

Our style guide

About our style guide



The City of York Council works in partnership to improve and make a difference. It is important that our values are clearly communicated in everything we do.

When we promote our services or help residents understand more about the essential services we deliver to those who live, work and visit our city, it's important we continue to build trust and confidence in our delivery.

The following style guide shows how our visual identity, logo and the way we describe our service will be applied to printed and digital communications. Key to our success are the people who work for the council and the organisations and people we work with. Our style guide celebrates the relationships we have with our citizens and partners.

We have a responsibility for spending our citizens' taxes on delivering a quality service. By promoting the City of York Council consistently, we make a strong and uniform statement which enforces our corporate objectives.

Document accessibility

Our audience is diverse, not only in culture, gender and age but also in the way they're able to interact with us. We believe our communications should be inclusive and used by all. This means designing for our audiences from the start.

UK laws state that we must make online information accessible and user-friendly, especially for people with disabilities. To comply with the law we must meet level AA of version 2.1 of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), which includes producing compliant online documents.

Writing in plain English and using our corporate templates (available via the intranet) help to ensure the documents we publish follow PDF accessibility techniques, and information can be translated to different languages or formats.

Contact our Communications Team if you need an alternative template.

Accessible PDFs

Characteristics of an accessible PDF include, but are not limited to:

- Searchable text.
- Fonts that allow characters to be extracted to text
- Interactive labeled form fields
- Hyperlinks and navigational aids
- Document title and assigned language
- Logical reading order
- Use of document structure tags
- Alt text for non-text elements
- No images with text
- Not relying on colour alone to convey information
- Suitable colour contrast (page 11)

The Adobe website also provides information on <u>creating and checking PDF Accessibility</u>.

Describing York

History isn't what York is, history is what makes us who we are.

The people of York built and continue to shape this city. York is a place where people and their stories matter, where an individual's everyday experiences are as important as our world-class achievements.

Our city is rich in 2,000 years of history with a strong social legacy. Home to the world's largest railway museum, unique archeology and historic common land known as "strays". It is a distinct, exciting and beautiful northern city, forward-looking and progressive.

We are known for our considerable assets - our internationally important heritage, our strengths as a science city, our creative industries and cultural offer, our digital infrastructure, our young and highly skilled workforce, our world-

leading universities and excellent schools and colleges.

Our thriving retail and visitor economy welcomes 7m unique visitors every year.

We have been recognised by Sunday Times best place to live, Conde Nast city of best architecture and YouGov found that we are Britain's favourite city.

People are generous with their time in building on the strengths and assets in our community to help one another, particularly more vulnerable people in our local community. Residents live in safe neighbourhoods and benefit from first-class education, excellent frontline public services and community facilities.

About the Council

City of York Council was established on I April 1996 and is formed from parts of five previous local authorities -North Yorkshire County Council, York City Council, Selby and Ryedale District Councils and Harrogate Borough Council.

We are a unitary local authority providing services to around 200,000 people in an area covering approximately 105 square miles. Approximately 2,610 people work for the council (4,895 including schools). We work closely with partners and our communities to improve and make a positive difference. Delivering a high quality service is at the core of what we do.

As a unitary authority, we are responsible for all government functions within our area (except fire and police).

Our council plan

Making history, building communities

We are here to support the best quality of life for our residents now and in the future.

We do this by focusing on eight key outcomes:

Well-paid jobs and an inclusive economy

A greener and cleaner city

Getting around sustainably

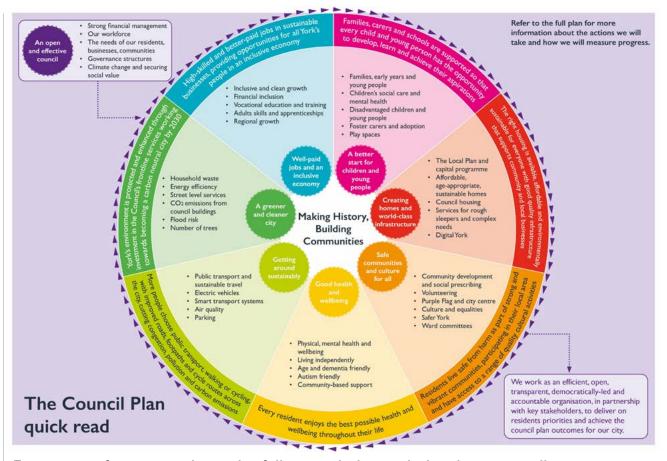
Good health and wellbeing

Safe communities and culture for all

Creating homes and world-class infrastructure

A better start for children and young people

An open and effective council



For more information about the full council plan, including how we will measure our progress, please visit york.gov.uk/CouncilPlan.

Our logo

Our logo can be used in three ways:







Main 'statutory' logo

The official 'statutory' logo appears when there is a legal requirement. Examples include stationery, statutory notices, licences and Audited or Unaudited accounts.

Single colour

In all other instances please use a single colour for our logo - either solid black or our dark grey (see page 10).





Reversed out

If you need to sit the logo on a dark colour or over an image then it should be white.

Logo specifications

Exclusion zone



A required amount of negative space (the exclusion zone) must surround the logo at all times.

The amount of negative space required can be measured by the height of the letter "Y" from the word York in the logo.

This area is to be kept clear of any other visual elements.

Minimum size





The minimum width of the logo is 40mm to ensure legibility.



Where space is very limited the logo can shrink to a minimum width of 20mm. This exception is ONLY for a black version of the logo, to ensure legibility of the smallest lettering when printed, and should be avoided if possible.

Logo dos and don'ts

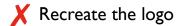
Do

It is critical the council is accountable and visible for delivering services. This means promoting the council as a single body rather than series of teams or services.

(The exception to this is if a service is commercial or delivered in partnership see page 27)

The logo can also be used to indicate the council contribution is being recognised by another body - eg. when funding a project or endorsing an approach.





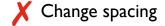






X Add words or straplines to it





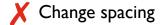






No strapline or words







X Put it in a box



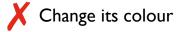














Our fonts

Headings

Gill Sans Bold

Headings should be in upper and lower case - **not** all caps

Body copy

Gill Sans Regular 14pt

For clarity and accessibility body copy should be a minimum of 14pt

Internal templates

Arial regular 14pt

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOP QRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklmnopqrst uvwxyz 1234567890

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz 1234567890

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz 1234567890

All internal documents, reports, news releases, minutes or letters that are shared externally or published on the website should be Arial 14pt or (if creating from a template on page 18) Gill Sans. Do not change any internal templates.

Our colours

Primary neutral colours

These colours represent the solid and consistent foundations the council values are built on. These colours are used predominantly in most of our communications.

For example, an exception may be if the document is targeting a younger audience.

Secondary highlight colours

These are used sparingly alongside the main colour palette. They represent our values, our diverse range of services and show that we are vibrant and forward thinking.

No colour represents any one service.



Pantone 432

CMYK: 65/43/26/78 **RGB**: 37/48/59

Web: 25303b



Pantone 429

CMYK: 21/11/9/23

RGB: 175/182/189 Web: afb6bd



CMYK: 7/3/5/8 RGB: 227/230/229

Web: e3e6e5



Pantone: 288

CMYK: 100/80/6/32 CMYK: 90/48/0/0 **RGB**: 18/50/110

Web: 12326e



Pantone: 285

RGB: 0/113/185

Web: 0071b9



Pantone: 121-7

CMYK: 86/0/25/0 **RGB:** 0/168/193

Web: 00a8c1



Pantone: 148-7

CMYK: 72/0/90/0 **RGB**: 70/173/72

Web: 46ad48



Pantone: 2293

CMYK: 39/0/99/0 RGB: 178/203/14

Web: b2cb0e



Pantone: 7406

CMYK: 0/20/100/2 **RGB**: 251/201/0 Web: fbc900



Pantone: 20-8

CMYK: 0/50/100/0 **RGB**: 243/146/0

Web: f39204

Pantone: 7626 **RGB**: 226/42/27

CMYK: 0/93/95/2 Web: e22alb

Pantone: Proc Magenta Pantone: 2597 CMYK: 0/100/0/0

RGB: 230/0/126 Web: e6007e



CMYK: 80/99/0/0

RGB: 92/38/132 Web: 5c2684

Colour combinations

These are the different combinations of text and background colours that can be used whilst meeting the required contrast ratio.*

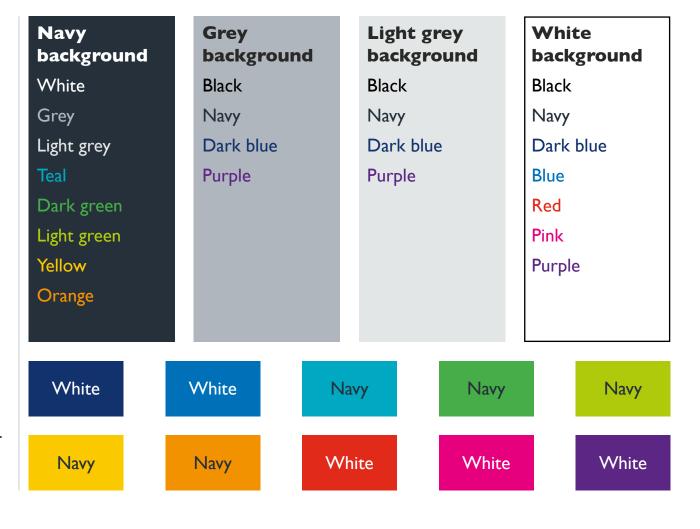
In order to comply with the WCAG 2.1 guidelines, text must have a minimum contrast ratio of 4.5:1.

For large text (18pt or 14pt and bold) the contrast ratio must be at least 3:1.

These ratios ensure that there is enough contrast between text and its background so that it can be read by people with moderately low vision.

To check colour ratios, you can use an online colour contrast checker.

*Contrast ratios apply to digital documents only, different combinations can be used for printed documents



Skyline graphic

York skyline

The skyline is to demonstrate the importance of community and creates a common look and feel across council communications

Use the city skyline across the full width at the bottom of your document.

It should only be used in one of the core neutral colours, or can be used in colour as a line drawing.

Text should not obscure it.



Our photography

Our values are reflected in our choice of photography, showing the frontline, working together to make a difference.

We only use strong well-composed images which illustrate the subject matter appropriately. We use more photos of people than place (roughly 2:1) ideally with a place reference.

If you are using images of "real' local people they MUST be GDPR compliant and permission must have been granted by the subject.

Smart phone images are usually of a good enough quality to be used for print documents, but as a guide they should be 300dpi at the required/used size. Images grabbed from the internet are not good enough quality and are likely to be owned by someone else.

We use images of York when talking about the difference we've made (or plan to make) to York as a whole, for example in annual reports or published strategies.







Campaigns use photography in a more contemporary way.



Our campaigns

Directorates/services can fund campaigns if they need a different look and feel.

A campaign will have a measurable outcome or target, such as reducing idling to improve air quality or attracting more visitors to the Mansion House.

Campaigns will borrow as many elements from the corporate style as possible, for example, colours, fonts and logo position. Examples of campaign style guides are in Annex A - campaign style guides.

Ask your communications lead for more information.

Anti-idling



Feel Real York





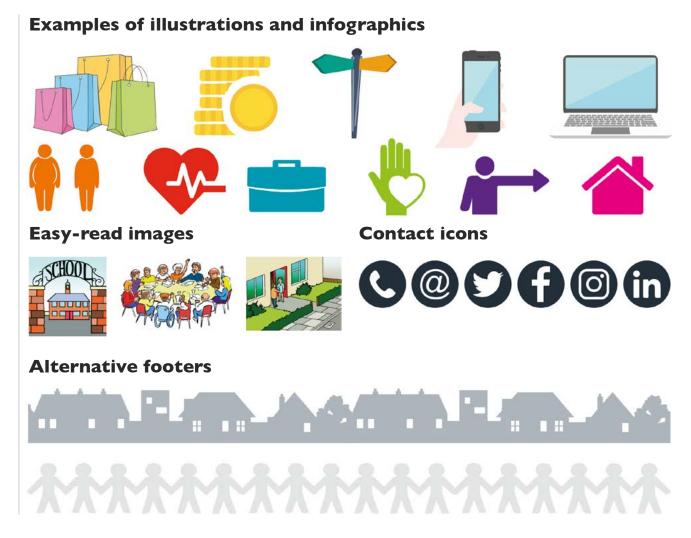
Our infographics and illustrations

We use illustrations and infographics sparingly - usually when there are no photographs available.

Easy-read formats of illustrations that have been pre-drawn are allowed.

When providing contact details and social media links, icons can be used.

In some cases, an alternative footer to the skyline can be used. These must be relevent to the subject of the document or service.



Our tone of voice

Our identity is made up of two elements, the way we look (our visual identity) and the way we speak (our verbal identity).

These work together and it's vital that when we speak to our audiences, the way we speak with them reflects the council we want them to see.

Our verbal identity is based on our values which are reflected in everything we say and do.

When writing communications for the council, refer to the council language guide.

Working together

What we mean: friendly, inclusive, honest and genuine

What we don't mean: over familiar, waffling, cold or authoritarian

How does "working together" sound: We are clear, straight forward and share our success and delivery. We want lots of different organisations and people to understand us so we avoid clichés, acronyms and council-speak.

To improve

What we mean: action-orientated, clear about why and how, focused

What we don't mean: directive, over-bearing, confusing

How does "to improve" sound: We are always clear about what happens next. We say sorry if we've done something wrong. We might sometimes need to be firm, but we will always be as supportive as we can be.

To make a positive difference

What we mean: upbeat, inspiring, positive

What we don't mean: emotional, insubstantial, patronizing

How does "make a positive difference" sound: We are excited about our future and recognise the vital role communities and our partners play in helping our city thrive. Whenever possible, our quotes in press releases reflect our ambition and values.

Design examples

Stationery



Powerpoint presentations











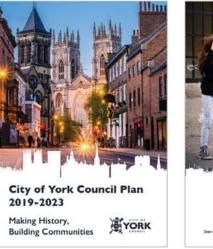


Strategy/report templates





















Cover examples

Banners, posters, flyers and adverts









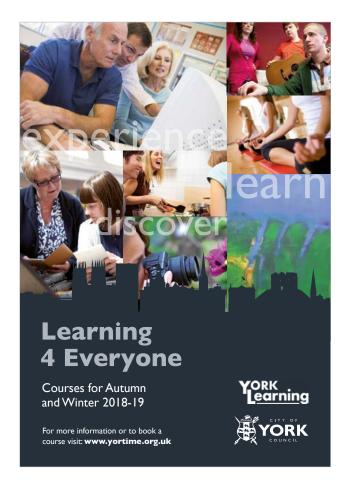
This is how the style is used for flyers, posters, banners and adverts.

Refer to page 23 to see which elements are flexible and which are not.

Please keep the City of York Council logo and web address bottom right for continuity across all elements, with the call to action in the bottom left.

Services should contact the communications team to discuss how to use these templates to get your message across as effectively as possible.

A4 and A5 booklets





Subheading
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur
adipiscing elit. Phasellus laoreet, dolor
fermentum placerat tristique, orci nulla
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vestibulum tempus, diam lorem hendrerit
loctus, sed aliquet erat nisi euismod nulla.

Reseated

Phasellus ac eros metus, sit amet accumsa nunc. Etiam tempus pellentesque loren

Subheading
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Curabitur sed varius elit. Nam eu turpis metus. Aenean semper pretium sollicitud Pellentesque elementum eros vel tellus molestie volutpat egestas eu justo. Sed a



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A1394T1 | Huntington School

A1394TI Hun

A1394T1 | Huntington School

Tue 7.00pm-9.00pm 25 Sep 18 10 wks

Pilates
Pilates helps you to increase your mobility, flexibility and core strength. We offer a range of classes from absolute beginners to intermediate, so whatever your level there should be a suitable class for you.

A1394T1 | Huntington School

Tue 7.00pm-9.00pm 25 Sep 18 £97/£87/£35

Tue 7.00pm-9.00pm 25 Sep 18 £97/£87/£35

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Tue 7.00pm-9.00pm 25 Sep 18 10 wks

Tue 7.00pm-9.00pm 25 Sep 18 10 wks £97/£87/£35

Health & Fitness

Handy Tips: 1" price - Standard | 2" price - Concessions | 3rd price - Means Tested Benefits

Crafts

Art History – 20th Century An exciting, informative romp throu Century art. Looking at key male and femal

Tue 7.00pm-9.00pm 25 Sep 18 10 wks

Start your painting and drawing journey gently - no pressure!

A1394T1 | Huntington School | Tue 7.00pm-9.00pm 25 Sep 18 10 wks

A1394T1 | Huntington School | T Morrison

Tue 7.00pm-9.00pm 25 Sep 18 10 wks £97/£87/£35 A1394T1 | Huntington School |

Tue 7.00pm-9.00pm 25 Sep 18 10 wks £97/£87/£35

Painting & drawing Explore your creaticity and discoverand exciting techniques. A1394T1 | Huntington School T Morrison

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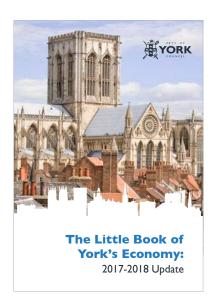
Tue 7.00pm-9.00pm 25 Sep 18 10 wk

For listing style booklets use the highlight colours (see page 10) sparingly to highlight/differentiate between sections.

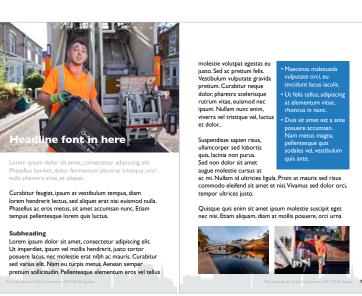
Core neutral colours must be the prominent colours used.

www.yortime.org.uk

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Use predominently single column documents for A5 booklets to ensure enough words per line at 14pt body copy.

multiple column pages (see page 20 for example).

Ward communications

One way we communicate with our residents is via ward communications.

There are several different ways to do this, ward twitter accounts, ward meetings and ward newsletters and ward posters for noticeboards or sharing on social media.

Templates are available from the Communications Team.

Ward Committee meetings



Newsletters



Flexible elements

Not to be changed:

Must have strong image at the top, skyline (or your own) break and description

Logo and call to action in same place

Can be changed:



Commission your own images

Corporate font and corporate colours



Create a different skyline (eg. row of houses)

If multiple images, no more than 3 per row or column with no more than I in 3 showing place



Add your logo and your web address

Digital style - social media

Digital Communications on social media

Our social media communications are designed to engage and inspire our audiences. We know the best way to engage audiences is with visual content that is easy to share. Images and graphics without text are best and meaningful alternative text needs to be provided.

Any artwork created for social media must follow the corporate style.

Posts for large campaigns that aren't ran by the council are allowed to be used with our logo present in either the top or bottom right corner.

Sometimes we will share a quote from a Councillor or senior officer. When we do, we always include their name, job title and a photo of them.

Use of photography



Use of graphics



Councillor quote



Digital style - website

Digital communications on the website

Our website is designed to suit our customer's needs, they helped test how user-friendly our design ideas were during development.

It's also developed with accessibility in mind, to help people use our online services regardless of their hardware, software, language, location, or ability. The information, images, downloads, functionality and multimedia within our web pages are designed around criteria set out in the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), which we must meet to comply with UK law; see: http://www.gov.uk/guidance/accessibility-requirements-for-public-sector-websites-and-apps.

Our website development is guided by the Web Governance Framework which, along with this guide, helps to ensure there's consistency between on and offline communications, supports our brand and reputation, and our approach creates robust systems that consider data protection responsibilities alongside ICT Security guidelines.

The majority of our web services will be part of our corporate website. However, an alternative 'look and feel' can be designed to fit audience requirements.

Contact our <u>Web Services Team</u> for more information.

Our website



Digital style - webcasting and video

Digital Communications through film

Our meetings are webcast so you can see how the council makes decisions that affect you. Our aim is to promote openness and accountability and to support greater participation in local democracy.

We create short videos or infographics that use our visual and verbal identity. Our videos use the same layout for essential information and our infographics use our photography unless they are presenting data or are campaign specific.

To meet legal requirements, transcripts must be provided for all pre-recorded audio recordings, animations and videos. Pre-recorded videos must also include a subtitled version.

Webcasting





As webcasts are a corporate event, they use the full colour logo.

Video





Working with others

The council works with a huge range of partners. Certain principles must be adhered to when using the CYC logo with other brands:

I. The CYC logo should explain the relationship, for example:

Making history, building communities



- 2. The CYC logo should appear top or bottom right unless shown alphabetically
- 3. Logos should appear in a straight line or grid so they don't 'float' on a page.

If a new logo is required, this should be discussed with the communications team with a clear reason to differentiate.

For example, the **Register Office** logo is also the official stamp.





The Show Me That I Matter logo represents the voice of young people in care or the Live Well York logo represents a partnership of community-led services.





Bookplate information

The Bookplate

The bookplate is composed of five elements:

- alternative formats
 (i.e. large print/Braille)
- contact details (phone, email, social media, address)
- different languages
- print specification
- publication date

The bookplate panel should appear on all **printed** communications that are more than one page (or two sides).

For digital documents, this information should be entered as plain text.

Full panel

If you would like this document in an alternative format, please contact:

(01904) 551550

ycc@york.gov.uk

CityofYork

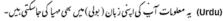
@cityofyork

It is available in the following languages:

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)
Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim (Polish)
własnym języku.

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)



Printed on recycled paper from FSC certified providers

Publication date: Month/Year

For further information: West Offices, Station Rise, York, Y01 6GA

Mini panel

If you would like this document in an alternative format, please contact:

(01904) 551550

ycc@york.gov.uk

Printed on recycled paper from FSC certified providers

Publication date: Month/Year

Half panel

If you would like this document in an alternative format, please contact:

(01904) 551550

ycc@york.gov.uk

Printed on recycled paper from FSC certified providers

Publication date: Month/Year

Contact information

This style guide will be updated as and when required.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact your communications lead or the communications team on:

Email: newsdesk@york.gov.uk

Phone: 01904 555515

