

Draft response to North Yorkshire Local Plan: our first conversation

The following our draft representations to be made on the first round of consultations on the North Yorkshire Local Plan.

These representations could be made by MNAP and, subject to their endorsement, both Malton and Norton Town Councils. Alternatively, they could be made separately by the three organisations. There would be greater strength in adopting a combined response as the plan is viewing Malton, Old Malton and Norton as a single settlement in its settlement hierarchy.

Representations need to be submitted electronically by 15th July 2025.

Document page		Question	Response
16		Question: Developing a local plan vision In order to develop a local plan vision that represents the different places within the North Yorkshire Local Plan area, what is important to you about your local area that should be reflected in the vision? Please specify the area.	<p>Area = Malton, Old Malton and Norton</p> <p>Our vision, priorities and policies are clearly set out in our recently adopted Neighbourhood Plan which includes a vision statement, as follows;</p> <p>“Malton and Norton boast a rich heritage and culture, from their historical origins and archaeological and architectural legacy to their surviving traditional horse racing and food-based industries. These are the bedrocks on which our future vision for the towns are based. As such, by the end of the plan period in 2027, our three conservation areas will be better understood, their Assets better protected as a result, and their appearance and character enhanced by sensitive improvements in keeping with</p>

			<p>their key elements and features. This enlightened approach to development and design will also be reflected in the wider Neighbourhood Area. The local food and horse-racing industries which are so much a part of the towns and their hinterland will be confirmed in their status and have developed further within a climate of promotion and encouragement. The tourism which is vital to our towns will have continued to grow powered by the twin engines of heritage and culture. The River Derwent, separating the two towns and running through the heart of the area is the other jewel in our crown but also the potential thorn in our sides! It is rich ecologically, and acknowledged as such by a European wildlife designation, while providing an important leisure resource for all. Conversely, it carries an ever present flood risk, acts as a barrier to movement between the towns and through the very thing that makes it so special (its wildlife) poses challenges to more productive and positive use. The town councils' vision is of a Derwent that remains ecologically rich but which yields up its potential for sympathetic riverside enhancements and the positive use of under-utilised riverside land, through development which respects and works with the river's natural functions. The hope too is that</p>
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			<p>new river crossings will have been created, allowing for much improved road, cycling and pedestrian links between Malton and Norton and, through them and other highway improvements, the alleviation of traffic congestion and air pollution in our town centres. At root, we want the people in our towns to be able to freely enjoy an abundance of simple pleasures in a well- supported and fully serviced community. We aspire to culturally rich and vibrant leisure opportunities, including improvement of existing services and the development of new facilities and wellness activities. We look forward to enjoying two towns which have enjoyed appropriate housing and employment growth and opportunity, within the context of an even higher quality environment, consistent with their status as Ryedale's two principal towns."</p>
17		<p>Question: Developing local plan objectives 1. Do you agree with these draft objectives for the local plan? 2. Are there any additional objectives that need to be included?</p>	<p>Yes, we agree with these draft objectives</p>
19		<p>Question: How much development do we need to plan for? What are your views on the amount of new housing</p>	<p>We agree with the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment that a housing need figure of around 2,500-3,000 dwellings per annum across</p>

		<p>and employment land (for office, industrial and warehouse uses) we may need to plan for?</p>	<p>North Yorkshire is reasonable for the reasons stated.</p> <p>There is currently a serious infrastructure deficit in Malton/Old Malton/Norton which, unless addressed, would preclude additional development. In particular, the drainage system is overloaded resulting in intolerable levels of sewage pollution of the SAC and SSSI designated River Derwent. Flood prevention measures are also required. The transport infrastructure based upon the last 2010 Transport Assessment is already over capacity, this has led to air pollution issues in the town centre which additional traffic would worsen.</p>
19		<p>Question: Developing a spatial strategy Are there any other factors that we need to take into consideration when identifying potential growth locations?</p>	<p>In addition, we should like to see the roles of settlements redefined to include allowing growth where it can lead to the improved viability of settlements through improved sustainability of services and facilities, in particular in smaller rural settlements in the countryside.</p>
21		<p>Question: New settlements</p> <p>1. Do you agree that the potential for new settlements and/or significant extensions to existing built up areas should be explored through the local plan?</p>	<p>Yes, we agree that the potential for new settlements and/or significant extensions to existing built up areas should be explored through the local plan. BUT only where there is adequate infrastructure and facilities to support such extensions on a sustainable basis.</p>

			<p>All opportunities for new settlements should be explored through the Local Plan process building on the work of the government's New Towns Task Force. One or more well located and planned new settlements could substantially alleviate development pressure on existing settlements and infrastructure in other areas across North Yorkshire including Malton/Old Malton and Norton.</p>
		<p>1. Which of the following options do you think should be used to manage development around settlements within the hierarchy?</p> <p>Setting development limits for all settlements in tiers 1 to 5.</p> <p>Setting development limits for some settlements (if choosing this option please specify which tiers or settlements this should apply to).</p> <p>Do not set development limits.</p> <p>Other options (please specify).</p> <p>Please can you state your preferred option from those above.</p>	<p>Development limits for small villages have remained unchanged since they were first detailed in an emerging local plan process in 1996 and have prohibited village growth outside those limits ever since. Small scale development should be permitted contiguous to village development limits on a criteria set basis.</p>
27		<p>Question: Growth options</p> <p>1. Which options should be considered to</p>	<p>First, priority should be to rigorously test the feasibility of new settlements/extensions to existing settlements. This could</p>

		<p>help us deliver growth in a sustainable manner?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prioritising growth in and around main urban areas b. Achieving a greater proportion of development in larger villages with a good range of supporting services and infrastructure c. Dispersing development across a broader range of settlements, including smaller villages d. Growing locations that are well-served by existing and/or new high-quality sustainable transport links e. Developing entirely new settlements / communities <p>2. Are there any other growth options that should be considered?</p>	<p>make a significant impact on housing numbers and reduce pressure elsewhere.</p> <p>Second, selected investment in locations where there is a balance of employment and housing opportunities to improve sustainability and reduce out migration.</p> <p>Third, a balance across the other options, BUT remove Local Needs Occupancy Condition (LNOC) imposed on non 'service' villages in Ryedale; this restriction has virtually brought to a halt any new homes within the development limits of these settlements over the last 10 years, in many cases threatening key community infrastructure. It threatens to do the same over the next 5 to 10 years until a new Local Plan is available. A Local Plan Working Group ran for about two years In Ryedale, during which time it studied the development limits for the 100 or so small villages in Ryedale (known in the plan as 'other villages') and concluded that they could accommodate an <i>average</i> of 10 new houses each (some more, some less). Up to 1,000 new homes could be built in the Ryedale countryside alone, to reinvigorate those small rural communities blighted by the LNOC condition and provide new homes.</p>
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35		<p>Question: Promoting health and reducing health inequalities</p> <p>1. What health inequalities exist in your local area? Please specify the area.</p> <p>2. How could the local plan help to promote</p>	<p>In Malton/Old Malton/Norton we are particularly concerned about air pollution. We want the breathable air in both towns to improve in accordance with the new WHO guideline recommendations for the concentration of Nitrogen Dioxide (to 10 micrograms per</p>

		health and reduce health inequalities?	cubic metre of air). This represents and requires a dramatic reduction in the concentration of NO2 from the current UK and EU legally binding limit of 40 micrograms per cubic metre of air. Air quality policy (the Air Quality Action Plan for North Yorkshire) should be consistent with the 4 th AQAP of York City Council, which aims to achieve WHO recommendation compliance in the next five years.
41		In your local area what types of pollution are you most concerned about? Please specify the area and type of pollution.	In Malton/Old Malton/Norton we are particularly concerned about air pollution which is principally caused by traffic, and HGV traffic in particular. We want the breathable air in both towns to improve in accordance with the new WHO guideline recommendations for the concentration of Nitrogen Dioxide (to 10 micrograms per cubic metre of air), and this can only be achieved by reducing the number of traffic movements through the towns. New highways infrastructure is urgently required.
54		Question: Tourism The local plan could support proposals for new tourist accommodation by: supporting new tourist accommodation where it meets criteria set out in policy identifying key areas for new tourist accommodation and	There is very little commentary on 'culture' in the draft. This should be promoted alongside tourism. The historic nature of North Yorkshires landscapes and market towns is rich in culture and cultural events which need protecting, supporting and developing. A tourism and cultural strategy should form part of the evidence base for the plan. The proposed museum in Malton

		<p>restricting new tourist accommodation in specific locations, and the use of time limits for occupancy.</p> <p>1. Are there any other ways in which the local plan can help to support tourism?</p> <p>2. Are there any specific areas where new or the expansion of existing visitor attractions and facilities should be focused and encouraged? If so, please specify the area/s.</p>	<p>is an example of a new visitor attraction which can bring investment into a historic market town along with considerable economic benefits. Likewise, existing arts centre facilities and village halls need support. Small village venues, like The Shed, support strong rural communities but also attract cultural tourists from afar.</p> <p>Cultural events and festivals should be supported and an integral part of the tourism offer of the county.</p> <p>The importance of the horse racing industry to tourism and the economy should also be recognised in the local plan and policies included to protect and improve the footpath, cycleway and bridleway network in the vicinity of racing stables, gallops or horse walking routes .</p>
58		<p>Question: Changing role of our centres 1. Thinking about your local area, which towns and centres are good examples of places where there is a range of uses i.e., retail, residential, leisure, community, entertainment etc used during the day and night? Please tell us which ones. 2. Thinking about your local area,</p>	<p>Malton town centre is a very good example of a historic market town with a range of uses used during the day and evening. Improvement and investment is continually required changing economic cycles property market conditions and consumer behaviour.</p>

		<p>are there any towns or centres that could be improved? If so please tell us which ones and how? 3. Do you have any suggestions of ways the local plan could also help to maintain and enhance local retail and community facilities?</p>	
		<p>Question: Securing infrastructure Are there any other matters related to securing infrastructure to support growth that should be considered when preparing the new local plan?</p>	<p>We have particular concerns in Malton/Old Malton/Norton about the capacity of infrastructure to cope with the existing demand let alone additional demands generated by new development. The problems with drainage and the outdated sewerage system are well documented and require substantial investment in the strategic network. Road capacity is already exceeding limits identified in the 2010 Transport Assessment.</p> <p>So, we support the statement (12.7) that "There is a need for the delivery of new infrastructure to align with new development, as it is not often possible to deliver new infrastructure in advance of the development. New infrastructure should be delivered in a timely way so that it absorbs the impacts of new development and be appropriately located." The plan must contain rigorous and enforceable mechanisms to ensure infrastructure is delivered.</p>