

Statutory consultation

Proposals for an Anti Terrorism Traffic Order (ATTRO) in York

March 2026



This leaflet explains:

- what an Anti Terrorism Traffic Regulation Order (ATTRO) is,
- why a permanent one has been recommended in York,
- what it could mean,
- and how to have your say in this statutory consultation.

You can read about how to take part in the consultation at the end of this leaflet.

Deadline for comments

We need to receive your comments by **Wednesday 13 May 2026**.

What is an ATTRO?

An ATTRO helps keep people safe from the threat of terrorism.

Other cities in the UK already have an ATTRO or are considering them. ATTROs allow the Police, working with councils, to restrict access and put protective security measures in place. These measures will help reduce the risk and possible impacts of terrorist attacks on or near a road.

ATTROs can be temporary (for a specific event) or permanent. A temporary ATTRO can be recommended by the Police at any time, for the purpose of avoiding or reducing the risk of danger connected with terrorism. The council then needs to consider the recommendation and decide whether to implement an ATTRO and what access restrictions and protective measures should be put in place. This needs to be done for each temporary ATTRO.

A permanent ATTRO allows the council to react immediately to a recommendation from the Police, rather than waiting for a temporary order to be processed. It is inactive for most of the time. It is only activated, once recommended by the Police, when intelligence or events require the risk of a terrorist attack to be mitigated by restricting access to an area.

Who is asking for an ATTRO in York?

The Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police has formally written to City of York Council (CYC) to recommend that a permanent ATTRO is put in place to cover the city centre area.

The area covered is shown on the map on page 5. The order itself would be made by the traffic authority (City of York Council in this instance).

Why is City of York Council consulting on this?

CYC is the Highways Authority for the roads and pavements in most of York. This means that if anyone – for example the police, or a utility company – wants to use our roads or change how they can be used, they need permission from us.

Where the proposed changes are permanent, the council must hold a statutory consultation to consider the views of residents and businesses before making a decision.

The permanent ATTRO that North Yorkshire Police have recommended would change who can use the highways and roads in certain situations, which is why we are consulting with you.

When would the ATTRO be used?

Under the proposed permanent ATTRO, there are two ways the ATTRO could be activated.

1. based on information, threats, security assessments and intelligence showing that there is a threat of danger or damage due to terrorism; or
2. if an incident occurs which is linked to terrorism or shows that there is a threat of danger or damage due to terrorism

In these cases, a North Yorkshire police officer of the rank of Superintendent or above can request for the ATTRO to be activated.

If the proposed permanent ATTRO is agreed, it will set out the requirements and processes to be followed by North Yorkshire Police and City of York Council. This would also support a faster response if the ATTRO needs to be activated quickly.

What would happen when the ATTRO is activated?

If approved, the proposed permanent ATTRO would sit in place as a permanent order. It will only be activated for temporary periods, where appropriate and in line with strict rules, which are:

1. Access, including to vehicles, cycles, and pedestrians (depending on the risk/incident), will only be restricted to the minimum number of roads necessary to remove or reduce the risk/danger;
2. Access will only be restricted to the extent needed to remove or reduce the risk/danger;
3. Access will only be restricted for the minimum period necessary to remove or reduce the risk/danger; and
4. In no circumstances will access be restricted for a continuous period longer than 48 hours without the prior approval of the Commissioner of Police and the Chief Executive of City of York Council (or their nominated deputy).

Closing the roads to restrict access could only happen if the Police have sound reasons – which may be due to a security assessment or intelligence of a likelihood of danger or risk of damage due to terrorism. It cannot be used for any other reason.

Wherever possible, at least seven days' notice of the access restrictions to be implemented would be given, allowing CYC to notify those likely to be affected by the restrictions. This would include Blue Badge holders, residents and businesses within the area. Due to the nature of terrorism, it may not always be possible for that much notice to be given.

If the roads need to be closed, this would be likely to include the city's Blue Badge holder access and exit points.

These safeguards ensure that the activation of the ATTRO is a proportionate measure, used to the minimum extent necessary in order to deal with danger or the likelihood of danger connected to terrorism.

The ATTRO could only be used in relation to the specific threat of terrorism or to deal with a terrorist incident.

What areas would the ATTRO cover?

On the map below,

- the proposed area for the permanent ATTRO is highlighted with a red line
- the existing footstreets zone is shown in orange
- the Blue Badge holder vehicle access and exit points are shown with black triangles and labels



The area included in the permanent ATTRO recommendation from the Police extends beyond the pedestrian area which is already covered by the permanent Hostile Vehicle Measures (HVM).

The proposal includes the adopted highways of:

- College Street
- Deangate
- Duncombe Place
- High Petergate
- Minster Gates
- Minster Yard
- Precentors Court
- The Queen's Path

North Yorkshire Police have proposed to extend the ATTRO area beyond the existing HVM to help protect the York Minster, which is designated as a '**Tier 1**' site. This means it is on the UK's Critical National Infrastructure for Cultural heritage. The area around the Minster has previously received three requests from North Yorkshire Police for temporary ATTROs.

If the area of the ATTRO includes roads outside of the existing Hostile Vehicle Measures, how will access be changed?

The ATTRO can only be activated under strict rules. If it is approved and activated, it could mean additional access restrictions being put in place and temporary physical barriers being placed across roads in the area beyond that already covered by the permanent Hostile Vehicle Measures (HVM) to stop access.

Who would pay for any costs involved?

When an ATTRO is required, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 enables the Council to recharge the costs associated with the ATTRO (for example: additional barriers, notices, signage, traffic management, marshals, etc) to the event organisers or the occupier of the premises for which the ATTRO is required.

This applies to the costs associated with temporary and permanent ATTROs.

The council cannot recharge these costs if the event is a public procession or assembly (for example: a demonstration, a gathering to publicise a cause or campaign, or to commemorate an event). In these cases we will need to fund the costs associated with activating the ATTRO.

How can I find out more

You can find out more information about ATTROs and the full Notice of Proposal on our website york.gov.uk/ATTRO



Scan the QR code to find out more about the Anti Terrorism Traffic Order in York proposal

How do I submit a response

To take part in the statutory consultation, you can send us your comments in a number of ways:

Email: highway.regulation@york.gov.uk

Write to us (Freepost):

ATTRO consultation
Freepost RTEG-TYYU-KLTZ
City of York Council
West Offices
Station Rise
York
YO1 6GA

If you are writing in objection to the proposed ATTRO, please ensure that you state so and set out your reasons for objecting.

We need to receive your comments by **Wednesday 13 May**.

If you would like this document in an alternative format, please contact us by phone on **01904 551550** or email ycc@york.gov.uk.