

## North Yorkshire Councillor report February 2025

### Plans for a greener and more cost-effective recycling service

Residents across North Yorkshire could benefit from a more environmentally-friendly waste and recycling service which will also save taxpayers' money under plans set to be approved by councillors.

North Yorkshire Council has reviewed its recycling service to ensure it continues to provide best value for money and is fit for purpose, with plans to introduce two wheelie bins for recycling for most residents across the county would have alternative fortnightly household recycling collections, one for paper and card and one for all other recyclable materials.

This model of collection already takes place in the Selby area and allows the council to increase the amount and quality of recycling collected at the kerbside, reduce the cost of collection, and helps towards carbon reduction. By separating the recycling would improve the quality of material, reduce processing costs, generating a higher value when processed.

The proposal was outlined in the recent Let's Talk Rubbish consultation which offered residents the opportunity to share their views about the service they receive, gathered almost 10,500 responses, the highest number for any of the council's Let's Talk campaigns to date.

The survey showed high satisfaction with existing services where wheelie bins are used, with nine out of 10 residents happy or very happy, twice as many residents are also happy with wheeled bins rather than boxes or bags, which are currently used in some areas across North Yorkshire.

Also, almost nine out of 10 residents say it is important or very important to have access to an equal recycling service across the county.

Under the proposals, all residents would be able to recycle the same items in 240 litre wheeled bins collected on an alternate fortnightly basis. In some cases, this means residents would have more capacity to recycle, and materials such as pots, tubs, trays and beverage cartons would be accepted.

The new collection model meets the requirements of the Government's 'Simpler Recycling' initiative, which challenges local authorities to collect a core set of materials for recycling, and to keep paper and card separate from other types of recycling.

The initial estimated cost of implementing the changes would be around £8 million over the next five years, and it is anticipated to save about £560,000 per year, with the potential for even more savings.

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Where possible, the council aims to improve recycling in the county and contribute to the national target of recycling 65 per cent of household waste by 2035.

In December, the council agreed to harmonise the colour of new wheelie bins, with coloured lids representing the type of waste they should contain. These bins will only replace those that have reached their end of life, or to serve new properties, or to implement the new collection model.

## **Help shape the future of pharmacy services in the region**

Residents in North Yorkshire and York are being urged to help shape the future on pharmacy services.

Public health teams from North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council are asking residents and partner organisations for their opinions on whether the locations, accessibility and services provided by pharmacies are adequate as plans are drawn up to develop the services in the future.

All Health and Wellbeing Boards are required to produce a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) at least every three years to ensure the best decisions about pharmacy services are made for communities.

An online survey is open until Sunday, March 2, with feedback received influencing decisions on the location of pharmacies, their opening hours and the services provided, ranging from dispensing prescriptions to providing medication counselling.

Copies of the survey can be found on the NYC website, [www.northyorks.gov.uk/nypna](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/nypna) with paper copies also available at main libraries.”

## **Art swap brings fresh perspectives to North Yorkshire galleries**

Works of art from two council-owned collections will trade places in the first scheme of its kind overseen by North Yorkshire Council.

The project will involve exhibitions being displayed at Skipton Town Hall and the Mercer Art Gallery in Harrogate, with artworks stored in both towns being swapped to supplement each of the shows with a total of 15 works from the Mercer Art Gallery’s collection will be on display at Skipton Town Hall as part of the Take Your Time exhibition.

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The event, which will also include pieces from the fine art collection at Craven Museum in Skipton, is aimed at encouraging visitors to spend longer looking at the artworks. In return, three works from Skipton will be on show in Harrogate, creating the first cultural exchange of its kind since North Yorkshire Council launched in April 2023.

Highlights at Skipton Town Hall include a painting of Malham Cove by Katharine Holmes, a celebrated local artist, and works by Skipton-born Arthur Reginald Smith. While at the Mercer Art Gallery, the Look, Look Again exhibition brings together artworks from the Harrogate Art Collection, Craven Museum and the Goldmark Gallery. Works by renowned artists including Prunella Clough and Graham Sutherland offer a glimpse into creativity of 20<sup>th</sup> century British talent.

The Mercer Art Gallery curator, Karen Southworth, said: “Our exhibition showcases a recent bequest of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century British art from the late Yorkshire writer, and photographer David Morgan Rees. Loaned works from the Craven Museum and Goldmark Gallery have enriched the display, highlighting the creative surge following the end of the Second World War. Together, these three collections form a vibrant and exciting display.”

To mark the occasion, a limited-edition collection of merchandise featuring art from the museums’ collections is being launched for the first time to give visitors the chance to connect with art and history while owning a memento connected to the works on display. Every purchase from the retail range will directly support cultural activities and outreach work across both the Skipton and Harrogate areas.

The Take Your Time exhibition at Skipton Town Hall runs until April 21.

The Look, Look Again exhibition at the Mercer Art Gallery in Harrogate will run until April 4.

More information is available at: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/leisure-tourism-and-culture>

## **Suppliers sought to aid decarbonisation drive across North Yorkshire**

A new framework has been launched to deliver the decarbonisation and retrofit of private and social housing across North Yorkshire.

Align Property Partners, North Yorkshire Council’s multi-disciplinary building design consultancy, is welcoming applications from contractors to assist in the rollout of up to £300 million worth of energy efficiency upgrades to homes. The latest phase of the scheme aims to renovate private and socially-rented properties worst affected by problems such as poor-quality insulation and ineffective heating systems.

Align is particularly looking for bids from suppliers who can take on the role of principal contractor, or groups of suppliers who come together providing one or more of the services required as part of a group or consortium. The new framework will support prospective works as part of the latest wave of the Government's warm homes local grant and social housing funds.

Typical works covered under the framework will include air source heat pumps, solar PV systems, ventilation upgrades and draught proofing, as well as other maintenance and repairs.

The framework is now live and can be viewed at <https://uk.eu-supply.com/ctm/Supplier/PublicPurchase/89634/0/>.

For more information about the new framework, please email [info@alignpropertypartners.co.uk](mailto:info@alignpropertypartners.co.uk) or call 01609 797373.

## **Share your views to make the county's taxis more accessible**

People are being urged to share their views to help ensure there are enough wheelchair accessible taxis across the county, in a consultation which has launched on February 5th.

Research shows that there is a shortage of wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs) licensed as taxis in North Yorkshire. The council licenses about 70 vehicles, which represents one for every 9,000 residents. Although WAV provision is typically lower in rural authorities than in urban areas, the best performing rural authorities make provision for one WAV for every 2,000 to 3,000 people. To reach a similar ratio, the council would need to license around 200 more WAVs.

In recent years, the former borough and district licensing authorities tried to increase the number of WAVs in their respective localities but there has been little uptake. Therefore, the council has identified several options to increase the number of WAVs across the county, and welcome people's views on what they believe might be the most suitable.

The council is also asking people to share their views on the draft Inclusive Service Plan (ISP). The ISP focuses on the needs of people whose access requirements are apparent when using public transport, such as wheelchair users and assistance dog owners, but also on the needs of people with less visible disabilities.

The council is also seeking views on changes to the hackney carriage and private hire licensing policy. Although this is targeted at the trade, anybody can share their views. This could include changes to age limits, issuing restricted private hire driver

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licences, reducing the frequency of driver medical assessments, and assessing the minimum luggage space that is required.

The consultation will run until Wednesday, April 30. Details can be found at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/taxi-consultation](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/taxi-consultation)