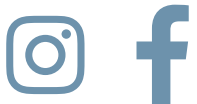


# NORTHALLERTON TOWN COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026



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# MAYOR'S STATEMENT

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I am pleased to outline the work the Town Council has undertaken during my first year as Mayor, which is also the fourth year of our strategic plan.

It has been an honour to serve as Mayor of such a wonderful place. I have been proud to represent Northallerton at many events and meetings and I have come to appreciate just how many groups and volunteers work tirelessly for our town. I cannot name everyone individually, but thank you for everything you do on behalf of the whole community.

We continue to maintain strong links with RAF Leeming, welcoming them to the Town Hall for their 85th anniversary and joining their Station Commander and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant at the Cenotaph for Remembrance Day.

I was delighted to welcome our first Mayor's Cadet, from the Air Cadet Squadron, who has joined me at many engagements.

I have also visited several schools to talk about the Council's work and was pleased to see the impressive developments at Northallerton School & Sixth Form College. The Council has also supported a number of youth focussed organisations this year.

We continue to make good progress with our strategic plan. The new allotments at the Sports Village and the start of improvements at Bankhead Park are clear signs of delivery. The Springwell Lane footpath is now a well-used route into green space.

We are working with developers and North Yorkshire Council on improvements linked to new developments, including better access to green spaces and enhanced walking and cycling routes and we are actively engaging with funding providers to enable us to deliver these changes.

Our town events have once again been successful, with the Annual Bonfire, Remembrance Day and Christmas celebrations attracting large crowds.

## MAYOR'S STATEMENT CONTD...

Working with the Business Improvement District, we have secured funding for new events next year, including a refreshed Food Festival and a High Street event. I have also been pleased to support long-standing events such as Mayfair, the North Yorkshire Agricultural Show and Tractor Parade.

We continue to work closely with North Yorkshire Council, supporting the development of the Town Investment Plan and making the case for the devolution of the town markets and clarity on the future of the former Grammar School site.

We have also worked with many other organisations, including the BID, the Tourist Information Centre and Hambleton Community Action.

We remain mindful of the future. The town will face challenges in the coming years, and we have worked hard to ensure the Council is in a strong and resilient position. We have managed our budgets responsibly and will continue to strengthen our financial position.

None of this would be possible without the hard work of our staff, who support me and my fellow councillors so well. My sincere thanks go to them.

Northallerton continues to be a better place to live, work and visit.

Cllr Andrew Hugill  
Mayor



# ABOUT THE COUNCIL

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Northallerton Town Council is made up of twelve elected councillors who give their time freely as volunteers. They bring a wide mix of experience and perspectives and each plays an active role on our committees to help shape projects, support local services and represent the interests of the town. Together, they work to ensure Northallerton remains a vibrant, welcoming and sustainable market town.

The Council works closely with North Yorkshire Council, neighbouring parishes, Northallerton BID, the Police and many community groups to support residents and businesses with local issues.

Regular engagement takes place with our MP, North Yorkshire councillors and the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire to make sure Northallerton's needs and priorities are understood at every level.

Our responsibilities cover a wide range of local services, including the management of green spaces, planting and grass-cutting, play areas, allotments and the cemetery.

We run Northallerton Town Hall as a community venue used by charities, businesses and residents, and we organise major events such as the Bonfire and Fireworks and Remembrance commemorations. We also operate the towns Public Toilets in this building.

These services are delivered by a dedicated team of twelve staff, led by the Town Clerk, covering Governance, Administration, Communications, Finance and Facilities.

Our office in the Town Hall is open five days a week and residents are welcome to attend our monthly council meetings on the third Monday each month.

Our current Strategic Plan (2022-2027) is available on our website and guides our work until the new plan begins in 2027. Residents are welcome to sign up to our newsletter too, to keep up to date on Council matters.

# ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The Council has continued to manage its finances with care, professionalism and a strong focus on long-term sustainability. Over the past four years, we have worked hard to maximise the income we can generate independently, reducing pressure on the precept wherever possible.

This approach has delivered significant results. Between April 2022 and April 2026, the Council's annual income (excluding the precept) has risen from £45,900 to £100,412 – an increase of 118.76%.

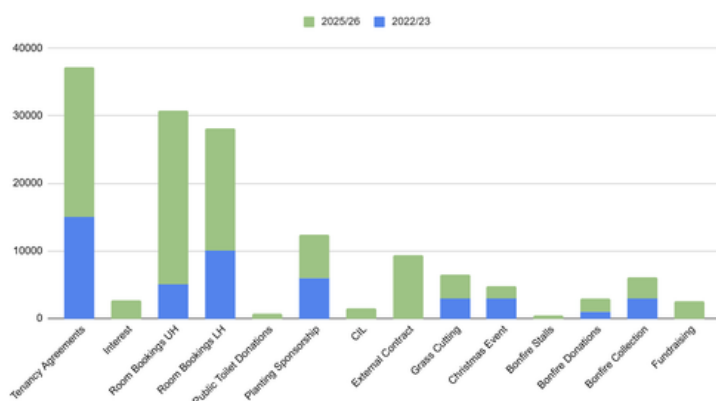
Key areas of growth include:

- Town Hall room bookings increased, reflecting active management, improved marketing and better facilities.
- Tenancy agreements as we make full use of the Town Hall's commercial spaces.
- External contracts with new income of £9,379 from maintenance work undertaken under licence.
- Public toilet donations introduced through cash and card donation points.
- Community fundraising and event income which continue to grow.

This sustained increase in income demonstrates the Council's commitment to self-reliance, good stewardship and maximising value for residents.

For 2025/26, the Council raised the precept to £468,500. This was a carefully considered decision, taken to protect essential services and ensure the Council remains financially resilient. The increase enables us to:

- maintain the day-to-day operation of the town's public toilets, including cleaning, maintenance and utilities
- implement the nationally agreed salary award for staff
- meet rising utility, maintenance and contractual costs
- provide for the ongoing upkeep of the Town Hall, ensuring it remains a safe, accessible and well-used community asset



# 2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS

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Our 5-year strategic plan, now in its fourth year, provides focus to the key areas in which the Town Council intends to make a positive impact over the period 2022-2027, based on three themes: Community Facilities, Engagement and Events and Environment and Open Spaces; each theme has its own council committee to manage progress and delivery.

## Community Facilities

Providing the best possible facilities for residents and visitors to use and enjoy, both within the council's control and by influencing other organisations to do the same. This year we were:



### Improving Town-Centre Facilities

We worked with NYC to address concerns about litter management and general cleanliness, offering support to improve the experience for residents and visitors. Public Toilet opening times were increased to include Sundays.



### Making progress on Market Devolution

We continued detailed work with North Yorkshire Council on the future management of Northallerton & Thirsk Markets. Councillors challenged unclear financial data, consulted stallholders and explored whether a Northallerton-only bid could secure a sustainable, cost-neutral model.



### Supporting High-Street Modernisation

Councillors welcomed plans for BT Digital Hubs to replace outdated phone boxes and agreed to submit a letter of support, helping bring modern digital infrastructure to the town.



### Strengthening Community Resilience

A working group advanced the Northallerton Community Resilience Plan, refining the document, sourcing best-practice examples and preparing a version suitable for Full Council.



### Enhancing Civic Traditions

We confirmed clear flag-flying protocols, agreed a respectful approach to wreath removal and continued to work with local businesses to improve Christmas illuminations.

# 2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS

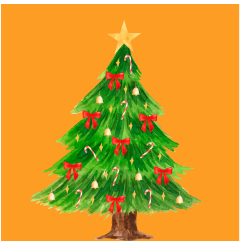
## Engagement and Events

Working more closely with the community, businesses and local stakeholders is a key objective of the Town Council, by listening and jointly seeking ways to improve facilities and events within the town using social media, the website and improved face-to-face contact. In doing this we saw:



### A Well-Attended Remembrance Event

We delivered a very well-attended Remembrance Event, working closely with RAF Leeming, local schools and community partners to honour those who serve.



### A New Christmas Event Format

We trialled a refreshed Christmas Event, expanding into Zetland Street with an artisan market and using Treadmills for Santa and entertainment — receiving positive feedback from businesses and residents.



### Support for Community Partners & Local Events

Sharing resources with the North Yorkshire Agricultural Show Tractor Parade and continuing our partnership with Hambleton Community Action to support elderly residents. Our staff team also ran four successful community coffee mornings, raising funds for Macmillan and CRUTCH.



### Local Youth & Community Groups Receiving Grants

The Council awarded small grants to Youthspace, Northallerton Juniors Football Club and Allerton Junior Athletics Club, helping them continue their valuable work with young people across the town.



### Backing of Richmond's Town of Culture Bid

We were proud to support Richmond's high-profile Town of Culture bid. Our endorsement formed part of a united North Yorkshire message celebrating creativity, heritage and community identity, which highlighted the cultural strength of the wider area and the importance of neighbouring towns showing solidarity.



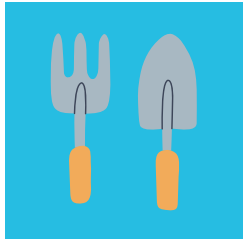
### Shaping the Future of the Homegrown Food Festival

We convened and chaired stakeholder meetings to explore options for a future Homegrown Food Festival, including layout, branding, community engagement and financial sustainability.

# 2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS

## Environment and Open Spaces

Identifying opportunities to provide new or enhanced green spaces in the town, including council owned parks and gateways to the High Street, with participation of local community groups. This year we:



### Allocated New Allotments for Residents

The new North Northallerton allotments were handed over to residents, with a strong waiting list still in place for these much needed facilities.



### Continued Bankhead Park Improvements

Work began on improving the play-area fencing and allotment area at Bankhead, with plans to allocate additional allotment plots once the site is ready whilst maintaining the valuable play space.



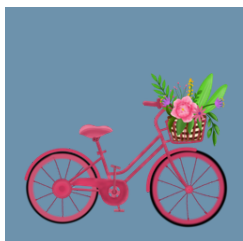
### Pushed for Progress on the Sports Village

Councillors met with North Yorkshire Council officers to discuss future development of the North Northallerton Sports Village, including potential 3G pitch provision and alignment with the Town Investment Plan.



### Were Supporting Local Environmental Groups

We supported Climate Action Northallerton and related groups by sharing their activities on social media and attending community environmental events.



### Started Working Towards Nature Towns Accreditation

The Committee agreed to progress the foundation-level Nature Towns & Cities accreditation and include the advanced level in the next Strategic Plan.



# 2025-2026 OTHER INFORMATION

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## **Northallerton's twinning with Ormesson-sur-Marne**

Formalised in 1993 and supported through the BON (Bienvenue Ormesson Northallerton) association, it has fostered more than three decades of friendship between the two towns. Following initial reciprocal visits in 1992 and 1993, regular exchanges have taken place almost every year since 1994. While safeguarding requirements have paused youth exchanges in recent years, the relationship continues to thrive through visits by families and individuals, with both towns committed to widening participation and encouraging future civic, social and sporting links.

Every two years, citizens from Northallerton travel to Ormesson for a three-day visit, staying with host families and taking part in shared cultural activities, with a reciprocal visit to Northallerton the following year. French visitors are welcomed into local homes and enjoy a programme of social events, local excursions and a civic evening at Northallerton Town Hall. Many participants have built long-standing friendships through the scheme and both communities remain enthusiastic about sustaining and expanding this valued international connection.

## **Northallerton and Romanby Joint Burial Committee**

Northallerton Cemetery was established in 1856 as a burial place for the parishes of Northallerton and Romanby. It was formerly the site of the 'Bishops' Palace' – a residence of the Bishop of Durham – and was given to the Town as a burial site following the closure of the church graveyard.

The management and day-to-day running of the Cemetery is the responsibility of the Northallerton and Romanby Joint Burial Committee which is a committee formed of councillors from both Northallerton Town Council and Romanby Parish Council.



# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

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As we enter the final year of our current Strategic Plan, councillors are now turning their attention to the next phase of the Council's long-term direction.

A new Strategic Plan for 2027-2032 is being developed and will come into force in April 2027, providing a refreshed framework to guide the Council's priorities, investment and service delivery in the years ahead. This updated plan will ensure continuity beyond the next elections and set out a clear, confident vision for Northallerton's future.

This period will coincide with several major developments for the town, including the completion of the Northallerton Town Investment Plan, the creation of a new Local Plan for the area, and the finalisation of a new Local Transport Plan for York and North Yorkshire—issues on which the Town Council has been actively engaged.

Planning, transport and funding will continue to shape Northallerton's future, and the Council will consider carefully how it influences and responds to these changes while continuing to deliver the services our community relies on.

Alongside completing the final year of our current plan, we will begin wider engagement on the next one to ensure we are fully prepared for the opportunities and challenges ahead and we look forward to encouraging as many residents as possible to engage with us over the coming year.



# NORTHALLERTON TOWN COUNCIL



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