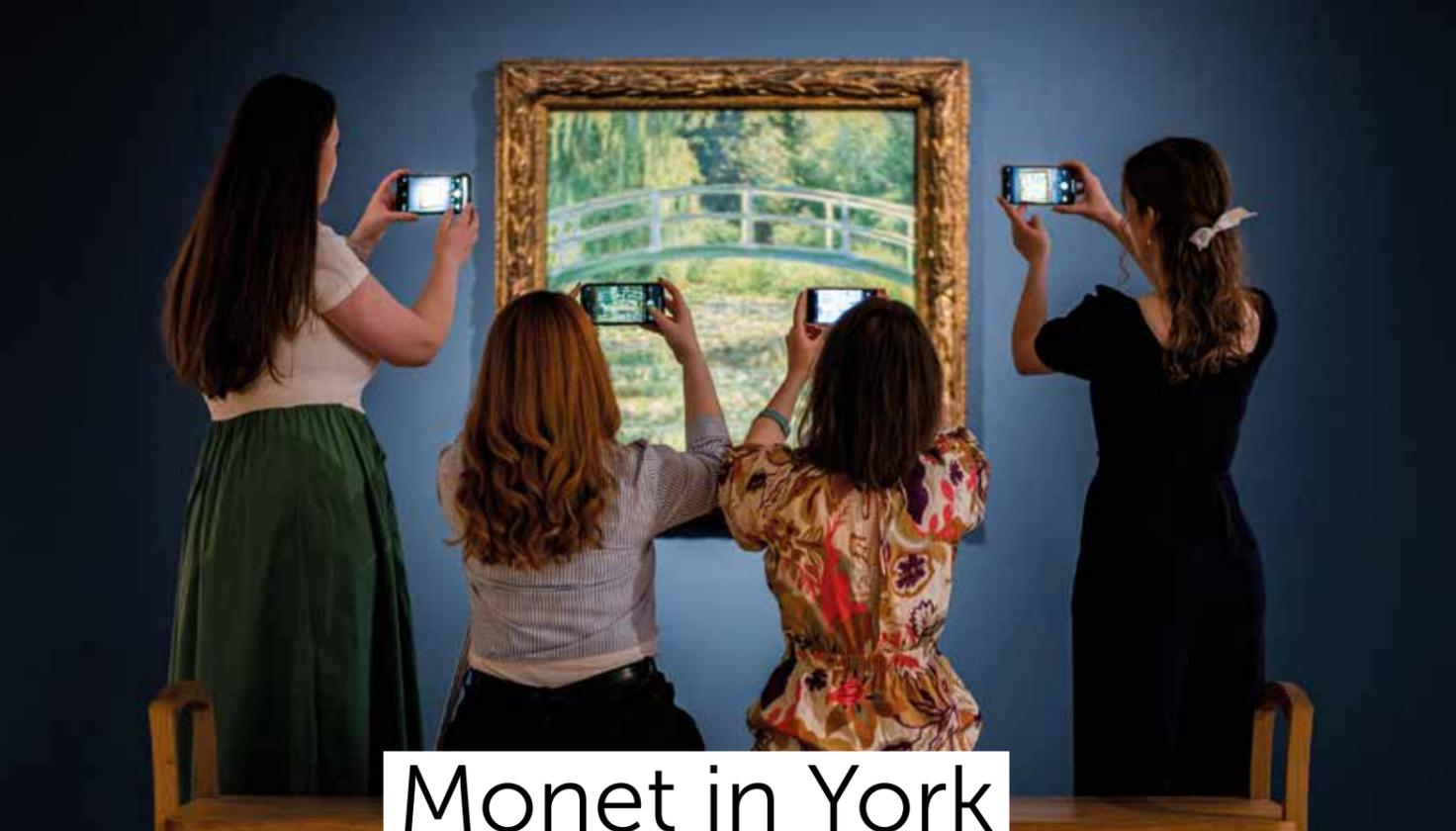
Talent Development & Retention

“I find these workshops so vital for developing my knowledge within different sectors of the arts. It equips me with confidence, ability and clarity to go forward and develop my creative fields and find new avenues of work to explore so thank you”



Next Door But One
© James Drury

www.nextdoorbutone.co.uk



Monet in York

Who

York Museums Trust

What

Claude Monet's famous painting "The Water Lily Pond" (1899) formed the exhibition centrepiece which encompassed themes of open-air painting, the celebration and enjoyment of nature and connected the Gallery with York Museum Gardens through a family friendly trail and wildflower garden. Key loans brought together from regional and national galleries were displayed alongside collection works. Creative events and activities included yoga, watercolour painting, family drop-ins, sound bathing, talks delivered in partnership with the university of York, online guided meditation, and creation of tactile objects by neurodivergent students from Pinc College.

Impacts

- 140 artist boxes distributed to community groups
- Monet's "The Water Lily Pond" loaned by the National Gallery
- 32 high-quality loans from national and regional collections
- 70,900 visitors
- 51,500 social media engagements on York Art Gallery accounts

Aligned to Strategic Priorities

Cultural Engagement, Participation & Relevance
 Children & Young People
 Culture and Wellbeing
 Talent Development and Retention

"We left feeling inspired and thankful to have had the opportunity to learn more."



National Treasures: Monet in York 'The Water-Lily Pond' at York Art Gallery. © Charlotte Graham Photography.

Supported by:
 The National Gallery, J M Finn, The Little Greene Paint Company, Friends of York Art Gallery and Priory Vodka.



Insight to Impact: Student Placements at York Minster

Who

York Minster

What

York Minster's Department of Collections and Interpretation hosts a range of placements for postgraduate students studying at the city's universities and beyond. Students are involved in voluntary internships, placements integrated within degree programmes, and specific projects designed to expand research beyond academia. The students bring rich and wide-ranging bases of knowledge, and each placement project is targeted to address key strategic priorities. The work undertaken by the students increases the capacity and outputs of the departments. The placements provide the students with the opportunity to hone their research skills in a real-world environment. Where possible, cross-departmental work will be embedded within the placements, which brings the students into contact with the breadth of activity that happens across the organisation.

Impacts

- 100 days of engagement work recorded across 2024
- 130,000 impressions across social media campaign
- Measurable skill development for the students

Aligned to Strategic Priorities

Children & Young People
 Talent Development and Retention



© Sam Ward

www.yorkminster.org



Closing Comments

Culture fuels creativity – through music, art, history, literature, and performance, people express their thoughts, emotions, and experiences in unique and powerful ways. It gives people a sense of identity and connects individuals to their community, their heritage and their traditions, helping them understand where they come from and who they are, and as such it should be accessible to all.

Culture, heritage and the arts also **play a vital role in maintaining health, aiding recovery, and improving life outcome** – when access to culture is open to all it ensures these benefits are shared widely and fairly.

Similarly, **culture fuels our economy, supporting growth and regeneration**, development of creative industries and attraction of visitors to our vibrant city.

Culture resonates throughout York, creating a distinctive place where outstanding, world-renowned heritage comes together with a cutting-edge contemporary approach to creativity.

Thanks to

We would like to thank the various organisations that have taken the time to participate in the review of York’s Creative Future; your enthusiasm, insights and passion for cultural development for the benefit of communities in York and visitors to the city, has enabled this renewed strategic focus and provided the conditions for ongoing success.

- Kathryn Blacker** York Museums Trust
- Jenny Layfield** Explore York Libraries & Archive
- Delma Tomlin & Cherry Fricker** National Centre for Early Music
- Chris Edwards** CREATE
- Andrew Morrison** York Civic Trust
- Cherie Federico** Aesthetica
- David Jennings** York Archaeological Trust
- Esther Richardson & Mandy Smith** Pilot Theatre
- Helen Rawson & David Colthup** York Minster
- Charlotte Kingston & Andrew McLean** National Railway Museum
- Laura McMillan** Grand Opera House
- Matt Harper-Hardcastle** Next Door But One
- Owen Turner** United by Design
- Paul Crewes** York Theatre Royal
- Rachel Bean** York BID
- Tom Higham** Mediale
- Ben Porter** ACollective



Glossary

Accessibility

Ensuring that cultural spaces and activities are available to everyone, regardless of physical, economic, or social barriers.

Arts Council England (ACE)

The national development agency for creativity and culture in England. Responsible for championing, developing and investing in arts and cultural experiences to enrich people's lives.

Co-creation

The process of jointly developing cultural content or experiences with communities or stakeholders.

Collaboration

Working together to plan, develop and produce.

Combined Authority

Formed of two or more local councils, either led by a directly elected Mayor (Mayoral Combined Authority) or without a Mayor (Combined Authority). North Yorkshire and York is a Combined Mayoral Authority.

Cultural Assets

Buildings, locations and other features considered historically or socially significant. Physical and intangible resources that contribute to the cultural life of a region, such as museums, galleries, historic sites, artworks or traditions.

Cultural Engagement

Participation or active involvement in cultural activities such as arts, heritage, and creative experiences, often with a focus on inclusivity and relevance to diverse communities.

Cultural Entitlement

The right to take part in cultural activity. The principle that everyone, regardless of age, location, or personal circumstance, should have the opportunity to engage with and be inspired by a wide range of cultural activities.

Creative Health

Creative and cultural activities and approaches that benefit health and wellbeing, including social prescribing and therapeutic engagement.

Creative Industries

Economic sectors that include advertising, architecture, design, fashion, film, music, publishing, software, TV, and video games, driven by creativity and intellectual property.

Creative Partnership

A collaboration between individuals, stakeholders or organisations to deliver a shared creative vision and associated cultural or artistic projects.

Cultural Offer

Activities or spaces (online or in person) provided by a cultural organisation.



NCEM: York Early Music Festival
The Gesualdo Six Chapter
House, York Minster
© Guy Tudor

Cultural Strategy

A strategic plan that outlines a clear vision for how culture can improve an area with priorities, goals, and actions to support and develop its cultural activities and infrastructure.

D/deaf

An inclusive term that refers to both deaf (lowercase 'd') individuals with hearing loss and Deaf (uppercase 'D') individuals who identify with Deaf culture and use sign language.

Growth Rate

Basic growth rates are expressed as the difference between two values in time in terms of a percentage of the first value.

Heritage

Cultural legacy, history and historical assets, including buildings, traditions, natural and built landscapes and artefacts that are preserved and celebrated for their significance.

Inclusive Participation

Ensuring that cultural activities are accessible to all, regardless of age, background, ability, or socioeconomic status.

Integrated Care Systems (ICS)

Collaborative partnerships between health and care organisations to improve population health and wellbeing.

Intergenerational Engagement

Interaction and activities that bring together people of different age groups to share, learn, and create.

Lower Socioeconomic Background

Individuals or communities with less access to financial, health and education resources, and opportunities.

Media Arts

Creative disciplines that use digital technology and media platforms, including film, animation, gaming, and interactive storytelling.

Place Making

A collaborative planning and design approach that uses arts, culture, and heritage to shape public spaces and foster community identity.

SEND

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities; refers to children and young people who require additional support to access education and cultural activities.

Social Prescribing

A healthcare approach where individuals are referred to non-clinical services, such as arts and cultural activities, to improve wellbeing.

Start-up

A newly established business or organisation, often innovative and entrepreneurial in nature.

Strategic Priorities

Key focus areas identified in the strategy to guide cultural development:

- Cultural Engagement, Participation and Relevance
- Place Making
- Children and Young People
- Talent Development and Retention
- Culture and Wellbeing
- York's National and International Profile

Sustainability

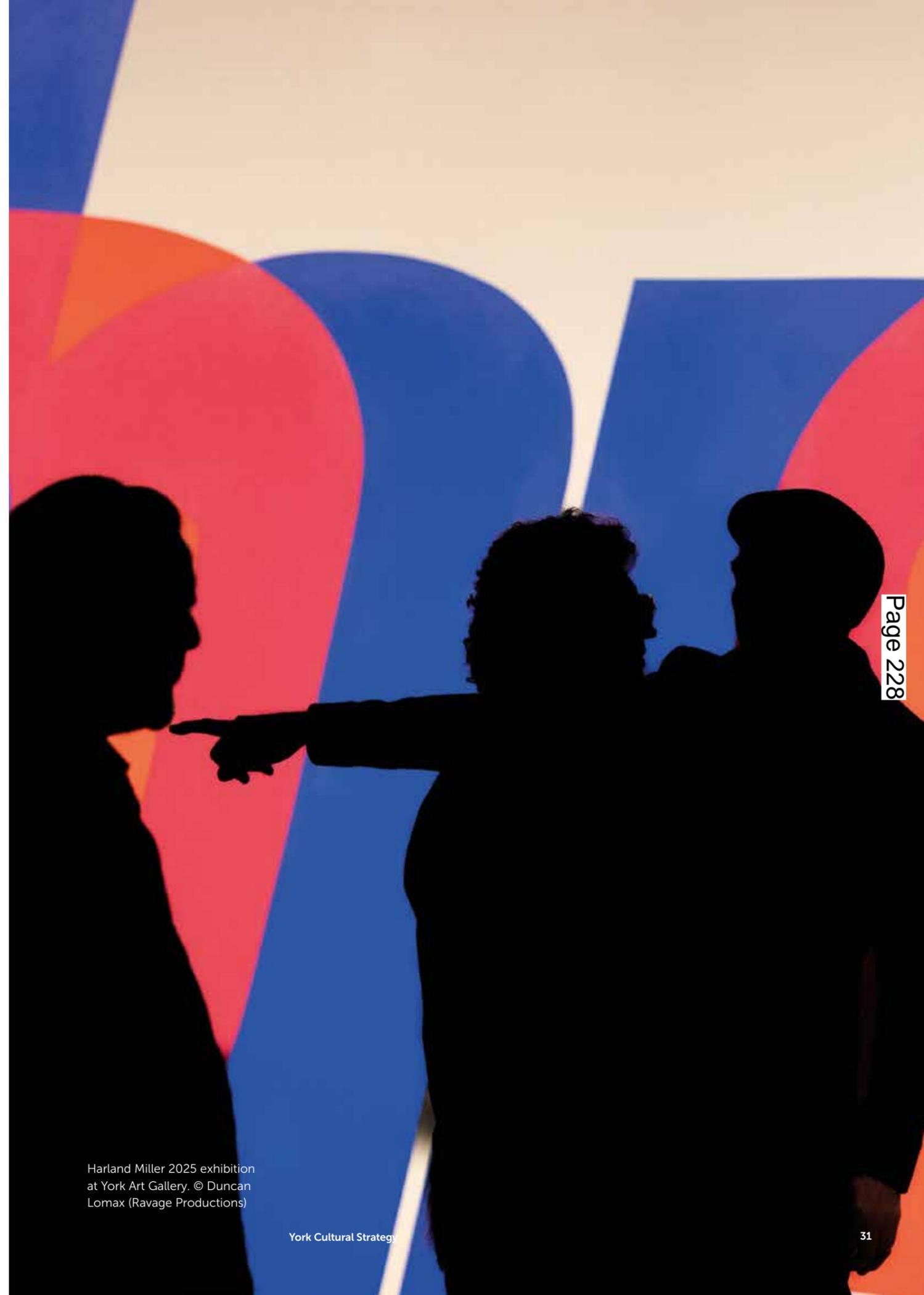
Ensuring that cultural activities and assets can be maintained and developed over the long term, both financially and environmentally.

UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts

A designation awarded by UNESCO recognising cities that promote creativity and innovation in media arts.

Wellbeing

The state of being comfortable, healthy, or happy, which can be enhanced through engagement with cultural activities.



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