



The Mayor's

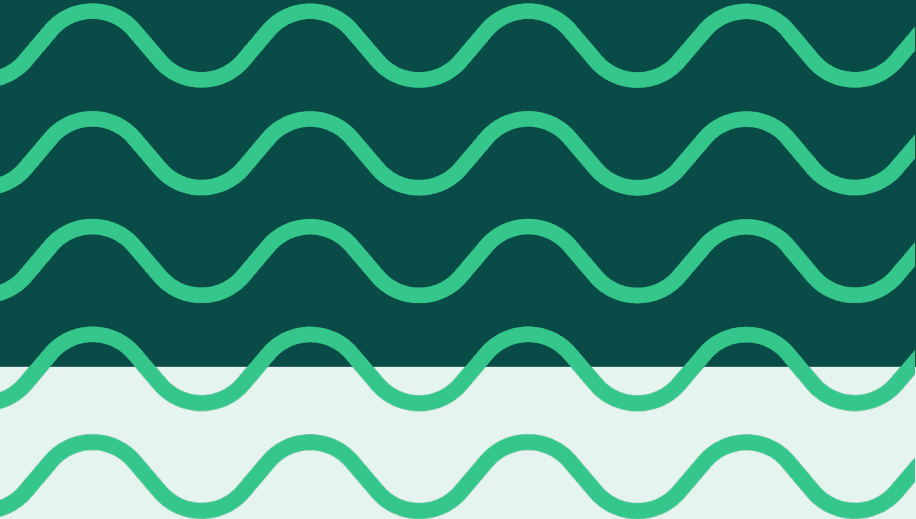
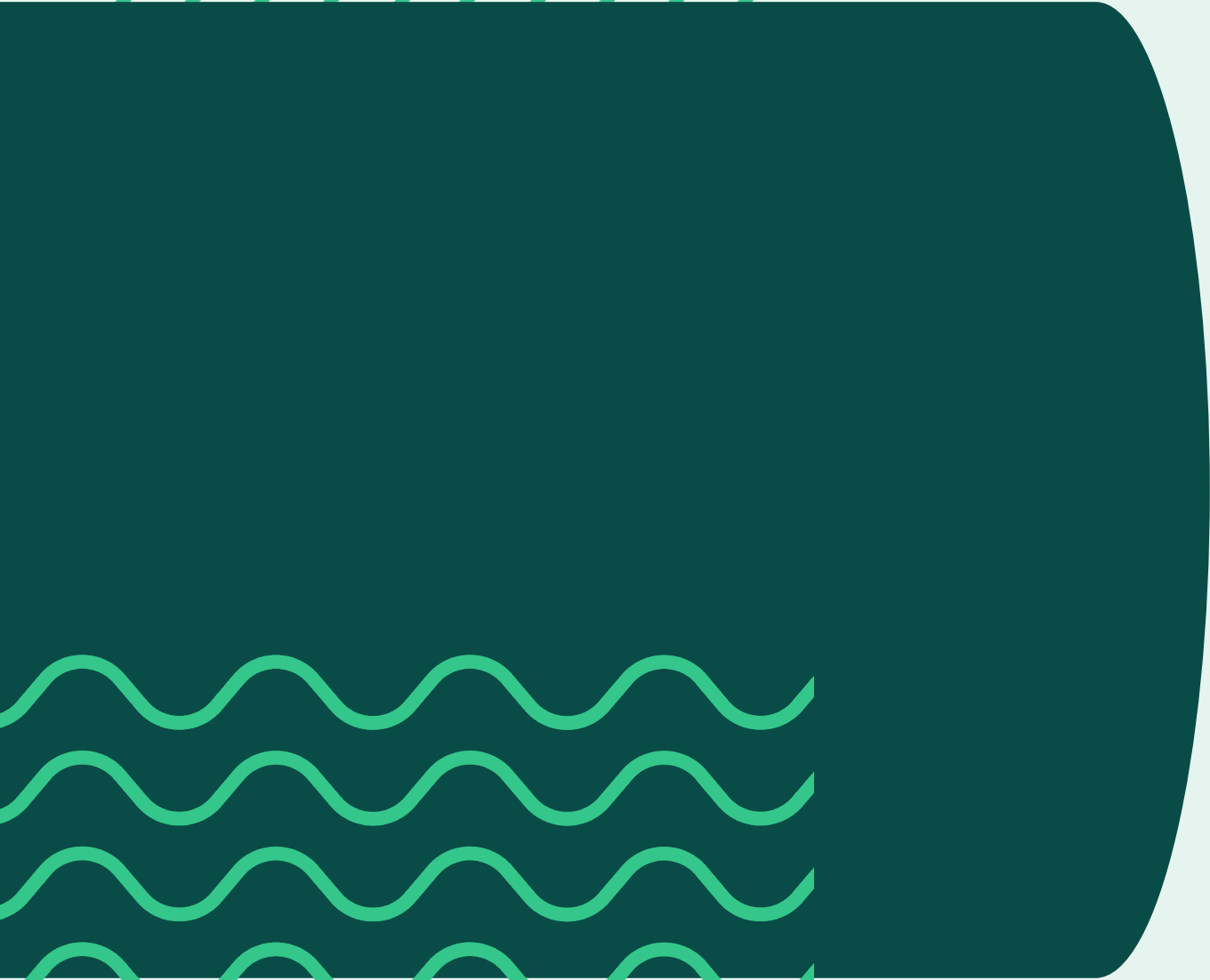
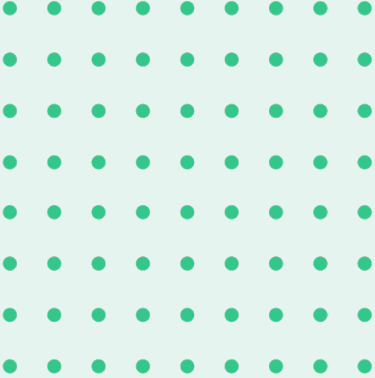
# Rural Action Plan 2026 – 2035

July 2026



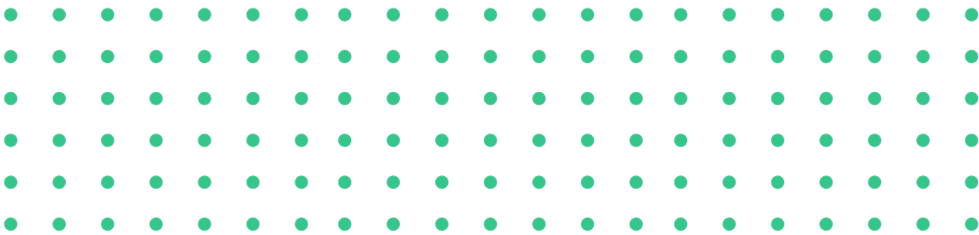
YORK  
& NORTH  
YORKSHIRE  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

DAVID  
SKAITH  
MAYOR



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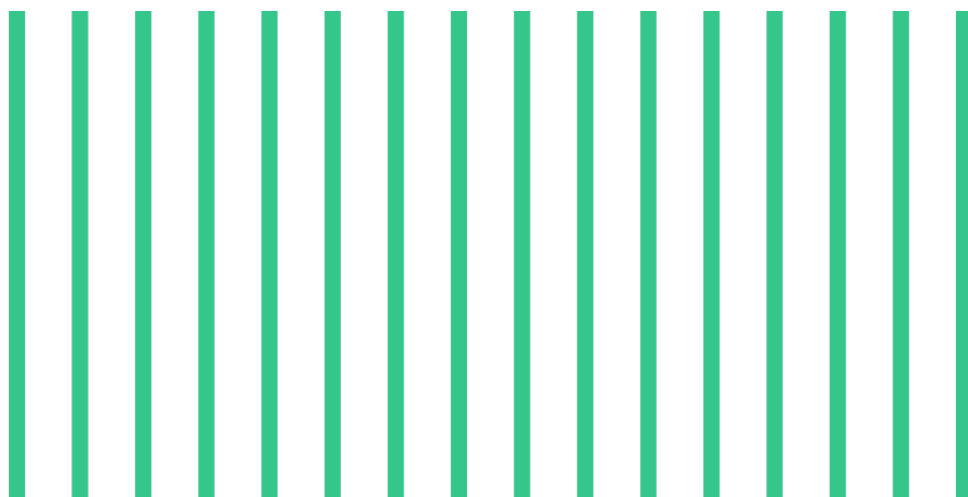




David Skaith,  
Mayor of York  
and North Yorkshire

## My ambition:

“Our rural communities will be places of ambition, not an afterthought – where people can afford to put down roots, find good work close to home, and leave their children a future worth choosing”.



# The Mayor's commitments to rural communities.



## By 2035:



Our rural economy will grow by 20%, creating more and better paid jobs.



New cultural offers will inspire visitors to visit all year and stay for longer, growing our £8bn visitor economy.



Our rural areas have safer roads and will be safe places to live.



Everyone that wants full digital access will have it, unlocking higher pay and careers of home working and new businesses.



New and innovative modes of transport providing genuine alternatives to car ownership and improve accessibility



More than half our farms will be economically sustainable and more of the food grown in our region will be used by our schools and hospitals.



At least 5,000 new homes will be built in our rural towns and villages.



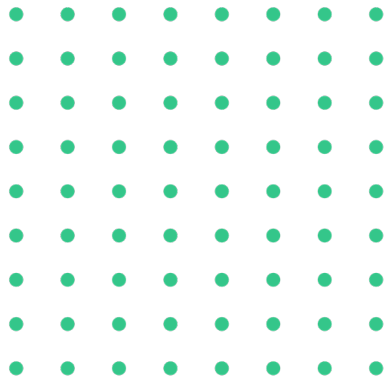
Diverse and innovative rural businesses, that thrive in our villages and market towns, will provide well-paid employment opportunities.



Everyone in rural communities who needs upskilling can access flexible training and employment support.



More of our communities will have energy independence and lower fuel poverty.



## Our current baseline:



37% have a Level 4 Qualification or over in rural YNY compared to 34% in urban YNY.



32% are aged 34 years old or younger in rural YNY, compared to 41.4% in urban YNY.



Average house price in rural YNY is £52,750 more than urban YNY.



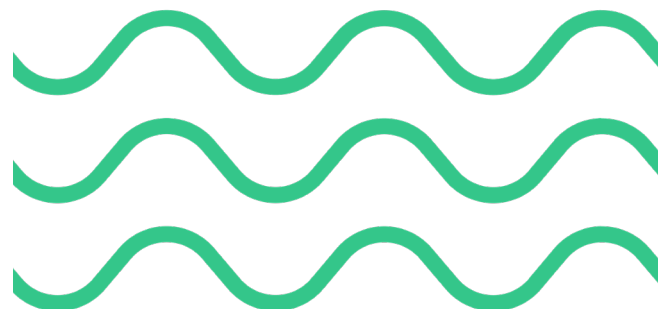
2.5% of people in rural YNY travel to work by bus or train compared to 5.1% in urban YNY.



7% of premises in rural YNY have download speeds of 30 Mbit/s or less, compared to 1% in urban YNY.



27% of part-time employees in rural YNY work in hospitality.



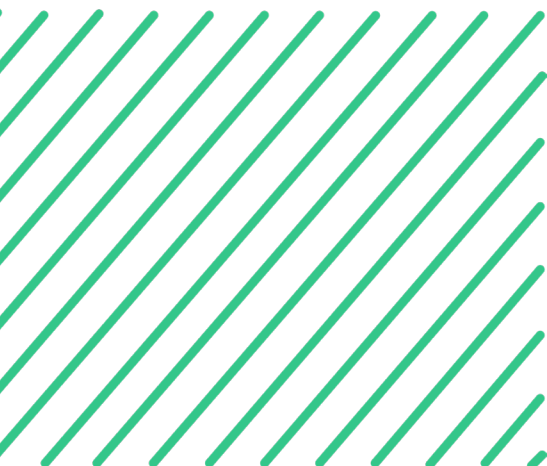
# How will we deliver the Mayor's priorities?



All Combined Authority activity should be considered through a “rural lens”, provided by three priorities:

## 1 Rural communities people can afford to live and build a future in

- 1.1 Address Cost-of-Living Barriers through more affordable homes in our rural communities and decreasing the reliance on fossil-fuels for power by increasing energy independence.
- 1.2 Improve connectivity amongst our rural communities, including alternative modes of transport and greater digital connectivity.





## 2 Rural communities that are safe, healthy, and full of opportunity

- 2.1 Support growth within our rural economy, supported by access to skills training, innovation and a welcoming rural market towns and sustainable visitor economy.
- 2.2 Support our farming sector to be more resilient and profitable, including mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
- 2.3 Work closely with Police, Fire & Crime colleagues to address public safety and health within our rural communities, particularly linked to transport.

## 3 Rural communities with a real voice in the decisions that shape them

- 3.1 Ensure rural voices and communities are considered as part of decision-making
- 3.2 Enable our rural communities to be inclusive and engaged

# Introduction



In 2021, the former North Yorkshire County Council established a Rural Commission. It was chaired by the Reverend John Dobson, Dean of Ripon Cathedral. The North Yorkshire Rural Commission recognised that our rural communities have often faced repeated challenges without being provided with either the solutions or the tools to resolve them. Key areas of opportunity and challenges for rural communities were identified by the Commission, including the economy, housing, education, farming, and connectivity (digital, energy and transport).

Yorkshire being abolished. A new North Yorkshire Council was set up and a devolution deal was secured for York and North Yorkshire. In February 2024, the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority was set up, and in May 2024 David Skaith was elected as mayor to lead the Authority.

Devolution has already resulted in major programmes being delivered that have helped rural communities, including the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the Vibrant and Sustainable High Streets Fund, and the Carbon Negative Challenge Fund.

*...our rural communities have often faced repeated challenges without being provided with either the solutions or the tools to resolve them*

Crucially, the Commission recognised the need for devolution to enable rural communities in North Yorkshire to be empowered to tackle key issues. The devolution journey began in 2023, with Local Government Reorganisation, which led to the County Council and district councils in North



*Our rural communities are at the heart of the region, from their heritage and culture, to their role in stewarding the natural environment*

The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority (CA) recognises the unique rural-urban mix and coastal geography of the region. Our rural communities are at the heart of the region, from their heritage and culture, to their role in stewarding the natural environment. They are home to a variety of innovative and growing sectors including food and farming and clean energy, as well as technology and creative industries.

In recognising our rural communities, the CA aims to consider their unique opportunities and challenges in all aspects of its work. The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 also sets out rural communities as a key competency that Mayoral Strategic Authorities including the CA should consider.

The Mayor's Rural Action Plan aims to set out the approach of how the CA, working with North Yorkshire Council and

City of York Council, will ensure all rural communities thrive as part of the York and North Yorkshire region. This will be achieved by ensuring that all activity is considered through a “rural lens”, provided by three priorities:

- **Rural communities people can afford to live and build a future in**
- **Rural communities that are safe, healthy, and full of opportunity**
- **Rural communities with a real voice in the decisions that shape them.**

Many of the key areas of opportunity and challenge considered by the North Yorkshire Commission are included within the cross-sector priorities and strongly align to the role and responsibilities of the CA, although recognising other partners will be critical in its delivery.

*The Plan identifies CA actions that will be delivered to support rural communities and contribute to the delivery of the priorities*

The Plan identifies CA actions that will be delivered to support rural communities and ensure our cross-cutting priorities are met. It also sets out mayoral commitments for what the impact of successful delivery will look like by 2035 in the region.

The commitments include figures that are based on applying regional strategies and their existing targets to rural areas, including the CA Housing Growth Strategy and the Local Growth Plan. Due to the lack of extensive rural data for the region, these figures have been developed as indications of ambition for the region and will be expected to be revised over time as more precise data is developed.

The Mayor's Rural Action plan will be promoted throughout the CA and looks to build on wider regional ambitions including the Local Growth Plan and a Strategy for a Sustainable Future. The Rural Action Plan is a live document and should be reviewed regularly to ensure that the actions expected are relevant.

# Where and who are our rural communities in York and North Yorkshire?



Rural areas are defined under the Office for National Statistics' Rural Urban Classification as; areas with less than 10,000 people including rural villages, hamlets, rural towns and countryside. They must be more than 200 metres away from a built-up area up with more than 10,000 people.

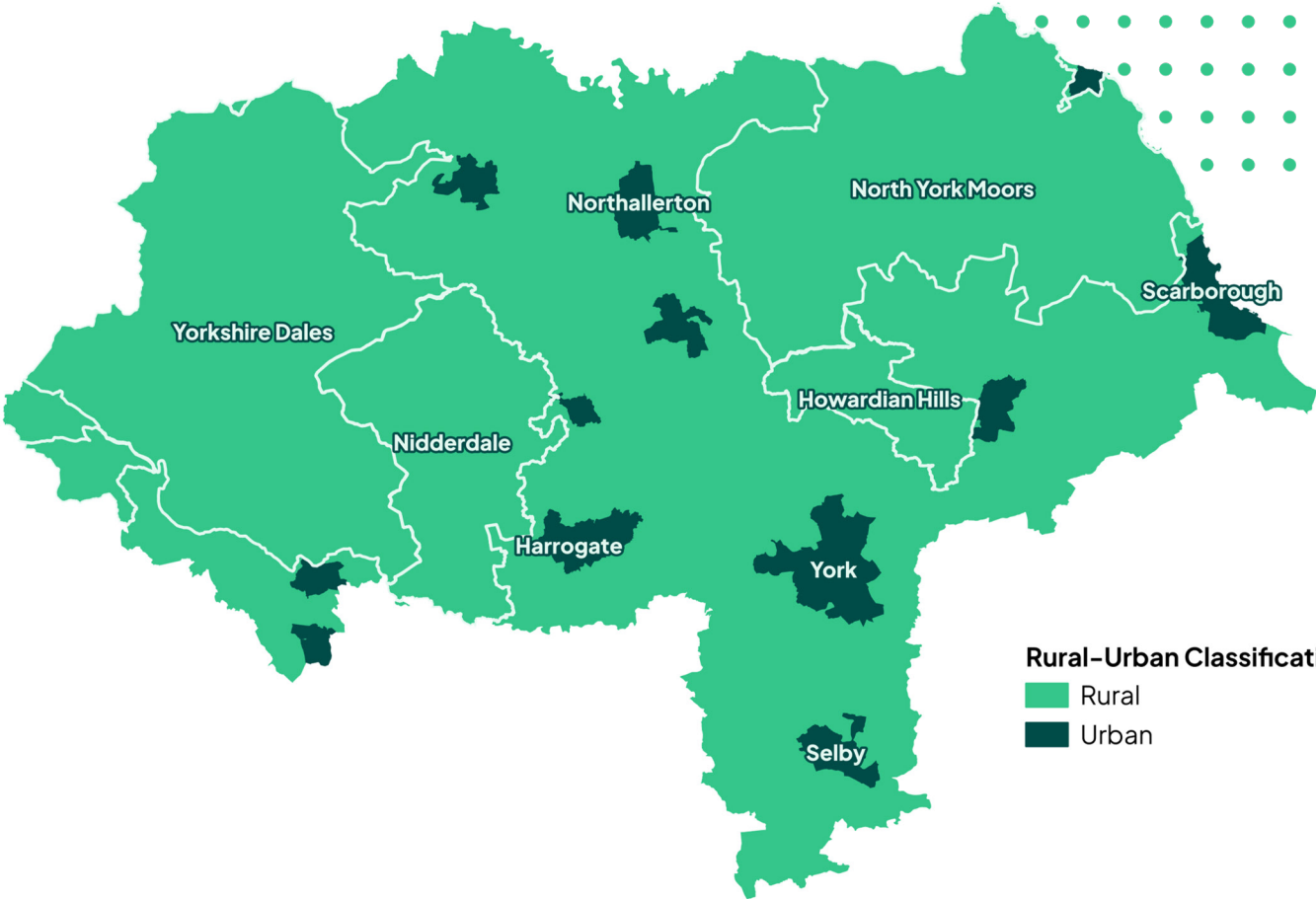
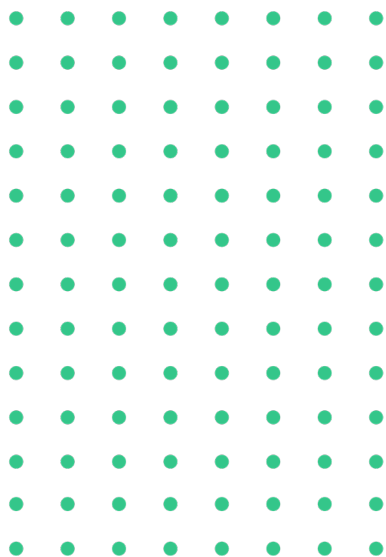
York and North Yorkshire includes sparse rural communities which are rural areas that are not within a 30 minutes drive from a built-up area of over 75,000 people.

## Land use in York and North Yorkshire

**94%** of land in York and North Yorkshire is rural

**68%** of land in York and North Yorkshire is dedicated to agriculture

**47%** of land in York and North Yorkshire is in a protected landscape (National Parks or National Landscapes)



## Priority 1

Rural communities  
people can afford  
to live and build a  
future in



## 1.1 Address Cost-of-Living Barriers through more affordable homes in our rural communities and decreasing the reliance on fossil-fuels for power by increasing energy independence.

Cost of living is often higher in rural communities due to a variety of factors, leaving many on lower or medium incomes little choice but to move away, particularly younger generations who are on entry-level salaries and want to be connected to a variety of opportunities.

The North Yorkshire Rural Commission highlighted that rural communities face shortages of affordable

homes, with the high cost of rural housing meaning that it is unaffordable for low- and medium income families. Housing is also older in rural areas, with it often stone-built leading to colder homes that are reliant on oil-heating and weak electricity connections that are vulnerable in storms.

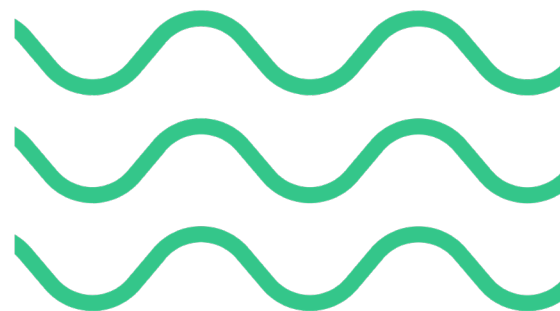
### Which of the Mayor's commitments will this target?



At least 5,000 new homes will be built in our rural towns and villages.



More of our communities will have energy independence and lower fuel poverty.



## 1.2 Improve connectivity amongst our rural communities, including alternative modes of transport and greater digital connectivity

The North Yorkshire Rural Commission recognised that despite significant investment, digital connectivity is still a challenge in rural areas, with this impacting the opportunity for businesses to grow, innovate and access new technologies, as well as for residents to access key services and communicate with others. There is a challenge of transport in rural areas and its accessibility and affordability

for residents to travel for school, employment, shopping and health facilities, and the environmental impact including of visitors driving to rural areas.

### Which of the Mayor's commitments will this target?



New and innovative modes of transport providing genuine alternatives to car ownership and improve accessibility



Everyone that wants full digital access will have it, unlocking higher pay and careers of home working and new businesses.

# Cost of Living

## Affordable housing

### What will be done (2026 – 2029)

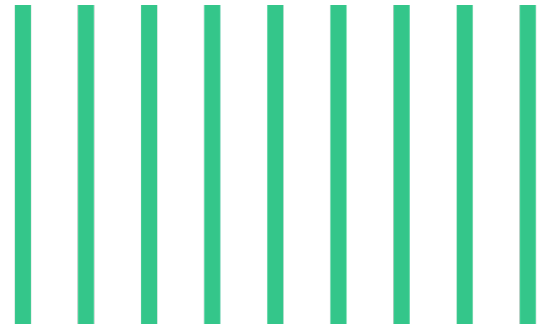
The CA will:

- Work with partners in the Strategic Place Partnership (SPP) including Homes England, City of York Council and North Yorkshire Council, to increase homebuilding across the region, including unlocking barriers to rural affordable housing delivery.
- Develop a Rural Housing Action Plan with the Strategic Place Partnership and the North Yorkshire Rural Housing Enabler Partnership. The plan will look at measures such as assessments of where housing is suitable and the planning system, and how they can better support an increase in rural affordable housing supply.
- Undertake Rural Housing trailblazers to test new measures considered in the Rural Housing Action Plan on specific rural sites and housing projects.
- Work with local community groups, parish and town councils and the North Yorkshire Rural Housing Enabler Partnership to identify rural exception sites that could support more affordable and community-led housing, enabling local people to remain living and working within their community.

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### The future for rural communities (2035)

At least 5,000 new houses will be built across the region within several rural communities including as part of rural villages and market towns. The CA Housing Growth Strategy sets out a target of 60,000 new homes to be built by 2035 in the region, and with nearly 95% of the land in the region being rural, many of these homes will need to be in rural areas. These will provide more homes that enable people including young people to live and work in rural areas. Where possible, community-led and affordable housing will be considered primarily to be built, including the potential to re-purpose existing buildings, such as old agricultural buildings.



## Energy independence and transition

### What will be done (2026 – 2029)

The CA will:

- Develop and test opportunities for regional energy independence and reduce reliance on fossil-fuels in rural communities, such as through different energy technologies i.e. geothermal, anaerobic digestion, biofuels, and wind, making sure they benefit and work for local communities where they are situated.
- Consider public and private investment opportunities in energy independence for rural communities, working in partnership with Great British Energy, North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council.
- Work with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and other key partners to deliver the Retrofit Strategy, including opportunities for devolved retrofit funding that can support rural communities' benefit from retrofit, ensuring this considers the heritage and building materials of rural buildings including houses and agricultural buildings.

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### The future for rural communities (2035)

Our rural communities will have more energy independence and lower fuel poverty, breaking our dependence on fossil-fuels for heating and power. A resilient energy network will support rural communities to adopt renewable energy and retrofit buildings in a way that is suitable to them. This will help lower fuel poverty in rural communities by reducing energy costs and providing sufficient power for businesses to grow.

# Connectivity

## Connected transport

### What will be done (2026 – 2029)

The CA will:

- Develop a Local Transport Plan that reflects the diverse needs of our different communities, including rural and remote areas across the region.
  - Improve road safety on rural roads and promote sustainable access to the countryside to support the tourism economy and better health outcomes for residents and visitors from being in nature.
  - Invest the Mayoral Transport Fund to improve the transport in the region including in rural communities, making sure that it puts people first and is accessible. It will aim to reduce car usage where possible and encourage other forms of transport.
  - Develop and pilot innovative approaches to rural transport, ensuring these are accessible to all those in rural communities including older people and those with disabilities.
  - Explore how rural communities can access and benefit from Northern Powerhouse Rail improvements in the region.
- 

### The future for rural communities (2035)

Most rural communities and visitors will have more choice of non-car modes of transport to access a variety of activities including going to work, school, GP or hospital, or shopping. Walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport options in rural areas will be improved so more rural residents have a genuine choice about how they move around.



## Digital connectivity

### What will be done (2026 – 2029)

The CA will:

- Bring together a Digital Inclusion and Access group to work with relevant organisations such as North Yorkshire Council, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to improve digital infrastructure in rural areas and help unlock growth opportunities through effective digital connectivity and innovation.
  - Mapping of major digital and mobile phone signal blackspots in the region will be undertaken to help the CA and the Digital Inclusion and Access group consider key areas that require improved digital connectivity for rural businesses and homes.
  - Develop a Digital Investment Plan that will enable targeted approaches, working with partners including digital network and broadband providers to have a route-map for reducing digital blackspots.
- 

### The future for rural communities (2035)

Effective digital connectivity including high speed broadband will be provided to as many businesses and homes who need it, as possible, in rural communities. This includes broadband and mobile phone signal which supports work and businesses, access to healthcare and wellbeing support, and connecting family, friends and communities, providing better quality of life and reduced isolation.

## Priority 2

Rural communities  
that are safe,  
healthy, and full of  
opportunity



## 2.1 Support our rural businesses and high streets to grow and thrive, building on a variety of sectors including the visitor economy.

The North Yorkshire Rural Commission highlighted that rural communities have high-skilled employment but there is also a significant low wage economy. Young people in rural areas are less likely to go on to higher education after school and access further education.

The Rural economy nationally has been slowing, with its contribution to national Gross Value Added (GVA) declining from 18% in 2001 to 17% in 2023.

Rural communities should have opportunities to engage in the wider economy, including participating in digital innovation and opportunities. A variety of sectors including the creative industries, the bioeconomy and clean energy can offer opportunities to diversify the rural economy and reduce its dependence solely on traditional sectors, providing more skilled and well-paid jobs.

### Which of the Mayor's commitments will this target?



Our rural economy will grow by 20%, creating more and better paid jobs.



New cultural offers will inspire visitors to visit all year and stay for longer, growing our £8bn visitor economy.



Everyone in rural communities who needs upskilling can access flexible training and employment support.



Diverse and innovative rural businesses, that thrive in our villages and market towns, will provide well-paid employment opportunities.

## 2.2 Support our farming sector to be more resilient and profitable, and enable our rural communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change

The North Yorkshire Rural Commission recognised that climate change poses a major risk to rural communities especially from flooding and extreme weather. It also offers opportunities for green skilled employment and investment into nature.

Food and farming is a key sector for rural communities and has faced significant instability

from policy change and volatile markets in recent years. The Review of the state of farm finances and key challenges faced, commissioned by the Mayor in 2024, highlighted that over half of commercial farm businesses in York and North Yorkshire are currently economically unsustainable.

**Which of the Mayor's commitments will this target?**



More than half our farms will be economically sustainable and more of the food grown in our region will be used by our schools and hospitals.

## 2.3 Work closely with Police, Fire & Crime colleagues to address public safety and health within our rural communities, particularly linked to transport.

Rural communities face a disproportionate older population with a range of health-risks and needs, and limited connectivity both physically and digitally that reduces access to healthcare

services. North Yorkshire is also the largest policing area in England by land mass, with dispersed communities requiring responsive and flexible Police and Fire and Rescue services.

**Which of the Mayor's commitments will this target?**



Our rural areas have safer roads and will be safe places to live.

# Growth, Visitors & Towns

## Growing the rural economy

### What will be done (2026 – 2029)

The CA will:

- Deliver the Local Growth Plan and support opportunities for rural communities in the region to grow economically and be part of wider regional growth ambitions including the Northern Growth Strategy.
- Develop and deliver sector action plans for the region's competitive advantage sectors that can support rural growth including; food and farming innovation, clean energy, and the creative industries. Develop plans for key employment sectors including the visitor economy and health and social care.
- Provide a business advice and growth support service for new rural businesses across a variety of sectors, and support existing rural businesses, recognising the rural nature of the businesses and ensure they can access different markets including export.
- Invest the Local Growth Fund to encourage public and private investment into the rural economy, particularly through competitive advantage sectors and key employment sectors. Consider how the CA can tackle barriers to growth, including planning.

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### The future for rural communities (2035)

Our rural economy will grow by 20%. Growth will be driven by a diversity of sectors contributing to regional growth of 2.25% per year, and the rural economy will be resilient and productive providing high-skilled and well-paid jobs.



## Skills and work

### What will be done (2026 – 2029)

The CA will:

- Commission adult skills and employment support provision to improve skills and expand opportunities within rural communities.
  - Work with high-quality skills providers to deliver skills training and support that reflects the needs of rural communities.
  - Deliver the Adult Skills Strategy, and the Get York and North Yorkshire Working Plan to address the challenges of access to skills and employment support training in rural areas through flexible delivery modes and places for learning, including expanding online options.
  - Provide skills and employment support training in relevant competitive advantage sectors for rural areas including food and farming innovation, and the unique skill needs of the rural economy such as heritage skills will be considered.
- 

### The future for rural communities (2035)

Accessible and flexible skills and employment support will be available to all adults who require it in rural communities and will aim to meet the needs of rural businesses.

## Rural market towns and welcoming visitor economy

### What will be done (2026 – 2029)

The CA will:

- Deliver the Vibrant and Sustainable High Street Fund to support high streets in rural market towns across the region, boosting footfall and growth opportunities.
  - Develop and deliver Town Investment Plans that enable rural market towns to be welcoming and attract new visitors and customers.
  - Work with partners through the Local Visitor Economy Partnership for York and North Yorkshire, ensuring the region is welcoming to visitors and enable a sustainable tourism industry.
- 

### The future for rural communities (2035)

There will be over 20 thriving rural market towns that are sustainable hubs for tourism, the regional economy, transport, and other services.

# Farming, Nature & Climate

## Food and farming innovation

### What will be done (2026 – 2029)

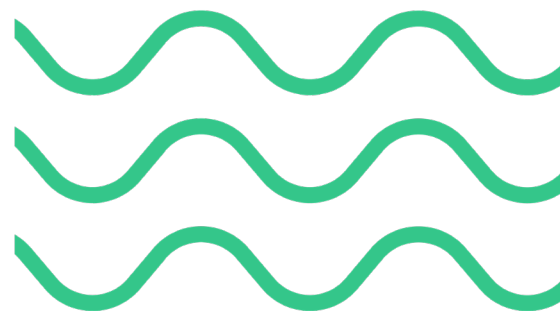
The CA will:

- Deliver on the recommendations of the Farm Study commissioned in 2025 to support farm businesses in the region to improve business management and agricultural practices and become more economically sustainable.
- Work with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), National Park Authorities and National Landscapes, North Yorkshire Council and other key regional partners, to develop coherent landscape-based advice and support for farm businesses that enables them to consider ways to transition practices.
- Improve access to data including from Defra and with key regional partners, to help guide the delivery of support to farm businesses.
- Work across teams and with agricultural colleges such as Askam Bryan College and Craven College, to develop effective skills training focused on food and farming innovation to support the adoption of agri-tech and regenerative agricultural practices.
- Support farm businesses to access fair and local markets including food bought by public services like schools and hospitals in the region.

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### The future for rural communities (2035)

More than half our farms will be economically sustainable and more of the food grown in our region will be used by our schools and hospitals. Access to public sector buying of food, will support more of our farm businesses across the region to be economically sustainable and profitable. Access to advice and support that understands the specific landscape that farm businesses work in such as uplands, will also enable farms to continue to contribute multiple benefits to rural communities alongside food security and economic growth including nature recovery, access to the countryside, and emergency aid such as snow-ploughing.



## Rural sustainability and resilience

### What will be done (2026 – 2029)

The CA will:

- Deliver the Strategy for a Sustainable Future and work with key partners and rural communities to equip rural areas to be sustainable and implement key mitigations to climate change.
- Work with key partners and rural communities to implement climate adaptation measures in rural areas that are identified within the regional Climate Adaptation Study to support resilience of rural areas.
- Support the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Plan and Protected Landscape Management Plans that enable improved land management to maintain food security, reduce climate risks such as flooding in rural areas, and help nature recovery.
- Develop local opportunities for investment into natural capital, building on the Local Investment in Natural Capital programme and support landowners, farmers and managers get paid fairly for nature recovery.

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### The future for rural communities (2035)

Over 30,000 hectares of trees will have been planted and more of our land in the region will be supporting nature recovery. This will support the region including rural communities to be on the path to being carbon negative by 2040. It will also help rural communities adapt to climate change including reducing flooding and the risks of drought.

# Public Safety & Health

## Public safety in rural communities

### What will be done (2026 – 2029)

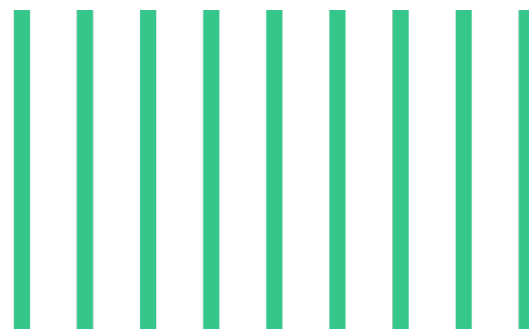
The CA will:

- Support the Mayor in holding North Yorkshire Police and Fire and Rescue Services to account for delivering effective rural crime prevention and community safety, including the Police and Crime Plan and the Fire and Rescue Service Plan.
- Support the Mayor to hold North Yorkshire Police to account for delivering the Police and Crime Plan and North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to deliver the Fire and Rescue Service Plan, ensuring that sufficient infrastructure is maintained in the right locations to support effective emergency responses.
- Ensure strong engagement with rural communities, building on the work of the Rural Taskforce to tackle issues such as agricultural theft, wildlife crime and violence against women and girls.
- Work closely with the Road Safety Partnership to tackle unsafe and dangerous driving on rural roads across the region and support rural communities to have safer roads.
- Support oversight of prevention-focused activity within Fire and Rescue services, particularly for those most at risk and in remote areas where response times are longer.
- Raise the importance of tackling rural crime nationally and be a leading voice on key national networks including the National Rural Crime Network.

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### The future for rural communities (2035)

Our rural areas will have safer roads and will be safe places to live, through targeted prevention-focused activities and partnership working to reduce crime and improve community safety.



## Rural health needs

### What will be done (2026 – 2029)

The CA will:

- Support preventative approaches that enable people in rural areas to live healthier, more independent lives for longer, with a particular focus on healthy ageing, physical activity, social connection and early intervention.
- Consider opportunities to improve accessibility to healthcare services for rural communities including through better digital and transport connectivity.
- Work with relevant partners including the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) to consider opportunities to deliver innovative health pilot projects such as the use of rural market towns and rural village halls as hubs for healthcare access.
- Use the unique countryside and nature offer within rural areas, especially in the Protected Landscapes, to support health through a Natural Health Service, prescribes and funds access to nature that can help wider health outcomes.

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### The future for rural communities (2035)

There will be increased access to healthcare services in rural communities through improvements to digital and transport connectivity. Alongside increased connectivity, better housing, reduced fuel poverty, and greater access to nature will improve health outcomes for rural communities.

## Priority 3

Rural communities  
with a real voice in  
the decisions that  
shape them



## 3.1 Ensure rural voices and communities are considered as part of decision-making

The North Yorkshire Rural Commission noted that devolution is critical to securing long-term investment into the region. Rural communities need to see and benefit from the opportunities of devolution and be part of the wider ambitions of the region including local growth and a sustainable future. Community and social infrastructure is important

for rural communities, such as the role of village halls as key hubs. These provide spaces and resources that support community cohesion, reduce isolation and provide resilience particularly during emergencies.



## 3.2 Enable our rural communities to be inclusive and engaged

Rural communities in York and North Yorkshire are varied and diverse. Rural villages in sparse areas often face different opportunities and challenges compared to rural villages closer to urban areas. A one-size fits all approach does not work for rural communities. York and North Yorkshire includes the largest county in England by land mass, with

rural communities in dales, on moors, near the coast, and in vales. Each community is unique, with their specific geography, demographic and history shaping their opportunities and challenges.



# Rural Voices & Community

## Rural voices in decision-making

### What will be done (2026 – 2029)

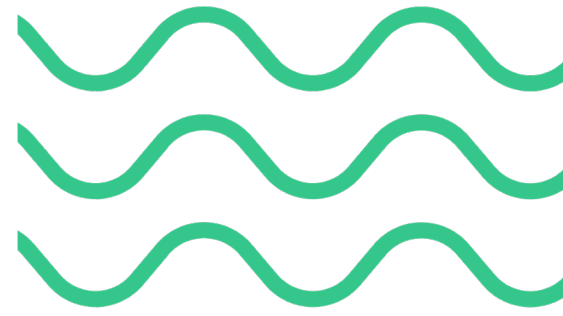
The CA will:

- Use the CA Food, Farming and Rural Affairs Expert Advisory Panel (Renewed Grow Yorkshire) to provide advice, guidance and oversight to the CA on approaches that can support the food and farming sector and rural communities, ensuring they are part of wider regional ambitions including local growth.
- Work with central government to explore further devolution including the potential of an integrated settlement, which would enable the CA to have greater control to invest in the opportunities and challenges faced by rural communities, ensuring such investment is guided by rural communities.
- Ensure that policies, strategies and programmes developed that impact rural communities, do not take a 'one-size fits all' approach towards rural communities. The unique nature of individual communities including their specific opportunities and challenges, will be recognised and acted on.
- Support the mayor to be a leading voice and champion for rural communities at a national level, recognising their role and contribution to the nation economically, culturally, and socially.

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### The future for rural communities (2035)

Rural communities will have flexible and accessible routes to have a say on the work of the CA. A place-based lens will be applied where possible to the development of approaches, ensuring the uniqueness of each rural community is acknowledged.



## Community inclusion and engagement

### What will be done (2026 – 2029)

The CA will:

- Consider the findings of the Community Wealth-Building Commission and opportunities to support community wealth in rural areas including community ownership of key facilities and amenities such as pubs and sports clubs.
- Continue the leading role of the CA Police, Fire and Crime Directorate in engagement with rural communities through its dedicated engagement team, including undertaking regular in-person visits, events and outreach to build relationships and understand local concerns.
- Promote and engage with rural communities through a variety of communication methods including innovative digital approaches and in-person engagement activities. Work with Renewed Grow Yorkshire to ensure the CA approaches to communicating and engaging rural communities are appropriate.
- Consider opportunities to work with the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector and support community-based projects and encourage participation of different demographics in rural communities including young people and those from ethnic minority backgrounds.
- Engage with young people in rural communities including Young Farmers' Clubs and other youth groups to understand their experiences, aspirations and concerns. Work with the North Yorkshire Youth Commission to ensure engagement with young people is appropriate and effective.

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### The future for rural communities (2035)

Most rural communities will be aware of the CA, and there will be positive recognition of its role in empowering rural communities. The CA will promote innovative community projects and encourage greater engagement and participation in communities and the work of the CA, including young people.

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## Rural Action Plan 2026 – 2035

[enquiries@yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk)  
[yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk](http://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk)

West Offices  
Station Rise  
York  
YO1 6GA

## About us

The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority has been created by the City of York Council and North Yorkshire Council and is a legally recognised, single body. Our role is to use some of the money and powers, that up to now have been held by central government, and work with local leaders and communities to invest in ways that will help to make York and North Yorkshire a better place for you to live, work and do business.