

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

CORPORATE DIRECTOR MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

5 February 2019

Clapham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval to consult on a proposal that the County Council should cease to maintain Clapham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School with effect from 31 August 2019.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 Clapham Church of England VC Primary School is a 3-11 voluntary controlled primary school located in the rural area of North Craven and serves families living in the village of Clapham and the surrounding area. It can accommodate up to 59 children and has a published admission number of 8.

2.2 Pupil numbers at the school have been falling, reducing from 42 on roll in 2014/15 to the current level of 28. The recent drop in numbers at the school has increased concern around the financial sustainability of the school and its ability to continue providing good quality education.

2.3 In 2009 Clapham CE VC Primary School confederated with two other small schools, Austwick CE VA Primary and Horton in Ribblesdale CE VA Primary. The three schools shared a Headteacher up until the end of December 2015 when all three Governing Bodies decided to formally end the collaboration. The Governing Body then appointed a new Headteacher who continued in post until his resignation in 2018. There is currently no substantive Headteacher in post at the school. The LA has secured an acting headteacher from another school who has agreed to continue in post until the end of the current academic year.

2.4 Low pupil numbers have led to the school being in a financial deficit position, and unable to afford its own Headteacher. Despite numerous attempts by the LA to secure a shared headship arrangement with another school, this has not been successful.

2.5 At a meeting on the 29 November 2018, the Governing Body of Clapham CE VC Primary School reluctantly voted to seek to consult on closure proposals. The Governing Body has requested that the County Council begin consulting on a proposal to close the school at the end of the academic year.

2.6 There are four key concerns; low pupil numbers, breadth of curriculum, financial position, and school leadership.

3.0 PUPIL NUMBERS

3.1 The number of children at Clapham CE VC Primary School has been falling over the past few years. By the beginning January 2019, there were just 28 pupils on roll in the school and these are projected to fall to just 22 by September 2020. This is well below the capacity of the school – which is designed to accommodate up to 59 pupils if all spaces are in use. Forecasts indicate that these numbers will not recover significantly in the longer term and may reduce further still in the following years as the larger year groups move into secondary education.

3.2 In September 2012, as part of the North Craven Education Review, the middle school provision in North Craven ended. As a result Clapham CE VC Primary School increased its age range to include 11 year olds. For a short time this led to an increase in pupil numbers, however, since 2014 numbers on roll have been falling gradually despite its outstanding Ofsted judgement in May 2011.

3.3 The current and past numbers in each year group at the school are:

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Reception	5	5	2	5	3	2
Year 1	9	7	3	2	5	3
Year 2	2	10	6	2	2	4
Year 3	3	3	11	6	3	4
Year 4	7	4	4	9	5	3
Year 5	6	7	6	4	6	6
Year 6	8	6	7	6	3	6
Total	40	42	39	34	27	28

3.4 A pupil forecast is attached at **Appendix 1**. It is based on our standard methodology and predicts no more than three new Reception aged starters in 2019/20. This combined with the progressive reduction in existing year groups results in a forecast total roll by 2020/21 of just 22 pupils.

4.0 BREADTH OF CURRICULUM

4.1 As pupil numbers fall, it is increasingly difficult to provide the remaining pupils with access to the full range of experiences they need, particularly opportunities for working and playing with children their own age. The opportunities for children to work in groups together, learn from, and play with each other are very limited.

4.2 The last full Ofsted inspection was in May 2011 and was judged as being outstanding. At the time of the inspection there were 35 pupils on roll with an age range of 4-10. Pupils would then transfer to a middle school at the end of year five.

LA officers have the view that if the school were to be inspected again, it would not be able to retain the existing outstanding judgement.

5.0 THE FINANCIAL POSITION

- 5.1 Pupil numbers determine the school budget. The school has overwhelming challenges in managing its budget faced with such low numbers. As a result of a reduced budget the school may have to further reduce staff.
- 5.2 Examination of the predicted financial position has led to concerns about the schools ability to preserve the quality of education. The school is projecting in year deficits of £28k in 2019/20 and £47k in 2020/21, and a cumulative deficit of £102k by the end of that year. These were based on pupil assumptions of 27 in 2019/20 and 21 in 2020/21, so the position will deteriorate further as pupil numbers fall with no reasonable prospect of recovery.
- 5.3 The school's projected financial position based on current staffing structures is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 5.4 The local authority's ability to support schools experiencing financial difficulties is now limited and small schools became vulnerable following the introduction of a national funding formula which is largely driven by pupil numbers.

6.0 LEADERSHIP

- 6.1 There is no substantive Headteacher and the current interim arrangement will cease at the end of the summer term. Despite a number of attempts to recruit a substantive Headteacher this has not proved possible. LA officers and the Diocese have had conversations with schools both locally and in neighbouring County's but have not been able to identify another school that would be prepared to share a Headteacher. Without secure leadership the school's standards are at risk.

7.0 PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN THE LOCAL AREA

- 7.1 There are four other North Yorkshire primary schools within reasonable travelling distance with places available currently, shown in **Appendix 3**. Across the area there are places available for all the pupils currently at Clapham CE VC Primary School. The nearest Church of England school is Austwick CE VA Primary School which is 2 miles from Clapham by road and also holds an Outstanding Ofsted judgement. There is also Ingleton Primary School which is 4.7 miles from Clapham, Bentham CP School at 5.5 miles and Giggleswick Primary School at 5.8 miles away, all of which were rated Good in their last Ofsted inspections.
- 7.2 It is proposed that the catchment areas of Austwick CE VA Primary School and Bentham CP School are expanded to include the current catchment area of Clapham. These schools both have capacity to take some additional pupils and have indicated a willingness to do so. Consultees would be invited to comment on the future arrangements for Clapham School catchment area.

7.3 Parents will be able to express a preference for any local school and if there are places available they will be accepted. Schools may agree to accept local children above their admission number.

8.0 PROPOSAL FOR CLOSURE

8.1 In the light of the above information it is proposed that consultation should be undertaken on the closure of Clapham CE VC Primary School with effect from 31 August 2019. This would mean that the school would close to pupils at the beginning of the summer holidays in July 2019.

8.2 There are a number of other local schools and existing parents would be assisted to find alternative places for their children. Parents will be able to express a preference for any local school and if there are places they will be accepted.

8.3 Parents will also be reminded of the County Council's home to school transport policy when considering alternative schools. Pupils up to the age of 8 would normally be eligible for free home to school transport if they live more than 2 miles from their normal area school (or 3 miles for those over the age of 8). Parents can always express a preference for a school other than their normal area school, however, they would usually be responsible for making transport arrangements. Eligibility is assessed on an individual basis taking account of the child's home address.

9.0 PROCESS AND TIMESCALE

9.1 It is proposed to initiate a consultation on 12 February for a period of six term time weeks. A draft consultation document is attached at **Appendix 4**. It is proposed to hold a public meeting at the school in March 2019 on a date to be confirmed. The views of a range of stakeholders will be invited. The consultation will close on 4 April.

9.2 As the school is a voluntary controlled primary school maintained by the local authority the decision to publish statutory notices will be taken by the Executive at the end of the consultation period. All responses to the consultation will be made available to members.

9.3 The final decision on closure will be taken by the Executive (or by the Executive Member for Schools if there are no objections during the representation period).

9.4 The key dates are shown below:

Approval to consult	5 February 2019
Consultation opens	Tuesday 12 February 2019
Public meeting at the school	March 2019
Consultation closes	Thursday 4 th April 2019
Executive decision to publish	16 April 2019

statutory notices (if approved the following timetable would apply)	
Statutory Notices published (4 weeks for representations to be made)	Thursday 2 May 2019
Representation period starts	2 May 2019
Representation period ends	30 May 2019
Final decision by County Council's Executive or Executive Member	25 June 2019
Implementation of closure	31 August 2019

10.0 RECOMMENDATION

10.1 It is recommended that approval be given to commence consultation on the proposal that the County Council will cease to maintain Clapham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School with effect from 31 August 2019.


CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE.

Report prepared by Andrew Dixon, Strategic Planning Manager

Action AgreedExecutive Member
Date: 5 February 2019

Action RequestedCorporate Director
Date: 5 February 2019

- Appendix 1 – Pupil forecast
- Appendix 2 – Financial forecast
- Appendix 3 – Local school details
- Appendix 4 – Draft consultation document

DfE Number	3234		Previous DfE No		School:	Clapham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School																		
Pupils as at	JANUARY 2019			Academy Trust																				
	Live births %	Migration	Workings	District:	Diocesan Area: Church Schools only	SCAP Locality:	Strategic Planning Officer:	County Councillor/s:	PAN 2018/19	Lead Adviser														
Actual:	0.72	0	Mig. -0.33	Craven	Leeds Diocese (CE)	North Craven Outer Area	Julia Temple	David Ireton	8	Matt Blyton														
Local MP	Julian Smith MP			36UB	Age Range	3 to 11	8151322	Federated with																
Urban/Rural Name	Rural village in a sparse setting			URN	121557																			
School Year	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33	33/34	34/35
Live Births & forecast births	476	461	450	454	469	464	458	458	458	456	454	453	451	448	444	440	436	431	427	424	422	420	420	420
% actual live births from						1.05	0.65	0.44																
4+			5	5	2	5	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
5+			9	7	3	2	5	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
6+			2	10	6	2	2	4	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
7+			3	3	11	6	3	4	4	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
8+			7	4	4	9	5	3	4	4	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
9+			6	7	6	4	6	6	3	4	4	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
10+			8	6	7	6	3	6	6	3	4	4	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Total			40	42	39	34	27	28	25	22	22	21	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21

Housing	Notes	Number																						
Permissions	5 yr	14	4	Housing yield - Outstanding Permissions	1	1	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
				Forecast with outstanding permissions (with rounding)	26	23	24	24	24	24	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Unapproved applications	7 yr	0	0	Housing yield - Unapproved applications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
				Forecast with OP and Un Apps (with rounding)	26	23	24	24	24	24	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Local Plan	15 yr plan	0	0	Housing yield - Local Plan / current unapproved applications (with rounding)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	rounded	14	4	Total forecast inc. housing yield (with rounding)	26	23	24	24	24	24	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Net Capacity		56	PANs	IAN	8	Y2 16/17	8	Y5 13/14	10	Number of North Yorks pupils living within catchment*** (2018/19)													32	
Maximum Workplaces		59		R 18/19	8	Y3 15/16	10	Y6 12/13	10	Number of pupils attending from within catchment (2018/19)													18	
Academy Funding Agreement	#N/A			Y1 17/18	8	Y4 14/15	10	19/20	8	Number of pupils from within catchment attending other North York Schs (2018/19)													14	
				FT	N1		N2		FTE	0	Attending above school from other school catchment areas**** (2018/19)													10
Nursery age pupils currently attending school				PT	N1		N2		FTE	15	*** This may include a shared area **** This may include out of county													

REVENUE FINANCIAL FORECAST

School Name: Clapham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School
 DFE No.: 3234
 Revenue Financial Forecast: 2018/19 to 2020/21 Version: Submit / Current / Waiting for Authorization
 Version Name: 2018 19 Revised Forecast
 Version Description: Employee: 2018 19 Revised Forecast, Funding: 2018 19 Revised Forecast 4, Other I/E: 2018 19 Revised Forecast 5

1. REVENUE FINANCIAL FORECAST (based on pupil and staff number assumptions detailed below)

	<u>2018/19</u> <u>Financial Year</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>2019/20</u> <u>Financial Year</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>2020/21</u> <u>Financial Year</u> <u>£'000</u>
a) Income			
Funds Delegated by The LEA	213.7	216.4	199.8
Funding for 6th Form Students	0.0	0.0	0.0
SEN Funding	6.4	6.4	6.4
Pupil Premium	1.3	1.3	1.3
Other Income	33.0	31.4	31.4
Community Focused Extended School Income	0.2	0.0	0.0
Total Income	254.6	255.5	238.9
b) Expenditure			
Teaching Staff	117.6	121.7	124.4
Supply Teachers	6.5	2.0	2.0
Techs/Teaching Staff Support	37.6	40.5	40.4
Admin and Clerical Staff	23.1	17.0	17.0
Other Employees Costs/Expense	19.2	11.1	11.0
Premises Costs	27.9	33.5	33.5
Learning Resources	26.9	25.9	25.9
Supplies and Services	30.9	31.9	31.9
Capital Financing From Revenue	0.0	0.0	0.0
Community Focused Extended School Costs	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Expenditure	290.1	283.6	286.2
c) Summary Position			
In Year Position	-35.5	-28.1	-47.3
Balance Brought Forward	8.7	-26.8	-54.9
Balance carried forward	-26.8	-54.9	-102.2

2. BALANCE INFORMATION

General School Revenue Balance	-26.5	-54.6	-101.9
Extended School Balance(Community Focused)	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
School Revenue Balance Percentage(%)	-12.23	-24.83	-50.11

3. PUPIL NUMBER ASSUMPTIONS

	<u>2017 Census.</u> <u>2018/19</u> <u>Funding</u>	<u>2018 Census.</u> <u>2019/20</u> <u>Funding</u>	<u>2019 Census.</u> <u>2020/21</u> <u>Funding</u>
Reception	4.00	2.00	0.00
Year 1	4.00	3.00	2.00
Year 2	2.00	4.00	3.00
Year 3	3.00	3.00	4.00
Year 4	4.00	3.00	3.00
Year 5	6.00	6.00	3.00
Year 6	3.00	6.00	6.00
Totals	26.00	27.00	21.00
Total Main School	26.0	27.0	21.0
Total Sixth Form	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number of classes	2.0	2.0	2.0

REVENUE FINANCIAL FORECAST

4. STAFFING ASSUMPTIONS

	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>
<u>a) Teaching Staff(full time equivalent)</u>			
April	2.6	2.5	2.5
September	2.5	2.5	2.5
January	2.5	2.5	2.5
<u>b) Technicians(hours per week)</u>			
April	0.0	0.0	0.0
September	0.0	0.0	0.0
January	0.0	0.0	0.0
<u>c) Admin and Clerical Staff(hours per week)</u>			
April	33.6	32.0	32.0
September	65.6	32.0	32.0
January	32.0	32.0	32.0
<u>d) Teaching Support Staff(hours per week)</u>			
April	79.8	70.2	70.2
September	71.8	70.2	70.2
January	70.2	70.2	70.2
<u>e) SEN Teaching Support Staff(hours per week)</u>			
April	0.0	0.0	0.0
September	0.0	0.0	0.0
January	0.0	0.0	0.0

5. KEY BENCH MARKING INDICATORS

Pupil:Teacher Ratio(as at April)	10.0	10.8	8.4
Average Class Size (as per No. of classes)	13.0	13.5	10.5
Classes:Teachers Ratio(as at April)	0.77	0.80	0.80

6. OTHER KEY ASSUMPTIONS/INFORMATION

REVENUE FINANCIAL FORECAST

Funding- The 2018/19 and 2019/20 years are based on the soft implementation of the National Funding Formula (NFF). The 2020/21 year has been calculated on the same basis and would be subject to change should the DfE move to the full implementation of the NFF.
Support Staff - Estimated pay awards based on the Employer's offer have been included for April 2018 & April 2019.
Teaching Staff - Teachers salaries have been updated with the new agreed increases for September 2018, there is also a 2% increase included for September 2019 across all teaching salary ranges and allowances.

2018 19 based on Section 251 funding,
2019 20 based on October census for pupil numbers.
Note: there are currently 3 ongoing consultations regarding the level at which MFG protection is set, the level of transfer of funding for High Needs SEN & the allocation of exceptional element 2 SEND funding. This forecast presumes the impact of the worse case scenario for Clapham on the outcome of these consultations.

Early years: Summer 2018 only 39 hpw £3.98 then ceased Nursery provision

SEN funding for one EHCP - presumed will continue & at same level but note comments above regarding consultations

Pupil Premium: One FSM6 pupil. Expenditure within E03 staffing for intervention work plus £300 for resources E19/3380

Sports Grant: £16,000 lump sum plus £10 per pupil Y1-Y6. Expenditure £2300 towards Lunchtime Activity Leader & balance in Learning Resources for coaching, resources, transport

Extended Schools: Summer 2018 only then ceased

Teaching Staffing: 2.6 FTE Summer 2018 then 2.52 FTE from September (1.0 Headteacher plus 1.52 Teaching staff)

Support staff:-

Summer 2018: GTA: 44 hpw GTA SEN 27.5 hpw ATA: 1.5 hpw HLTA: 6.75 hpw

Autumn 2018 onwards: GTA 33 hpw GTA SEN 30.5 hpw only HLTA 6.75 hpw

MSA:

Summer 2018: 9 hpw

Autumn 2018 onwards: 5.5 hpw including Activity leader (some MSA cover included in TA hours above re SEN)

Admin:

Summer 2018 Band 32 hpw plus clerk then 32 hpw Autumn onwards

Notes:

- Presumed income/expenditure matches for budget purposes although shortfalls will need to be met from School Fund / PTA / other income per discussions at start budget.
- Pay awards: Presumed 2% on all Teaching staff from Sept 2018
- No allowance for employers superannuation contribution in future years but possibility of grant funding – if not received then will be an impact on the budget
- Non teaching staff – increased included for April 2018 & April 2019 but not for the impact of the new grading structure from April 2019.
- Likely to be increases in other Traded Services (cleaning etc) but no allowance built in at this stage

7. ANALYSIS OF MAIN VARIATIONS SINCE LAST FORECAST

	<u>2018/19</u> <u>£'000</u>	-	<u>2019/20£</u> <u>'000</u>	-	<u>2020/21£</u> <u>'000</u>
In year revenue position as above	-35.5		-28.1		-47.3
In year revenue position reported to Governors on: 22/05/2018	-7.7		23.8		3.9
Variances	-27.8		-51.9		-51.2

Analysis of main variances:

Start budget had presumed restructure of staffing including Executive Headteacher from September 2018 & non teaching staff restructure. Admin & part of TA restructure taken place but not fully implemented.

REVENUE FINANCIAL FORECAST

CAPITAL SUMMARY

Capital Financial Forecast: 2018/19 to 2020/21

	<u>2018/19</u> <u>Financial Year</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>2019/20</u> <u>Financial Year</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>2020/21</u> <u>Financial Year</u> <u>£'000</u>
1. CAPITAL FINANCIAL FORECAST			
a) Income			
CI01 Capital Income	4.4	4.4	4.4
CI03 Private Income	0.0	0.0	0.0
CI04 Revenue Financing	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Income	4.4	4.4	4.4
b) Expenditure			
CE01 Acquisition of Land & Existing Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
CE02 New Construction, Conversion & Renovation	0.0	0.0	0.0
CE03 Vehicles, Plant, Equipment & Machinery	0.0	0.0	0.0
CE04 ICT	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Expenditure	0.0	0.0	0.0
c) Summary Position			
In Year Position	4.4	4.4	4.4
OB03 Balance Brought Forward	2.6	7.0	11.4
Balance carried forward	7.0	11.4	15.8
2. INFORMATION REGARDING CAPITAL BALANCES/PROJECTS			
B03 DEVOLVED FORMULA CAPITAL	7.0	11.4	15.8
B04 OTHER STDS.FUND CAPITAL BAL	0.0	0.0	0.0
B05 OTHER CAPITAL BALANCES	0.0	0.0	0.0

Appendix 3	Clapham CE	Austwick CE	Ingleton Primary	Bentham CP	Giggleswick Primary	Long Preston VA
Distance from Clapham CE School by road	NA	2.0 miles	4.7 miles	5.5 miles	5.8 miles	9.7 miles
Last Ofsted Inspection	Outstanding June 2011	Outstanding May 2011	Good June 2016	Good March 2016	Good January 2017	Good February 2017
Net Capacity (places available at the school)	56	56	180	147	90	84
Current Pupil Roll	27	51	164	119	66	67
Current Capacity -/ +	+29	+5	+16	+28	+24	+17
Pupil Roll 2019/20	24	61	169	111	55	60
Pupil Roll 2020/21	21	64	173	108	53	55
Pupil Roll 2021/22	21	66	169	108	54	56
Pupil Roll 2022/23	21	69	174	106	49	51
Pupil Roll 2023/34	20	70	171	108	47	52
Potential additional pupils from housing*						
Pupils from outstanding permissions by 2022/23	3	0	11	11	2	2
Potential pupils from future housing – Local Plan (over 15 years)	0	0	30	124	9	0

*Based on 1 primary-aged pupil from every 4 houses

APPENDIX 4



Consultation Document

Proposal to close Clapham Church of England

Voluntary Controlled Primary School

from 31 August 2019

Clapham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

12 February 2019

This paper sets out details of a proposal to close Clapham CE VC Primary School with effect from 31 August 2019. It gives the background to the proposal. There will be a public meeting on:

March at 6.00pm

at Clapham CE VC Primary School, Lancaster, LA2 8EJ

The Current Position

At a meeting on 29 November 2018 the Governing Body of Clapham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School voted to seek to consult on the school's closure. The governing body has requested that the County Council begin consulting on a proposal to close the school at the end of the current academic year. The Local Authority and the Diocese agree that this is in the best interests of current and future pupils from Clapham because numbers have fallen to a level where it will be difficult to provide a high quality of education for pupils in the long term. The County Council is therefore now consulting on the proposal to close the school with effect from 31 August 2019.

The LA, Diocese, and the Governing Body of Clapham CE VC Primary School have not reached this decision lightly and have considered a number of other alternatives, including federation with other local schools.

Background

In 2009 Clapham CE VC Primary School confederated with two other small schools, Austwick CE VA Primary and Horton in Ribblesdale CE VA Primary. The three schools shared

a headteacher up until the end of December 2015 when all three Governing Bodies decided to formally end the collaboration. The Governing Body then appointed a new Headteacher who continued in post until 2018. There is currently no substantive headteacher in post at the school. The LA has secured an acting headteacher who has agreed to continue in post until the end of the current academic year.

Low pupil numbers have led to the school being in a financial deficit position, and unable to afford its own Headteacher. Despite numerous attempts by the LA to secure a shared headship arrangement with another school, this has not been successful.

There are four key concerns: 1) Low pupil numbers; 2) Breadth of curriculum, 3) The schools financial position, and 4) Leadership

The critical concern is the fall in pupil numbers, which would inevitably result in an inability to provide the necessary breadth of curriculum experience and would also irrevocably undermine the schools future financial position.

Pupil Numbers

The number of children at Clapham CE VC Primary School has been falling over the past few years. By the beginning of January 2019, there were just 28 pupils on roll in the school and these are projected to fall to just 22 by September 2020. This is well below the capacity of the school – which is designed to accommodate up to 59 pupils if all spaces are in use. Forecasts indicate that these numbers will not recover significantly in the longer term and may reduce further still in the following years as the larger year groups move into secondary education.

In these circumstances, it would be difficult to deliver and sustain quality education.

The last full Ofsted inspection was in May 2011 and was judged as being outstanding. At the time of the inspection there were 35 pupils on roll with an age range of 4-10. Pupils would then transfer to a middle school at the end of year five. The middle school provision ended in September 2012 and as a result Clapham CE VC Primary School increased its age range to include 11 year olds. For a short time this led to an increase in pupil numbers, however, since 2014 numbers on roll have been falling gradually despite its outstanding Ofsted judgement.

Total roll numbers:

2013/14 – 40
2014/15 – 42
2015/16 – 39
2016/17 – 34
2017/18 – 27
2018/19 – 28

The latest pupil forecast indicates no more than three new reception aged starters in 2019/20. This combined

with the progressive reduction in existing year groups results in a forecast total roll of 25 in 2019/20 and only 22 the following year.

Breadth of Curriculum

The LA has already identified concerns around the school's ability to meet the educational need of children with such small numbers alongside existing financial issues. As numbers continue to fall it will be increasingly difficult to provide the remaining pupils with access to the full range of experiences they need, particularly opportunities for working and playing with children their own age.

The Financial Position

Pupil numbers determine the school budget. With these low numbers, and a reduced budget, the school may have to further reduce staff.

Examination of the predicted financial position has led to concerns about the schools ability to preserve the quality of education. The school is projecting in year deficits of £28k in 2019/20 and £47k in 2020/21, and cumulative deficit of £102k by the end of that year. These were based on pupil assumptions at the time of 27 in 2019/20 and 21 in 2020/21, so the position will deteriorate further as pupil numbers fall with no reasonable prospect of recovery.

Leadership

Despite a number of attempts to recruit a substantive Headteacher this has not proved possible. The current interim arrangements cannot continue into the future. It has not been possible to identify another school locally that would be prepared to share a

Headteacher. Without secure leadership the school's standards are at risk.

The Proposal

For the reasons outlined above it is proposed that Clapham CE VC Primary School should close with effect from 31 August 2019.

The nearest Church of England school, 2 miles from Clapham, is Austwick CE VA Primary School. There is also, Ingleton Primary School which is 4.7 miles from Clapham School, Bentham CP School at 5.5 miles, and Giggleswick Primary School at 5.8 miles away.

It is proposed that the catchment areas of both Austwick CE VA Primary School and Bentham CP School are expanded to include the current Clapham catchment area. These schools have the capacity to take some additional pupils and have indicated a willingness to do so.

The County Council would welcome consultees' views on the proposed catchment area extension.

For children currently at Clapham CE VC Primary School, North Yorkshire County Council will work with each family to try to meet their individual preferences for other schools regardless of the catchment area defined. Staff and governors at Clapham CE VC Primary School are also committed to supporting families in their choice of school and in making a smooth transition.

Some schools may be able to admit over their published admission numbers for some year groups.

Eligibility for home-to-school transport will be determined in line with the

County Council's current home-to-school transport policy and procedures, based on travel distances from each child's home address and individual circumstances.

Parents have a right to express a preference for any school and, in the case of community and voluntary controlled schools, the Local Authority is the admissions authority and will meet that preference, provided there are vacant places or the school is happy to admit above the published admission number. In the case of Voluntary Aided schools, the governing body decides the conditions for admission to their particular school. Where a child attends a school, which is not their normal school or nearest school, parents are normally responsible for making transport arrangements.

North Yorkshire County Council's Admissions Team is always happy to give advice to parents – please contact Vickie Hemming-Allen on 01609 535481 or Lisa Herdman on 01609 534953.

The School Site

The school building is not owned by the County Council, it is held on an implied Trust for the purposes of a school. The playing field is leased in by the County Council from a private landowner. Decisions about the future use of the school buildings and playing field will be taken by the owners after the closure proposal has been determined.

What Happens Next?

Your views about this proposal are welcomed. You can either complete and return the attached response sheet, or submit an online response.

Paper responses should be returned to

North Yorkshire County Council at the address below:

FREEPOST RTKE-RKAY-CUJS
Clapham
Strategic Planning
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
NORTHALLERTON
DL7 8AE

Online responses may be submitted by following this link:

https://consult.northyorks.gov.uk/snapwebhost/SURVEY_PREVIEW.asp?k=154755992143

The closing date for responses is

Thursday 4th April 2019

All responses to the consultation received by this date will be considered by the County Council's Executive on 16 April 2019.

If the County Council's Executive decides to proceed with the closure proposal, then statutory notices would be published in the local press on Thursday 2 May 2019. These notices provide a further four weeks for representations to be made. A final decision would then be made by North Yorkshire County Council's Executive on 25 June 2019. If agreed the school would close on 31 August 2019.

Anticipated Key Dates

All dates are subject to approvals at each stage.

Consultation opens	Tuesday 12 February 2019
Public meeting at the school	6.00pm # March 2019
Consultation closes	Thursday 4 th April 2019
County Council's Executive considers consultation response	16 April 2019
Statutory Notices published (4 weeks for representations to be made)	Thursday 2 May 2019
Final decision by County Council's Executive	25 June 2019
Proposed school closure date	31 August 2019

Clapham CE VC Primary School
A consultation on whether the school should be closed

Observations and/or suggestions:

DRAFT

Interest/Status

e.g. Parent/Governor/Teacher/Community

Name of School

Signed

Date:

Name (Block Capitals)

Address:

.....

.....

Postcode:

To help us assess whether we have provided clear information, please let us know whether you found this consultation easy to understand? YES/NO

Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

.....

Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, responses to the consultation may be published on the County Council's website where it may be accessed by members of the public. Your personal details will not be published. Please send this response sheet to the following "FREEPOST" address. You do not need to use a postage stamp.

FREEPOST RTKE-RKAY-CUJS

Clapham

Strategic Planning

North Yorkshire County Council

County Hall

NORTHALLERTON

DL7 8AE

Or go to:

https://consult.northyorks.gov.uk/snapwebhost/SURVEY_PREVIEW.asp?k=154755992143

and submit your response there

To be received by no later than 4th April 2019

We are collecting this information for the purpose of gathering views on the proposal. Your personal data will not be published or passed to any other organisation unless a legal obligation compels us to do so. We may contact you to discuss your views further. For more information about how your personal data is handled at North Yorkshire County Council please visit: www.northyorks.gov.uk/privacy

DRAFT