



Ripon City Council – Civic Year 2025/26 Overview

1. Core Role and Context

- Ripon City Council is a parish-level authority, meaning it delivers local, community-focused services and initiatives, while most statutory services sit with North Yorkshire Council.
 - Its work in 2025/26 continued to focus on:
 - Community wellbeing
 - Local events and civic traditions
 - Small-scale infrastructure and amenities
 - Grant funding and partnerships
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2. Governance and Decision-Making

- The Council maintained a regular cycle of Full Council meetings (typically every 4–6 weeks) to make decisions and set direction
 - Activity throughout the civic year included:
 - Committee work
 - Committee work (Events, HR, Hugh Ripley Hall, Alderman TF Spence)
 - Public participation through formal meetings
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3. Financial Management and Budget Priorities

- **The Council set a balanced budget for 2025/26, a key achievement given wider financial pressures.**
- Spending priorities included:
 - Continuation and expansion of grant schemes
 - Funding for community partnerships and local improvements
- Previous financial trends show:
 - Growth in precept income and reserves into 2025
 - Ongoing investment in events, staffing, and civic assets

Overall, 2025/26 continued a strategy of modest growth, stability, and targeted local investment.

4. Community Grants and Partnerships

- A key strand of activity was supporting local groups and organisations through:
 - Small grants (the council awarded 9 small grants to local community projects)
 - Partnership funding programmes (the council partnered with 11 community groups)
- The Council worked alongside:
 - Local voluntary organisations
 - Ripon BID and civic groups
 - North Yorkshire Council and regional initiatives

This partnership-led model helps leverage additional funding and deliver projects beyond the Council's limited remit.

5. Events, Culture and Civic Life

The Council played an active role in organising and supporting community events, including:

Major and seasonal events

- Free fairground rides (summer 2025) for children and families
- The Council continues to fund toilet facilities at the paddling pool despite an increase in cost due to vandalism in Summer 2025
- Christmas Lights switch on
- Music and Fireworks on New Years Eve
- Support for wider city events (via partnerships such as BID and community groups)

Civic and community engagement events

- Battle of Britain, Remembrance Sunday and VE day events
- Carer support event (Nov 2025) bringing charities and residents together

These activities contributed to community cohesion, visitor footfall, and local economy support.

6. Local Facilities and Asset Management

The Council continued to manage and improve local assets, including:

Hugh Ripley Hall

- Maintenance works carried out to continue provision of space for various community groups

Quarry Moor

- Commissioning of tree works and environmental maintenance

These actions show ongoing stewardship of key community buildings and green spaces.

7. Planning and Representation

- The Council maintained its role as a consultee on planning applications, shaping local development.
- Engagement with wider strategic planning:
 - Input to discussions affecting Ripon's future growth and heritage
 - Awareness of North Yorkshire Local Plan and investment planning processes

This ensures local voice and heritage considerations are reflected in development decisions.

8. Double Devolution

- Across a number of years the council have been working in partnership with North Yorkshire Council to progress the double devolution bid with the view to taking ownership of the Town Hall, Hugh Ripley Hall, and the Wakeman's House.
- An agreement was made for a Community Asset Transfer for Ripon Town Hall to Ripon City Council, legalities to be worked through in civic year 26/27 before any lease agreements are signed.

This highlights the Council's role securing the future of Ripon's Historic buildings.

9. Community Engagement and Consultation

- The Council supported or promoted:
 - Regional consultations (e.g. police and fire precept surveys)
 - Local participation in wider planning discussions
 - Continued encouragement of public input via meetings and surveys
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Final Summary

In the 2025/26 civic year, Ripon City Council continued to operate as a locally focused, enabling authority, concentrating on:

- Delivering community events and civic traditions
- Providing targeted funding and support to local organisations
- Maintaining and improving key local assets
- Ensuring resident representation and participation in decision-making

While it does not deliver large-scale services, its role remains crucial in shaping the character, cohesion, and day-to-day quality of life in Ripon.