

## **North Yorkshire Councillor report - May 2026**

### **Record year for families to receive their first-choice primary school**

A record 96 per cent of families in North Yorkshire have secured their first choice of primary school - an increase from 95 per cent last year.

Of all the families in the county who requested a primary school place for their child from September 2026, 99 per cent received an offer from one of their top three preferences for a school. The number of children starting primary school in North Yorkshire in September is 5,137 pupils.

National Offer Day for primary school places is April 16, when parents and carers of children in North Yorkshire starting primary school or moving up from infants to juniors learn which school they will be attending from September onwards.

Nationally last year, 92.6 per cent of parents and carers in the country received an offer from their first choice of primary school.

For children currently in nursery who are due to start primary school in September 2027, parents and carers will be able to apply from October 15, 2026.

Families can find out more information about the admissions process at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Parents and carers are being reminded that, now that school places have been allocated, North Yorkshire Council will review eligibility for free home-to-school transport and will notify families of the outcome by email by Monday, June 15.

Free travel is provided to the nearest suitable school - this may not be the catchment school for admissions purposes - for pupils from Reception to Year 11 if it is more than the statutory walking distances of two miles for children under eight, and more than three miles for children aged eight and up. Children may also qualify for free travel if the route they walk to their nearest school is under these distances and is assessed as being unsafe, or if they have additional needs.

More information is available online at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/HomeToSchool](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/HomeToSchool) where you can also watch a short video explaining some of the frequently asked questions about free school travel.

### **New registration scheme set to launch at recycling centres**

A new registration scheme designed to improve access to North Yorkshire's household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) and ensure the service is used fairly by residents has now gone live on Monday, April 27.

Residents will now need to register their name, address and vehicle before visiting any of the county's 20 HWRCs, in a move designed to help ensure the sites are only used by North Yorkshire residents who fund the service. Registration is free, takes a couple of minutes, and lasts for three years.

This should reduce visits from those outside the county, which currently accounts for about one in six users and costs North Yorkshire ratepayers up to £400,000 a year. The introduction of the scheme follows a detailed review and a 12-week consultation, which received more than 3,000 responses. Of these, 69 per cent supported restricting access to residents, and 61 per cent backed limits for CLVs.

In 2024/25, the county's recycling centres handled 64,500 tonnes of waste and received 1.6 million visits. The new scheme is expected to support savings of up to £400,000 per year, including £300,000 from restricting non-resident use and £100,000 from limiting CLV visits.

Residents can register online from April 27 and use the centres straight away. Nothing will be sent in the post, and staff will check number plates on arrival.

Owners of commercial-like vehicles (CLVs) will also be able to make up to 12 free visits per year to dispose of their own household waste once registered. This change is designed to prevent the council from inadvertently accepting commercial waste free of charge, while still supporting residents who own larger vehicles.

Residents can register online at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/hwrc](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/hwrc)

Those without internet access can call the council on 0300 131 2 131, or visit a library or council office for help.

## **Free online tool to support residents**

It takes a lot for someone to ask for help, and when they do, being able to guide them quickly and clearly matters.

Innate Needs is the UK's most complete support map, bringing together local services into a single, easy-to-use snapshot of what's available in your area.

It has already mapped national networks such as Citizens Advice, Trussell, Warm Welcome and Databank, alongside thousands of smaller independent organisations.

The platform brings together what's already out there, reflecting information directly from organisations' own published sources, so you can signpost with confidence without needing to search across multiple places.

This is only the start and is continuing to build out coverage and would welcome your input to ensure services in your area are represented as accurately as possible.

It's ready to use, free to access, and designed to support your residents in the moments that matter. [Click here](#) to explore all local support services in your area.

## **Nominations open to shine a light on community champions**

The search for North Yorkshire's unsung heroes is under way to claim prestigious awards celebrating those who make a difference in their community as new categories have been launched for this year's ceremony.

North Yorkshire Council has opened nominations for the annual Community Awards which recognise organisations and individual volunteers who selflessly dedicate their time to improving lives.

This year sees the introduction of two new categories. The first, wellbeing and community connection, recognises organisations or groups who support people in their communities to feel healthier, more connected and included, and the importance of physical and mental wellbeing.

The second, inclusive communities, recognises organisations or groups who bring people together and help them flourish. This could include breaking technological barriers to help people access services or remove physical barriers to take part in activities.

The commitment to the community category remains for another year, which recognises individual volunteers who have demonstrated unwavering dedication and exceptional service to our community.

Last year, the Malton Free Fridge project won the collaborative spirit category, where unpaid volunteers collect food six days a week that would otherwise be wasted from local businesses, supermarkets, gardens and allotments, and distribute it to any taker. They collaborate with the Wesley Centre, which provides support and a venue for the sorting and distributing of food supplies.

The winner of last year's community impact category was Share Skipton. Its members run a library of things where people can lend useful items such as leaf blowers, sewing machines, hoovers and power tools at a low cost. They also run a

repair café where people can get broken or damaged items fixed by expert volunteers for free.

The closing date for nominations is July 5. Nomination forms can be completed online at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/communityawards](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/communityawards) Finalists will be invited to an awards ceremony at the North Yorkshire Wider Partnership Conference at the Pavilions of Harrogate, North Yorkshire Showground, on October 16.

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. Each finalist will receive a trophy and a framed certificate.

### **Maximum taxi fares to be reviewed in light of hike in fuel prices**

Plans to revise the maximum cost of taking a taxi in North Yorkshire are set to be considered in response to calls from the trade. There has been a steady increase in fuel prices following the start of the war in the Middle East and there is currently no prospect of them decreasing.

Since the current maximum fares were introduced in July 2024, the price of petrol has increased by 17.58 per cent, with diesel increasing by 42.26 per cent.

On Tuesday, May 12, North Yorkshire Council's executive members will be asked to approve a five per cent increase in maximum fares.

Under the plans, between 7am and 10pm, there would be an increase from £2.22 to £2.33 per mile, and £20.23 to £21.24 per hour waiting time. The cost of taking a taxi between 10pm and 7am, including public holidays, would increase from £3.15 to £3.31 per mile, and £28.90 to £30.35 per hour waiting time. During the Christmas and New Year period, there would be an increase from £4.20 to £4.41 per mile, and £38.54 to £40.47 per hour waiting time.

The revised costs only apply to hackney carriage vehicles which can be hailed by passengers on the roadside, stand on a rank, or be pre-booked. In contrast, private hire vehicles can only operate through pre-booking, setting their own fares so customers are encouraged to agree a price before their journey.

The report can be viewed or downloaded as a PDF here (item 5) – [Review of maximum hackney carriage fares.](#)

