

North Yorkshire Councillor report November 2023

Simpler Recycling for Households and Businesses in England.

In a drive to increase recycling rates across the country the government has announced reforms to waste handling called “Simpler Recycling”.

It is hoped that this will give a clearer and more effective guide by which local authorities can work with when formulating their waste management and collection policies.

- By 31 March 2025, non-household municipal premises in England will be required to recycle glass; metal; plastic; paper and card; food waste. Micro-firms (businesses with fewer than ten full-time equivalent employees) will have until 31 March 2027 to recycle these materials.
- By 31 March 2026, local authorities will be required to collect all six waste streams from all households in England. This includes introducing weekly food waste collections.
- There are exceptional circumstances in which specific local authorities may need longer to introduce weekly food waste collections, due to long-term waste disposal contracts that run beyond 31 March 2026.
- Government now acknowledges that co-collecting dry recyclables (as in Scarborough and Craven) does not significantly reduce their potential to be recycled, and wish to avoid the proliferation of different bins. Government has issued a consultation to canvas views on statutory guidance that provides an exemption to allow co-collection of dry recyclables.
- Government expects a minimum service frequency for residual waste collections of fortnightly in England and encourages more frequent collections, and is consulting on statutory guidance to this effect.
- Kerbside plastic film collections from non-household municipal premises and households will be introduced by 31 March 2027.
- That local authorities can continue to charge for collection of garden waste.
- A visual representation of Simpler Recycling is below:

Summary of the Simpler Recycling reforms

What?	Who?	When?								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reforms to recycling collections in England Household and non-household premises to have separate collections of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residual Organic recyclable waste Dry recyclable waste 	<p>All households in England including flats</p> <p>Non-household municipal (NHM) premises in England</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>MICRO</th> <th>SMALL</th> <th>MEDIUM</th> <th>LARGE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>≤10</td> <td>≤50</td> <td>≤250</td> <td>>250</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> (number of full-time equivalent employees) Residential homes Educational establishments Hospitals or nursing homes <p><i>Subject to consultation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Places of worship Penal institutes Charity shops Hostels Public meeting places 	MICRO	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	≤10	≤50	≤250	>250	<p>When?</p> <p>31st March</p> <p>2025 Small, medium, and large NHM premises recycle all waste streams, except plastic film</p> <p>31st March</p> <p>2026 Households recycle all waste streams, except plastic film</p> <p>31st March</p> <p>2027 Micro-firms recycle all waste streams Plastic film collections from all properties</p>
MICRO	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE							
≤10	≤50	≤250	>250							
<p>Why? Contribute towards reaching: 65% municipal recycling rate by 2035</p> <p>Environmental, economic or social benefit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced landfill and incineration and associated carbon emissions Reduced carbon emissions as a result of reduced production from virgin materials Support growth of UK recycling industry 	<p>Collectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Subject to consultation) Local authorities / other waste collectors can co-collect dry recyclables and/or co-collect organic waste to reduce the number of containers required Local authorities must provide a weekly food waste collection to all households Local authorities must provide garden waste collections to households where requested 	<p>How?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding will be provided to local authorities for the household collection requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authorities will receive payments from packaging producers under EPR from October 2025 Local authorities will receive new burdens funding for providing food waste collections Local authorities can charge for garden collections 								

*Garden waste requirement only applies to households and only where specifically requested by the household

Mandatory digital waste tacking across the UK

- From April 2025, a new digital waste tracking service will mean we can see where waste is created, who is handling it, what is done to it and where it ends up.
- Regulators can better detect illegal activity and tackle waste crime, including fly-tipping, illegal waste sites, and illegal waste exports. It will ensure that waste is only managed by authorised persons and in a safe manner.

Reforming the waste carrier, broker and dealer regime in England

- From 2025, stricter regulations across England for those who manage and transport waste.
- Those who want to manage waste services and transport waste will see increased background checks and competence requirements. Those handling waste will need to record information from the point it is produced, through to the point it is disposed of, via a central digital service.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/simpler-recycling-collections-and-tougher-regulation-to-reform-waste-system>

Local residents encouraged to have a say in new local plan

The first stage of a five-year process to develop a new local plan for North Yorkshire is under way.

Residents are being encouraged to sign up to a new online portal that will manage the process and enable North Yorkshire Council to keep them informed about consultations and engagement.

The North Yorkshire Local Plan will set out where development will take place across the county over the next 15 to 20 years. It will also set out policies and strategies that planning applications will be considered against.

When adopted by North Yorkshire Council, it will replace the existing local plans of the former district and borough authority areas, including the Local Plan adopted by Craven District Council in 2019. That document will still be used to determine applications that fall within the Former CDC planning area, but will not be modified or updated going forward as all resource is put into the formulation of the new County wide plan document.

Areas that come under the Yorkshire Dales National Park planning authority will be unaffected by this work, although the park is currently updating their own Planning policy document.

[Local Plan Process - Yorkshire Dales National Park : Yorkshire Dales National Park](#)

Everyone registered on the portal will receive important information such as when consultation and engagement will take place and how they can have their say – to register go to www.northyorks.gov.uk/localplan

The council is contacting people registered on the former district area local plan databases to let them know about the new portal. Privacy legislation means details cannot be transferred automatically.

This month the council will begin a consultation on the new Statement of Community Involvement, which will set out how it will consult people on planning, as well as early engagement about the local plan. Everyone that signs up to the portal will be notified of this and other important information.

Anyone without online access who would like to sign up for the database should call the council on 0300 131 2 131, stating 'Local Plan' when prompted.

Train Station Ticket Office Consultation

Following the recent consultation by the Rail Delivery Group looking at the potential closure of many ticket offices, Transport Secretary Mark Harper MP has announced he has asked train operators to withdraw their proposal.

This follows representations from across the spectrum of interest groups and rail users who have overwhelmingly objected to the proposals.

For my own part as committee chairman, convened a special meeting of the NYC Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Scrutiny committee to look at the response of NYC as a statutory consultee.

At that meeting we invited representatives from the operators responsible for the ticket offices within North Yorkshire, that we might gain a better understanding of their proposals for not only closing the ticket offices, but also the future offering on the platform from themselves.

Overall, it was an informative meeting for all concerned and I feel the operators left with a better understanding of our concerns about the need for the current operating model to remain.

This response along with the numerous other consultation responses have clearly been heard and understood.

Adult learners share experiences of returning to education

Proving that age is no barrier to achieving career ambitions or personal growth are two students who have shared their “life-changing” experiences of returning to the classroom.

Lifelong Learning Week, a national event that celebrates adult learners, is under way this week and is being marked across the county through a partnership of North Yorkshire Council’s Adult Learning Service and City of York Council’s York Learning.

Both services offer a wide range of adult courses designed to develop transferable skills, gain subject knowledge and experience in York and North Yorkshire. As a result, many adults from across Yorkshire have been inspired to either sign up to a career-changing course or learn a new skill.

Among those is Ron Bould, 69, who began oil painting when he joined the beginners’ oil painting course with York Learning. This was the first time he had

used oil paints since a Christmas gift years ago. He enjoyed the course, exploring brush types, types of painting surfaces and the mixing of paints.

Mr Bould said: “I really enjoyed the course, as I received lots of support and encouragement from my tutors to produce and exhibit my own art works. The classes I have taken part in straddled Covid-19 and with it the debilitating of enforced isolation and impact on mental wellbeing.

“In my own case, this was further exacerbated by months of treatment for and recovery from cancer. During my treatment, for those periods when I could not paint, I sketched out and planned for future work. When I was in a position to paint again, the work I completed acted as a catharsis, helping me through a very difficult period in my life. I was encouraged to exhibit my work at City Screen Picturehouse in York.”

He added: “Even now I find the classes of great benefit. They provide an environment which spurs me on to create. There is a strong bond between the class, a working cohesion which I find helps me enormously.”

Meanwhile, another student, Lynsey Kirkham, is about to realise her dream of becoming a midwife after achieving a functional skills maths qualification with Adult Learning North Yorkshire.

Having worked in healthcare for a long time, the 34-year-old aspired to be a midwife, but needed a maths qualification to get a place on a midwifery degree course after failing maths at school. She successfully achieved her qualification in just three months and is now in her first year of studying midwifery at the University of Hull.

Miss Kirkham, from Scarborough, said: “It was definitely hard learning maths again as an adult. But everyone in the class was older, so you didn’t feel out of place. And the tutors were brilliant. I worked shifts while I was studying, so sometimes it was difficult for me to attend. My teacher was so supportive and made sure I was up to date with anything I had missed.”

About stepping back into the classroom as an adult, the mother-of-two added: “I didn’t have a lot of confidence in school as I have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), so I struggled as there wasn’t the support available that’s on offer now. Learning as an adult I realised that my ADHD wouldn’t hold me back and I can’t believe I’m saying this, but I actually enjoyed learning maths again. It was a life-changing experience for me.”

City of York Council’s executive member for health, wellbeing and adult social care, [Cllr Jo Coles](#), said: “Ron’s paintings at City Screen are testimony that learning shouldn’t stop at 18. Opportunities to learn new skills can have a positive impact on health and wellbeing as well as employment opportunities. That’s why our adult learning strategy offers everyone the chance to learn new skills, take up a hobby or gain qualifications, with courses available online and in communities across the city.”

Anyone who would like to find out more about adult learning courses in their area can visit www.northyorks.gov.uk/adultlearning for North Yorkshire or www.yorklearning.org.uk for York to find details of courses and how to apply and enrol. They can also find out how Adult Learning North Yorkshire and York Learning can support students through their studies, including assistance with course fees, childcare costs while they study and access to any additional resources they might need while studying as an adult learner.

The Department for Health £1 million Defibrillator Fund Now Open

Applications are now open for the £1 million Defibrillator Community Automated External Defibrillators (AED) fund.

The Department for Health and Social Care has launched a fund to help fund public accessible defibrillators.

This will provide 2,000 new public access defibrillators for communities across England. Anyone in your constituency can apply. Would you be so kind to circulate with residents in your constituency? 1900 applications will receive match funding of £750.

 Interested? Apply using the link below! — www.defibgrant.co.uk