

North Yorkshire Councillor report July 2025

Have your say on maximum taxi fares across North Yorkshire

A six-week consultation has been launched to review the maximum fares for taxis operating across North Yorkshire.

North Yorkshire Council sets the maximum fares for taxis and aims to strike a balance between setting a price that is reasonable to the customer as well as the driver. These fares are reviewed regularly to ensure drivers are fairly rewarded for their work, and to also ensure that members of the public are not deterred from using taxis in their area.

The fares are the maximum a driver can charge. They can charge a lower fare should they wish to do so but are not applicable to private hire vehicles, meaning those vehicles booked in advance, as these are set by the operator rather than the licensing authority. Therefore passengers are always urged to agree the fare before travelling.

It's important to strike the right balance between ensuring fares remain reasonable and affordable for passengers, while also reflecting the costs of operating a licensed vehicle so drivers are fairly rewarded.

So it is important residents, drivers, and other stakeholders share their views on the current maximum taxi fares across North Yorkshire before the end of July.

The council has compared the current table of fares with the maximum rates set by neighbouring authorities, with the deadline for views being Monday, July 28.

To take part in the survey, visit www.northyorks.gov.uk/maximum-fares

Praise for council's education service where learners 'flourish'

A council service which is striving to improve the skills, knowledge, confidence and job opportunities for residents across North Yorkshire has been praised by Ofsted inspectors.

North Yorkshire Council has turned around a previous "requires improvement" Ofsted judgement to secure a good and outstanding rating for its adult education service where more than 1,000 learners and apprentices studying in centres around the county "flourish" on their courses.

Apprenticeships and courses such as English, mathematics, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) and accountancy and finance are among the wide range of courses on offer for adults and for learners with high needs.

The service was inspected in May and has been rated good across the board with outstanding for behaviour and attitudes and the apprenticeships it offers.

During their visit, inspectors found calm, welcoming and well-resourced learning environments which help learners build confidence and inspire them to participate in education.

The report acknowledged how learners and apprentices pursue a range of opportunities to develop their interests beyond the curriculum learning something new or upskilling themselves to fulfil their future aspirations. It was also noted how the wellbeing and behaviour of high needs' learners is managed and improved with the use of sensory rooms and practical areas such as kitchens, woodland cabins and outdoor spaces.

Strong recognition was given to how leaders, managers and staff use the funding for learners with high needs effectively to create ambitious personalised programmes. Learners are challenged well to develop their independence, improve their communication skills and prepare for adult life, according to the report.

The inspectors also found that most learners with high needs progress to further learning or supported internships. The report praised the quality of education delivered by knowledgeable and well-qualified tutors who have extensive experience in their subject and in return learners and apprentices value the breadth of tutors' knowledge and experience.

As well as academic vocational courses, the council's adult education service works hard to empower individuals to meet their potential for opportunity through the identification and celebration of transferable skills, employability support and progression to higher level study.

Anyone wishing to find out more about the courses on offer is asked to log on at www.northyorks.gov.uk/explore-adult-learning-courses

Residents urged to share views on nature recovery strategy

North Yorkshire and York residents are being urged to have their say on a plan aiming to take action and help nature to thrive. A consultation has been launched on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy before it is published in the autumn.

North Yorkshire Council is responsible for preparing the strategy, which identifies locations to improve nature and provide benefits such as capturing carbon from the atmosphere, flood regulation and access to nature-rich spaces to better support health and wellbeing. It also provides details on how to increase woodland cover or create wetlands, confirms the most valuable areas for nature, and maps locations for creating and improving habitat.

As required by law under the Environment Act 2021, every county in England must produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. These strategies will work together to restore, create and connect habitats across England.

It will also help to direct several new funding streams for farmers and land managers, and will work in partnership with Biodiversity Net Gain, which is a new planning requirement to ensure habitat for wildlife is left in a better state than it was before the development process began. The opportunities in North Yorkshire are particularly pronounced as it is England's largest county, with vast swathes of countryside where nature can thrive.

To date, the council has consulted with hundreds of people including farmers and land managers on what is most important to them. It has also worked with Natural England, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and North York Moors National Park Authority to ensure that local knowledge, expertise and data can help support the strategy.

The Government has asked North Yorkshire Council and the City of York Council to work together on the strategy, as both local authority areas share a common landscape and river network.

The deadline for comments is Monday, August 11. People can take part in the consultation and view key documents at www.northyorks.gov.uk/local-nature-recovery-strategy

The website provides details about face-to-face events where people can share their views in person. Any landowner, land manager or farmer across North Yorkshire and York who would like to discuss how the strategy relates to the land that they own or manage, can also book a 30-minute one-to-one session online or in person.

Nominations open for awards celebrating unsung volunteers

Nominations are now open for North Yorkshire's Community Awards which recognise organisations and individuals who make a difference in their local area.

The awards recognise those who help North Yorkshire Council to deliver services and provide social networks that reduce isolation and help people live independently for longer.

The three categories are:

- Community impact - recognising grass roots community groups who have made a positive difference in their community.
- Collaborative spirit - recognising collaborations that have brought together groups to collaborate and build strong relationships to make a lasting impact.
- Commitment to the community - recognising individual volunteers who have demonstrated unwavering dedication and exceptional service to their community for a period of 10 years or more.

The closing date for nominations is August 3. The winner of each category will receive £1,000 for the project, group or nominated relevant local charity in the case of the volunteer awards. Two runners-up in each category will receive £250.

Last year, the GROW Scarborough initiative won best community project. With prize money already used to set up two new seed hubs and add more educational materials to their community garden.

Finalists will be invited to an awards ceremony in Harrogate on November 21. To read further information on the terms and conditions and eligibility criteria, visit www.northyorks.gov.uk/communityawards