

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**THE EXECUTIVE****17 October 2017****PROPOSAL TO CEASE TO MAINTAIN SKIPTON INGS COMMUNITY
PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL****Report by the Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s
Service****1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report details the outcome of the public consultation carried out by the Children and Young People’s Service on a proposal to close Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School and asks the Executive to consider the responses to the consultation, to authorise the publication of statutory proposals, and to schedule taking a final decision on the proposal on 5 December 2017.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 On 13 June 2017 Executive Members for Children and Young People’s Service gave approval for consultation on a proposal to close Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School with effect from 31 December 2017. The report provided the full background and is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The proposal published for consultation was that the local authority would cease maintaining the school and that the catchment area of another school would be extended to become the normal school to serve the catchment area of Skipton Ings.
- 2.3 The consultation commenced on 26 June 2017 and closed on 15 September 2017. This report details the responses to the consultation and asks the Executive to consider authorising the publication of a proposal and statutory notices, and to schedule taking a final decision on the proposal on 5 December 2017.
- 2.4 The report is supported by a number of Appendices as listed below:

- Appendix 1: Report of Corporate Director Meeting with Executive Members – 13 June 2017
- Appendix 2: Published consultation document
- Appendix 3: List of consultees
- Appendix 4: Notes of the public consultation meeting
- Appendix 5: Responses to the consultation document
- Appendix 6: Equality Impact Assessment
- Appendix 7: Draft Statutory notice
- Appendix 8: Draft Statutory proposals

3.0 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

- 3.1 A consultation document (Appendix 2) was distributed to the list of consultees attached as Appendix 3. The document was also published on the websites of both Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School and NYCC. The consultation period ran from 26 June to 15 September 2017.
- 3.2 By the closing date 17 written consultation responses had been received, ten were against the proposal, one was supportive, and six were neutral. Two responses were received from parents who had children at Skipton Ings at the time.
- 3.3 The neutral responses focused on the future of the school site indicating support for conversion of it to form a new primary Pupil Referral Unit. There is already an existing secondary PRU within the town of Skipton and the need for a primary base for this service has not been demonstrated.
- 3.4 The local authority undertook a review of specialist and alternative provision across the county in 2016 and it identified two main priorities in terms of provision including meeting the needs of children with SEMH (social, emotional and mental health needs). The local authority is currently working with schools and education providers in various localities to identify how we can better meet the needs of these children, and this includes analysing whether locality based provision is sufficient for the future and how any gaps in provision can be addressed. The local authority is aware that there is a need to strengthen SEMH provision at primary level and this is being considered as provision is remodeled across North Yorkshire. The Ings school site would be a consideration as part of the wider strategic plan if a decision to close the school were to be reached.
- 3.5 The Regional Schools Commissioner has also been consulted about the future use of the site for education provision. There is the potential for opening a new academy on the site after a period of closure. In this scenario the Ings site would continue to provide mainstream primary school places in future. We remain in negotiation with local multi-academy trusts with the support of the Regional Schools Commissioner but confidentiality has been requested until discussions are concluded. Members will be provided with further information as soon as this is possible.
- 3.6 The concerns raised by other responders related to:
- The impact on the local community of the loss of the school
 - Travel distances to other schools
 - Availability of places at other local schools, and the impact of additional housing in Skipton
 - Future of the multi-use games area on the school site

3.7 Impact on the local community

The school has in the past run a wide variety of after school and extra-curricular clubs and activities for children, including a before and after school club. There have also been a wide variety of sport clubs on offer such as football, netball and cricket. The reduction in pupil numbers has meant that these clubs have now stopped.

The governing body has encouraged community use of the school buildings and has attempted to increase lettings of the premises to support the budget. The school has also made links with the Adult Learning Service to broaden the range of services offered with a view to increasing regular contact with the community. Despite these attempts community use of the facilities remains low. Given the small number of community uses of the school premises, and the alternative venues available locally, the impact on the community should be minimal.

3.8 Travel distances to other schools

Walking distance in miles	Christ Church	Ings CP	Water Street	Parish Church CE	St Stephen's Catholic	Greatwood CP
Christ Church		0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
Ings CP	0.8		1	1.1	0.9	1.4
Water Street	0.4	1		0.6	0.1	0.9
Parish Church CE	0.4	1.1	0.6		0.5	0.5
St Stephen's Catholic	0.4	0.9	0.1	0.5		0.8
Greatwood CP	0.5	1.4	0.9	0.5	0.8	

All other Primary Schools within Skipton town are within 1.5 miles of each other.

3.9 Availability of places

At the start of the consultation process there were 42 pupils on roll at Skipton Ings but a number of those were already seeking alternative placements for September 2017 due to dissatisfaction with unstable staffing and the revised class structure to be adopted. One pupil was due to leave the area but all other 41 pupils were offered alternative places at local schools for September 2017. All but one pupil has subsequently transferred to another school.

The 41 places were offered at the following schools with no more than 4 children admitted to a single year group at any school:

Christ Church CE VC – 7 pupils
 St Stephens Catholic Primary – 5
 Skipton Greatwood CP – 1
 Skipton Parish CE VC – 14
 Carleton Endowed – 5
 Cracoe and Rylstone VC CE – 4
 Gargrave CE VC – 1
 Embsay CE VC – 4

- 3.10 There remain 127 places available across three Skipton Town primary schools as of 3 October 2017. This represents 11.5% of all available places excluding the Ings capacity.

	St Stephens RC VA Primary	Parish CE VC Primary School	Greatwood CP School
Reception	7	8	1
Year 1	4	0	0
Year 2	6	11	0
Year 3	8	8	0
Year 4	0	17	0
Year 5	11	16	0
Year 6	9	21	0
Totals	45	81	1

3.11 Impact of additional housing

There are forecast to be 1,054 primary aged pupils in Skipton Town by 2021/22, based on the forecast birth rates, a rise from the current level of 1,030. Additionally, there are forecast to be 189 additional pupils from existing housing permissions, and 348 pupils from the proposed Local Plan allocations. The timing of the impact of housing is uncertain but it does mean that by 2029/30 it is estimated there is likely to be a shortfall of 480 places for primary aged pupils in Skipton Town. As part of our response to the draft Craven Local Plan we have stated there will be a requirement for two new sites for primary school provision of 210 places each. Additional places are also likely to be required within one or more existing schools, potentially on the Greatwood Community Primary School site which is the only primary school site in Skipton which has scope for significant expansion.

We have been in discussion with colleagues from Craven DC to explain the circumstances around this closure proposal and how by 2016/17 Skipton Ings was not in reality contributing to the supply of primary school places in Skipton due to significant under-subscription and with no prospect of this changing.

The situation for the requirement of additional places will be reviewed once the future use of the Skipton Ings site becomes clearer. If the site can become utilised for Primary places to its fullest potential then this will reduce the requirement for new provision elsewhere in the town.

3.12 Future use of the multi-use games area

The multi-use games area is a school managed facility which is available for use by the community out of school hours. The local authority is aware of the value this facility holds within the community and this would be taken into consideration when decisions are being taken about the future of the school site, should the decision be made to close the school.

- 3.13 A public meeting was held at the School on 19 July 2017. This was attended by 17 members of the community of which eight identified themselves as parents or grandparents of children attending the school, two local residents, and the others included staff, governors and a representative from the local press. A record of the meeting is attached as Appendix 4.

4 KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The consultation document set out the key concerns. The latest position on these issues is summarised below:

4.2 Standards of teaching and learning

At the last two Ofsted inspections (October 2014 and November 2016) the school was judged as Requires Improvement. Governors and school leaders have made progress in very challenging circumstances, however, significant improvement has not been possible due to staffing turbulence and difficulties in recruiting high quality staff.

Local Authority staff, Governors, and teachers at the school have concerns about the impact of falling numbers on ensuring appropriate curriculum delivery and a broad and balanced experience to the children.

4.3 Pupil Numbers

On announcing the public consultation the Governing Body invited parents and carers to a meeting held at the school with the NYCC Schools Admissions Team. This was arranged in recognition that in communicating the vulnerability of the school this would create uncertainty and some parents may wish to look at options for alternative school places for September 2017 and would be seeking advice and guidance. At that meeting information was provided on all local schools, Ofsted ratings, travel distances and the Home to School Transport Policy. NYCC and local schools then adopted a coordinated approach for applications taking into account family groups, parental preference and travel distances. By the end of the summer term, following parental requests, offers of alternative school places had been made to all pupils, apart from one who was leaving the area.

At the start of the September term, and at the time of publishing this report, only one pupil was on roll at the school. Irrespective of this unusual situation the LA is legally obliged to maintain the school until the implementation date of any closure decision, which would be 31 December 2017 in this case.

4.4 The Financial Position

Pupil numbers determine the school budget. Since compiling the June report to Executive Members, revised budget projections based on lower pupil numbers of 31 have shown larger in-year financial deficits for 2017/18 and 2018/19 at £56,300 and £105,300 respectively and a projected cumulative deficit at the end of 2018/19 of

£249,400. Clearly with now even lower numbers this position is much worse.

4.5 Staffing

During the last academic year Governors made the decision to reduce to a two class structure from September 2017 and advised that a number of teaching staff had already left the school and others were exploring other opportunities. They had been heavily reliant on supply teachers during the summer term 2016/17 and subsequently a number of staff did leave at the end of fixed term contracts or due to resignation.

The current position is that appropriate staffing is being maintained in accordance with our obligation to provide the best possible education while the school remains open. The exact staffing provision is being reviewed regularly and where possible staff are contributing to work on a wider basis than that purely related to Ings School. In parallel with this School Organisation proposal NYCC Human Resource Advisers are working with the school regarding the contractual position of staff including redeployment activity where necessary.

4.6 Conclusion

There has been relatively little response to the informal consultation and the process has failed to identify a viable alternative option that would secure the school's future. It appears unlikely that such an option could be identified in future. LA Officers have concluded that closure of the School would be in the best interests of the children at the school and the future education of pupils in the area. There are places available at other local schools and within a reasonable travel distance. It is therefore the view that there is a strong case for closure which outweighs other considerations.

5.0 **PROPOSAL**

5.1 The proposal is to cease to maintain Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School from 31 December 2017. The full statutory proposal is set out in Appendix 8.

5.2 The proposed timetable would be:

26 October 2017	Publication of Statutory Proposals
23 November 2017	Closing date for representations (4 weeks as prescribed in regulations and cannot be shortened or lengthened)
5 December 2017	Final decision by Executive
31 December 2017	Proposed closure date

6 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 School revenue funding

Any annual savings to the Dedicated Schools Grant arising from the closure, if approved, would remain within the ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant as part of the funding for all schools. The current lump sum figure for Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School is £89,047. Any revenue or capital balances would be made

available to the receiving school(s) in line with the Closing School Accounting Policy.

6.2 Transport costs

If the school closed, currently there would be no potential additional cost to the Local Authority in providing transport to other schools. Free home to school transport would be provided for entitled pupils in accordance with the revised catchment area arrangements in accordance with the County Council's Home to School transport policy. Based on current pupil numbers and places of residence there are no eligible pupils.

7.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The School Organisation regulations and guidance¹ cover the processes involved in school closures. Careful regard has been had to these provisions.

8.0 **HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no Human Rights issues in relation to this decision.

9.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken in respect of this proposal and is attached (Appendix 6).

10.0 **NEXT STEPS**

10.1 It is proposed to publish proposals and statutory notices on 26 October 2017. The proposals would be published on the County Council's website and the statutory notice would be published in a local newspaper and displayed at the main entrance to the school. These would provide four weeks for representations to be made to the Local Authority, by 23 November 2017.

10.2 During the consultation period no responses were received relating to future catchment areas of neighbouring school(s) being expanded to cover the area currently served by Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School. During the representation period officers will contact headteachers and Chairs of Governors at local schools to discuss future treatment of catchment areas; the result of these conversations will be reported to the Executive on 5 December 2017.

In the event that closure is agreed, and a proposal subsequently comes forward to create a new school on the Ings CP School site, then the current catchment area will remain in place when determining the allocation of pupil places for September 2018.

10.3 The Executive agreed a model for decision-making on school organisation proposals on 25 September 2007. If approval is given to publish statutory proposals and notices, it is proposed that a final decision is taken by the Executive on 5 December 2017.

¹ School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 and Department for Education statutory guidance Opening and closing maintained schools and Guidance for decision makers April 2016

11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 That statutory proposals and notices be published on 26 October 2017 proposing to cease to maintain Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School with effect from 31 December 2017 and that a neighbouring school(s) will expand their catchment area to cover the area currently served by Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School.
- 11.2 That the Executive schedule taking a final decision on these proposals on 5 December 2017.

Stuart Carlton
Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Service

Report prepared by Julia Temple and John Lee, Strategic Planning Team.

List of Appendices

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NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

CORPORATE DIRECTOR MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

13 June 2017

Skipton Town Primary School places

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Member approval to consult on a proposal that the County Council should close Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School from 31 December 2017.
- 1.2 To update on initial discussions with the Regional Schools Commissioner and the wider position regarding primary school places in Skipton Town.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School is facing multiple but not unrelated challenges around issues of educational standards, finance, pupil numbers, governance and staffing. The Shadow Governing Body have concluded that, with little prospect for improvement, they should ask the County Council to consider commencing consultation on a proposal to close the school. In considering this request, consideration must also be taken of the wider contextual picture concerning the availability of Primary School places in Skipton both now and to serve anticipated future growth.

3 SKIPTON INGS COMMUNITY PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Pupil numbers

- 3.1 Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School currently has only 42 children on roll and 5 children in the nursery. The school forecast that numbers may be as low as 23 by 2020, although our forecasts suggest 33 pupils by Sept 2020, excluding any possible children from housing permissions in the area. Ings currently has a net capacity of 84. There are however, other rooms, not currently used as classrooms, which if designated as classrooms, could increase the net capacity to 180, and the scope, with building adaptations, to create a net capacity of 210.
- 3.2 The vast majority of pupils at the school are from minority ethnic heritages, particularly British Pakistani. Several pupils have recently arrived from other countries, including Syria. The proportion of pupils who speak English as an additional language is above the national average. Mobility of pupils across the school is higher than the national average, with almost a quarter of pupils on roll joining the school at times other than the normal point of entry.

Finance

- 3.3 Pupil numbers drive funding and the school is forecasting in-year deficits and, as a result, cumulative year-end deficits of £70k in 2018/19 and £150k in 2019/20.

Standards

- 3.4 In July 2013 this school was judged by Ofsted as Inadequate. The school has been re-inspected by Ofsted in October 2014 and November 2016 and on both inspections was judged as Requires Improvement. Governors and school leaders have made progress in very challenging circumstances. However unless the school achieves significant progress in the next 18 months to achieve a 'good' outcome, it will be facing special measures and an academy order. Little or no improvement has been possible since the most recent inspection as a result of significant staffing turbulence and the difficulties in recruiting high quality staff. Part of the challenge for recruitment is the school's reputation and its precarious position in relation to Ofsted. The financial challenge and/or long-term staff absence means that it cannot offer full-time permanent contracts.

Governance

- 3.5 The school has faced a number of negative perceptions locally. The school has been unable to find governors to form its own Governing Body. The Local Authority has provided a Shadow Governing Body.
- 3.6 The Governors believe that continuation of the school in its existing form is not an option. Attempts to rebrand and to try to change local perceptions have been undertaken but have proved insufficient. The school would not be attractive to another school under a federation arrangement and any partnership with another school is unlikely to resolve the challenging issues the school faces. The Governors have therefore examined two options:
- A 'slimmed' down Ings
 - or
 - Closure proposal
- 3.7 Governors believe that continuing 'as is' is not conducive to providing the best for children. They also feel that a 'slimmed' down school would not give the capacity to offer a broad and balanced experience to the children or to continue to improve the school. The governors have had to reduce to a 2 class structure from September 2017 and have already reduced teaching assistant support. Even so, the in-year deficit will take the school into an overall cumulative year-end deficit of £12K by March 2018. There is no room to 'trim' staffing any further without significantly reducing further the quality of provision and support available for some pupils with higher levels of need.
- 3.8 Governors have advised that a number of teaching staff have already left the school while others are exploring other opportunities. They are now heavily reliant on supply teachers including for the upper Key Stage 2 and lower Key Stage 2/Year 2 classes. Other recent staff departures include a teaching assistant with SEN responsibilities and the school's administrator.
- 3.9 Governors are unanimous in the view that consultation on closure is not delayed and have asked that urgent consideration is given to achieving this. They have written to parents informing them of their request to the County Council to consider closure.

4 FUTURE OPTIONS

4.1 Pupil places – Summer term 2017

Potential spaces are currently available for any children moving from Ings within Skipton Town primary schools at:

	St Stephens RC VA potential places	Parish CE potential places	Greatwood CP potential places	Ings CP Current pupil numbers
Reception	7	0	0	7
Year 1	4	8	1	4
Year 2	7	15	0	6
Year 3	0	16	0	8
Year 4	10	16	0	5
Year 5	9	26	0	7
Year 6	15	18	0	5

4.2 Pupil places - reception places in September 2017

School	No. of Places	Accepted	Vacant	Waiting List
Ings Community Primary and Nursery School	12	5	7	0
Skipton Parish CofE VC Primary School	50	40	10	0
Christ Church C Of E Voluntary Controlled Primary School	20	20	0	8
Water Street Community Primary School, Skipton	30	30	0	9
St Stephen's Catholic Primary School & Nursery Academy	30	20	10	0
Greatwood Community Primary School	30	30	0	0

4.3 There are also spaces available in some year groups in schools in surrounding villages. Some schools may be able to admit over their published admission numbers for some year groups.

4.4 Applications requesting change of school from Ings for September 2017

A number of parents at Ings have already sought new places for their children due to unstable staffing in school and the future class structure planned for September 2017. As at 24 May, there were applications from parents of 17 pupils wanting to change school from Ings either now or in September 2017.

4.5 Headteachers of all town primary schools were invited to meet with County Council Officers on 22 May and asked to consider how children from Ings school could be

accommodated, should the school close. Subject to parental preference, the aim would be for all town primary schools to take a share of the children currently at Ings. This aim is supported by these local headteachers.

- 4.6 Irrespective of future decisions, the communication with parents on the vulnerability of the school will have created further uncertainty. In recognition of this a meeting for parents with the NYCC School Admissions Team has been arranged on Thursday 15 June at 3pm to provide information and advice on where places are available. This will be open to all parents, including those who have already submitted an application to move their children from Ings for September 2017. Representatives from the Minority Ethnic Achievement Hub will also attend. It will be made very clear at this meeting that no decision to close the school has yet been made. If the proposed closure is agreed, parents will have the ability for their children to stay at Ings until the end of December, but should they wish for their children to transfer to another school before then, this will be facilitated where possible.

The future of the Ings site

- 4.7 Should a decision be made to close Ings School, the future of the Ings site would need to be determined. The Ings School site could be retained for education provision. This could be:
- 1) As a satellite or annex of an existing Skipton school (with some year groups moving completely to the Ings site; or a full set of year groups on both sites)
 - 2) As a New Free School – academy established through competition decided by Secretary of State
 - 3) As a New Voluntary Aided Faith School – approved by LA
- 4.8 The Academies Act allows a free school promoter to apply to the Education Funding Agency for a site which has been used for education in the last 8 years, which would be taken at nil value from NYCC. These risks would apply even if the site was used for wider education (non-school) use such as adult education or a children's centre.

Views of stakeholders

- 4.9 During the spring term, a meeting was held with Headteachers of primary schools in Skipton and the Church of England Diocese of Leeds. Heads were asked to discuss these issues confidentially with their governing bodies, and for their view on the future for primary school provision in Skipton. A briefing was also provided for local Members and there has been discussion with the Executive Member for Schools.
- 4.10 A number of views have been received from primary school governing bodies in response to the question of satellite or annex use of the Ings site. No school wished to pursue this at the current time. Common themes reflected were:
- Logistics of operating 2 sites which are some distance apart
 - Financial constraints
 - Parental perception
- 4.11 The possibility of Brooklands Special School relocating on to the Ings site and the Brooklands site being reallocated for primary school provision was also raised. The Ings site is however, smaller than the Brooklands site, and the school building would require extensive adaptation to create a special school for children aged 2 to 19

years who have profound and multiple learning difficulties, severe learning difficulties and complex moderate learning difficulties.

- 4.12 Ultimately none of the discussions with neighbouring schools have to date brought forward a solid proposal for continuing or alternative provision on the Ings site.

Academy options and the Regional Schools Commissioner

- 4.13 There has been initial discussion by County Council officers with the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) about the possibility for a high-quality academy sponsor to take over the school site. The prospect for this to provide continuity of education for current pupils is thought highly unlikely given the increasingly robust and necessary due diligence process. More likely the opening of a new academy on the site at some point in the future could result. This would ensure that the Ings site continues to provide primary school places for children in Skipton.
- 4.14 The RSC has been unable to start exploring this option until after the election period has ended on 8 June. Given the current pressures on Ings School, it is recommended that consultation on closure commences in parallel with these discussions about a potential academy solution.

5 PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN SKIPTON TOWN

Introduction

- 5.1 Appendix 1 provides projected numbers based on forecast birth rates, with potential additional pupils from outstanding housing permissions and proposed housing allocations in the existing Local Plan.
- 5.2 There is currently some capacity at Ings, Parish CE and St Stephen's Catholic Primaries in Skipton. There is also pupil movement from the town to other primary schools nearby, particularly Carleton Endowed, Embsay CE and Gargrave CE.

Options to provide school places to meet future growth

- 5.3 The new draft Craven Local Plan sets out targets for housing over the 20 year period 2012-2032. The approximate yield of the preferred sites in Skipton would be 2,560 dwellings, or an additional 640 primary aged children. Consultation on preferred housing sites took place in July/August 2016, and an examination in public should take place in 2017.
- 5.4 Scope for future expansion of primary schools on existing sites in Skipton is limited as most town centre school sites are landlocked and confined. Appendix 2 provides further details of site areas. Greatwood CP is the only one that offers the opportunity for significant expansion up to 1 form of entry (210 places). Even here, the sloping nature of the site makes additional building more complex. The County Council's design consultants have produced a feasibility study for expanding the Greatwood CP site. These include a scheme for an additional 120 pupils (Phase 1) at a cost of £2,159,000 and for an additional 90 pupils (Phase 2) at a cost of £1,112,400 (costs updated April 2017).
- 5.5 There are limited sites available to establish new primary schools in Skipton within the ownership of the County Council. The County Council owns a site at Raikeswood Drive but this site is not large enough (0.35 ha) for a new school (1.2 ha for 1 form

entry site). The County Council also owns 9 ha of playing fields at Sandylands. However this provides playing fields for Skipton primary and secondary schools, and the County Council would struggle to obtain consent from Sport England and the Secretary of State to build a school on this land. Road access is also very restricted along a single track lane.

- 5.6 The County Council has asked for two potential sites to be allocated for primary education provision in the new draft Craven Local Plan in the west and east of the town where new housing is planned. The proposed spread of smaller sites in Skipton town will, however, make the provision of additional school places more difficult to achieve as no single site alone is large enough for a single-form entry primary school of 210 places (c 840 houses). It could be possible though, to make this a requirement of 2 or more sites. The timing of these sites would be dependent on the speed at which these housing developments progressed, and experience elsewhere in the County suggests that such developments can be very protracted.
- 5.7 A new school site might offer the opportunity to relocate an existing school, but this would require additional funding. The capital receipt available from an existing school site would not be sufficient.

6. CONSULTATION PROCESS AND TIMESCALE

- 6.1 Should a decision be made to initiate a consultation on the proposed closure of Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School, a period of six term time weeks is recommended. A draft timetable is set out below. A draft consultation document is attached as Appendix 3.
- 6.2 As Ings School is a community primary school maintained by the local authority, the decision to publish statutory notices would be taken by the Executive at the end of the consultation period.
- 6.3 The final decision on closure would be taken by the Executive (or by the Executive Member for Schools if there are no objections during the representation period).
- 6.4 Suggested key dates are shown below:

Approval to Consult by Executive Members	13 June
Consultation opens (6 weeks during term time)	26 June
Public meeting	19 July at 7pm
Consultation closes	15 September
Executive decision to publish statutory notices	17 October
Publication of statutory notices	26 October
Representation period starts (4 weeks)	26 October
Representation period ends	23 November
Final decision by Executive or Executive Member	5 December
Implementation	31 December

6.5 It should be noted that if Ings does progress to a closure proposal for 31 December 2017, then the HR timescales would require that the Headteacher and some teaching and support staff in the school would potentially need to work their notice periods after the school had closed.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Executive Member for Schools is recommended to give approval to consult on a proposal to close Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School from 31 December 2017.

7.2 The Executive Member is also asked to note:

- the overall picture in terms of the sufficiency of schools places in Skipton town;
- that, in parallel with the consultation period, discussions with the Regional Schools Commissioner will continue around the potential for a high-quality academy sponsor to take up the future use of the Ings site for primary provision.

Pete Dwyer
CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SERVICE.

Report prepared by John Lee, Strategic Planning Officer

Action AgreedExecutive Member
Date:

Action RequestedCorporate Director
Date:

APPENDIX 1

Establishment - Primary School	Type	Age Range	Net Capacity	Max Workplaces	Number on Roll 2017 - JAN	Current -/+ Capacity	Forecast based on JAN 2017 NOR					Housing					
							17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	Outstanding Permissions	Pupil Yield*	Anticipated Position 21/22	Local Plan Proposals where known	Pupil Yield*	Anticipated Position 21/22
Christ Church CE	Voluntary Controlled	4 to 11	140	150	155	-15	154	150	150	147	148	0	0	-8	48	12	-20
Skipton, Greatwood CP	Community	3 to 11	210	210	211	-1	210	213	214	214	214	118	30	-34	402	101	-134
Skipton Parish Church CE VC	Voluntary Controlled	4 to 11	300	300	253	47	267	286	299	307	315	108	27	-42	202	51	-93
Skipton, Ings CP	Community	3 to 11	84	90	38	46	38	37	36	34	33	225	56	-5	0	0	-5
St Stephen's Catholic	Academy	3 to 11	196	196	153	43	151	146	145	135	134	0	0	62	0	0	62
Skipton, Water Street CP	Community	4 to 11	210	240	221	-11	224	226	227	230	232	138	35	-57	361	90	-147
			1140	1186	1031	109	1044	1058	1071	1067	1076	589	147.25	-83	1013	253	-337

APPENDIX 2

School	Type	Age Range	Ofsted	Inspected	Number on Roll Jan 17	Net Capacity	Distance from Ings CP School	Actual Site Area	Actual Playing field area	Recommended Site Area (Net capacity)	Recommended Playing field area (Net capacity)
Skipton, Ings Community Primary and Nursery School	Community	3 to 11	Requires Improvement	Nov-16	38	84		4,854 m ²	3,086 m ²	8,210 m ²	7,084 m ²
Christ Church Church of England Voluntary (Controlled) Primary School	Voluntary Controlled	4 to 11	Outstanding	Mar-11	155	140	0.8	1,590 m ²	876 m ²	7,731 m ²	6,895 m ²
Skipton, Greatwood Community Primary School	Community	3 to 11	Outstanding	Jun-09	211	210	1.4	18,273 m ²	15,803 m ²	12,964 m ²	11,513 m ²
Skipton Parish Church Church of England VC Primary School	Voluntary Controlled	4 to 11	Inadequate	Feb-17	253	300	1.1	4,536 m ²	2,608 m ²	13,879 m ²	12,490 m ²
St Stephen's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, A Voluntary Academy	Academy	3 to 11	No inspection since became Academy		153	196	1.2	3,310 m ²	2,158 m ²	13,641 m ²	11,014 m ²
Skipton, Water Street Community Primary School	Community	4 to 11	Outstanding	Jun-07	221	210	1	3,642 m ²	2,745 m ²	10,439 m ²	9,359 m ²
TOTAL TOWN PRIMARY SCHOOLS					1031	1140					
Brooklands School	Community Special	2 to 19	Good	Oct-13	57	57 (NOR)	1.1	10,019 m ²	7,234 m ²	16,065 m ²	10,368 m ²

Brougham Street Community Nursery School	Nursery	0 to 4	Good	Sep-13	56	56 (NOR)	1.1	4,536 m ²	2,608 m ²	3,088 m ²	2,649 m ²
Otley Street Community Nursery School	Nursery	0 to 5	Outstanding	Mar-15	83	83 (NOR)	1	1,057 m ²	597 m ²	3,438 m ²	2,957 m ²
Bradleys Both Community Primary School	Community	4 to 11	Good	Mar-16	141	133	3.1	4,445 m ²	3,180 m ²	7,474 m ²	6,662 m ²
Carleton Endowed CofE Primary School	Voluntary Aided	4 to 11	Good	Feb-17	155	147	2.3	5,229 m ²	4,222 m ²	8,187 m ²	7,128 m ²
Embsay Church of England VC Primary School	Voluntary Controlled	4 to 11	Outstanding	Oct-11	207	203	2.9	6,275 m ²	4,422 m ²	10,146 m ²	9,093 m ²
Gargrave Church of England VC Primary School	Voluntary Controlled	4 to 11	Good	Jan-13	122	126	4.8	18,412 m ²	15,798 m ²	7,353 m ²	6,396 m ²
Ermysted's Grammar School	Voluntary Aided	11 to 18	Outstanding	Oct-08	815	844	0.8	45,735 m ²	34,650 m ²	61,502 m ²	53,300 m ²
Skipton Girls' High School	Academy	11 to 18	No inspection since became Academy		810	749	1	21,926 m ²	14,144 m ²	55,802 m ²	48,300 m ²
The Skipton Academy	Academy	11 to 16	No inspection since became Academy		385	835	1	83,492 m ²	69,958 m ²	60,989 m ²	52,850 m ²

It should be noted that Skipton Town schools have access to Sandylands Playing field which is approximately 91,905m²

Appendix 3



Consultation Document

**Proposal to close Skipton Ings Community Primary
and Nursery School from 31 December 2017**

Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School

June 2017

This paper sets out details of a proposal to close Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School with effect from 31 December 2017. It gives the background to the proposal. There will be a public meeting on:

Wednesday 19 July at 7 pm

**at Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School,
Broughton Road, Skipton, BD23 1TE**

The Current Position

Following a request from the School's Governing Body, North Yorkshire County Council is consulting on a proposal to close the school.

It is considered that the closure is necessary to secure the interests of current and future pupils from the school because of concerns about standards of teaching and learning and related concerns about low pupil numbers and the school's financial position.

This decision has not been reached lightly, and not before alternatives have been considered, such as collaborating with other schools.

Standards of teaching and learning

In July 2013 the school was judged by Ofsted as Inadequate and became subject to Special Measures. The school has been re-inspected by Ofsted in October 2014 and November 2016

and on both inspections was judged as Requires Improvement.

The school has been trying to improve standards following the inspections but the low pupil numbers will lead to a need to further reduce staff which compromises any further attempts the school might need to make to deliver an acceptable quality of education. The governors have had to reduce to a 2 class structure from September and reduce teaching assistant support.

Pupil Numbers

The number of children at Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School has been low for several years. There are currently only 42 children on roll in the school and 5 in the nursery. The school is designed to accommodate up to 180 pupils if all spaces are in use. Forecasts indicate that these numbers will not recover significantly in the longer term and may reduce still further.

In these circumstances, it is difficult to deliver quality education.

The Financial Position

Pupil numbers determine the school budget. With these low numbers, and a reduced budget, the school will have to reduce staff. The school is projecting deficits at the end of the year of £70k in 2018/19 and £150k in 2019/20. There is no reasonable prospect of recovery.

Staffing

A number of staff have already left the school. The school is now heavily reliant on supply teachers including the upper Key Stage 2 and lower Key Stage 2/Year 2 classes and temporary arrangements for other staff posts.

The Proposal

For the reasons above it is proposed that Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School should close with effect from 31 December 2017.

The catchment area of another local school will be extended to include the current school catchment area.

For children currently at Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School, North Yorkshire County Council will work with each family to try to meet their individual preferences for other schools. Staff and governors at Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School are also committed to supporting families in their choice of school and in making a smooth transition.

Other primary schools in Skipton town are:

Christ Church Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, Craven Street, Skipton, BD23 2AP.

Skipton Parish Church Church of England VC Primary School, Brougham Street, Skipton, BD23 2ES.

Greatwood Community Primary School, Pinhaw Road, Skipton, BD23 2SJ.

Water Street Community Primary School, Elliot Street, Skipton, BD23 1PE.

St Stephen's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, a Voluntary Academy, Gargrave Road, Skipton, BD23 1PJ.

There are also spaces available in some year groups in schools in surrounding villages.

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 01609 535481 or Lisa Herdman 01609 534953.

Staff

A separate consultation process, including a staff meeting, is running in parallel with the consultation on the closure proposal.

The Building

The school building is owned by the County Council. Decisions about disposal of the school site and buildings will be taken after the closure proposal has been determined.

Academy options

The County Council is exploring with the Regional Schools Commissioner the possibility for a high-quality academy sponsor to take over Ings school. Potentially this could provide continuity of education for current pupils. More likely, however, would be the opening of a new academy on the

site after a period of closure. This would ensure that the Ings site continues to provide primary school places for children in Skipton. These discussions are continuing in parallel with this consultation on potential closure and, should a future academy option emerge, consultees will be informed of this.

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

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Ings
Strategic Planning
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
NORTHALLERTON
DL7 8AE

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The closing date for responses is

15 September 2017

All responses to the consultation received by this date will be considered by the County Council's Executive in autumn 2017.

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proposal, then statutory notices would be published in the local press in September. 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 Committee. If agreed the school would close on 31 December 2017.

each stage.

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Proposed school closure date	31 December 2017

Key Dates

All dates are subject to approvals at

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Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School
A consultation on whether the school should be closed

Do you agree with the proposal

Yes / No

Observations and/or suggestions:

Interest/Status

e.g. Parent/Governor/Teacher/Community

Name of School

Signed

Date:

Name (Block Capitals)

Address:

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Postcode:

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A consultation on whether the school should be closed

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To be received by no later than 15 September 2017

Skipton Ings Primary and Nursery School - List of Consultees

School distributed to	Parents of pupils
	Staff of school
	Governors of school

Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of other local primary and secondary schools within a 3 mile radius of Ings CP School	Cononley
	Carlton Endowed
	Bradleys Both
	Embsay
	Greatwood CP
	St Stephens Catholic Academy
	Parish Church of England CE Primary
	Christchurch CE Primary
	Water Street CP
	Ermysteds Grammar
	Skipton Girls' High
The Skipton Academy	

Unions and Professional Associations

Local County Councillors;	Cllr A. Solloway Cllr R. Heseltine Cllr P. Mulligan
District Councillors	Cllr C. Rose Cllr P. Madeley
Local Parish/Town Council	
Julian Smith MP	
Secretary of State via School Organisation Unit	

Local Early Years providers within 3 miles:	Brougham Street Nursery School
	Cherry Tree Farm Day Nursery
	Craven Children's Holiday Club
	Embsay Children's Centre
	Embsay with Eastby Pre-School Playgroup
	First Steps Day Nursery Broughton Road
	Greatwood Community Primary School Before & After School Club
	Regent Private Day Nursery
	Rocking Horse Day Nursery
	6 Child minders
	St Stephen's After School Club
	Stepping Stones

Other consultees	Community Cohesion Worker, NYCC
	Specialist Teacher, Minority Ethnic Achievement (MEA) Team
	Refugee Council
	Leeds CE Diocese
	Catholic Diocese Leeds
	Islamic Society
	Mosque
	Bradford Council
	Regional Schools Commissioner
	Imam

Notes of public meeting at Skipton Ings Community Primary School

Wednesday 19th July 2017 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Patrick Mulligan – NYCC Executive Member
David Portlock – Chair of Governors
Graham Hamilton – Vice Chair of Governors
Donna Makepeace – Headteacher
Simon Ashby – NYCC School Improvement
Andrew Dixon – NYCC Strategic Planning

Together with parents and grandparents, members of the community, staff of Skipton Ings CP School, and a representative from the local MP's office.

Julia Temple, Strategic Planning Officer was taking notes and there was an interpreter present.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Mulligan opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The rest of the panel were introduced; Andrew Dixon (Strategic Planning Manager), Donna Makepeace (Headteacher), David Portlock (Chair of Governors), Graham Hamilton (Vice Chair of Governors) and Simon Ashby (School Improvement Advisor).

2. Presentation

A joint presentation was given by the members of the panel that explained the purpose of the meeting, the current position the school is in, and why the change is proposed now. It set out the actions that have been carried out over the past few years to improve both the educational standards at the school and its perception within the community, and explained what alternative options have been considered.

3. Questions and comments

Following the presentation Cllr Mulligan opened up the meeting to the members of the public to raise any questions or make comments on the proposal.

A parent thanked Donna Makepeace (DM) for her tireless efforts which have been acknowledged by many parents, but wondered if DM is certain that she has received sufficient support from the LA?

DM said yes she felt she has had really good support from colleagues in the LA especially in terms of driving up standards. However, in terms of issues around pupil numbers she recognises that the LA is tied by national policy on parental preference. Similarly the LA does not have the power to force other schools to amalgamate or federate with Ings and whilst it can encourage staff to work at the school it can't force staff to take up posts.

The same parent asked if the Secondary Schools had also been approached. David Portlock (DP) confirmed that Governors had had preliminary discussions with one secondary school, but these had not progressed.

A grandparent commented that it is clear the school is not in a sustainable position and asked if it is seen as a failure of North Yorkshire that there has been a deterioration of pupil numbers at Ings?

Cllr Mulligan explained that this has been a result of parental choice and despite all DM has done to improve local perception parents have chosen other schools.

Simon Ashby (SA) added that since the school went into special measures a number of things have been done, including establishing a partnership with the Teaching School Alliance. Governors have been appointed based on specific skills and experience in an attempt to drive the school forward and it is worth pointing out that the school doesn't currently have a governing body and is operating under a shadow governing body. DP added the school has had difficulty in appointing parent governors due to lack of interest from parents at the school in which a few parents responded to say they had not seen any communication about this.

A question was also asked about whether members of the community could be governors. SA confirmed that Governance structure is national policy and not one the LA is able to deviate from. Parent governors do have to be parents of pupils at the school or can be parents with children at other local schools. Recruiting good quality staff has also been difficult and the school has had to rely on agency staff to take up the positions.

If there are 140 pupils in catchment why can't the LA make parents send their children to this school? This again comes back to national policy on parental preference.

A local resident questioned why parents don't send their children to this school? Cllr Mulligan said the LA is not able to speak on behalf of parents.

A local resident who used to be a pupil at the school commented that Ings used to be a great school and that it is local perception of the school that has made this happen.

A question was raised in relation to all the extra housing that is planned? Andrew Dixon (AD) explained that recent housing developments along with additional housing allocations set out in the draft local plan has been a consideration, however the crux of the problem is that the children are not coming to Ings. DM added that she has worked closely with colleagues in admissions who have allocated places to Ings but despite being oversubscribed last year only one pupil new to the school turned up at the start of term. A further question was raised asking could it not be an option to force parents to send their children to Ings. AD went on to explain the admissions process and explained schools have a duty to admit first preference if they have places available. Schools can also choose to admit over their published admission number if they are able to accommodate over that number.

A parent commented that DM has done everything in her power but felt that North Yorkshire should have stepped in earlier.

SA said that when the school first went into special measures in 2012 the LA, by law, had to consider closure. To prevent that happening the LA made every effort to improve educational outcomes at the school.

A parent talked about her dissatisfaction with the recent admissions process and said that her child had not been accepted at any one of the three preference schools she had applied for.

AD said he could not comment on her particular circumstances but explained the process that had been followed. What tends to happen when communities learn of the uncertainty of their school is that parents begin to move their children from that school. To avoid parents making preferences without full knowledge of provision in the area they were invited to meet with the admissions team and places have been offered following a mini admissions round. As part of that process transfer requests from pupils at other schools also had to be taken into consideration.

A parent asked if they didn't send their child to another school what would happen in September.

DM said the school would be open in September but will be operating under a different class structure. The decision on closure will not be taken until later in the autumn term and that decision cannot be pre-judged. The school will continue to operate but if the decision is to close the earliest this could happen is at the end of the autumn term.

A parent raised concern over the school her child had been offered a place saying the distance was such that she had no way of getting her child to that school. She asked if support could be given by way of transport.

AD said there are occasions where exceptions can be made but without knowing the particular circumstances in this case it was difficult to comment. AD advised having a conversation outside of this meeting to discuss further.

A grandparent felt that if it is the case that only two or three pupils are expected back at this school in September the LA should be honest with parents that the outcome of the consultation is likely to be closure.

AD said the position on pupil numbers for September is uncertain and no decisions have been made. Offers of alternative places have been made to nearly all pupils but there is no certainty that those offers will be taken up in September.

We now have a situation where other schools will be over-subscribed, what assurances will North Yorkshire give to ensure high standards are met in those schools? SA said that individual schools make a judgement about admitting over their published admission number and this is done with careful consideration and headteachers would not do so if they felt it would impact on the quality of teaching. AD added that it should be noted that given the number of schools involved and the age range of pupils, the actual impact is that no one particular year group has increased significantly at any of the schools involved.

What about housing and additional numbers coming into the town?

AD confirmed that proposed new housing in the town would lead to additional places being required and options are currently being looked into for how those places could be provided in Skipton. **A further question was asked about whether the LA could make new parents coming into the town send their children to Ings.** AD confirmed this would not be possible as parental preference and admission laws would apply to them in the same way.

What about the other school that has gone into special measures?

The school in question has received a lot of support from advisers recently in an attempt to bring them out of special measure and a support plan has been in place. A positive outcome from a recent Ofsted visit is expected and new leadership is in place which should see the school improve further over the next year.

What will North Yorkshire do to ensure that a faith school would not be provided on the Ings site? AD said the LA has been working with the Regional Schools Commissioner recently looking at options available to provide the places needed in Skipton and the LA has been clear that whatever is provided needs to be attractive to the whole community.

Can the community be given the opportunity to convince parents to send their children to this school, and what would happen if more pupils were to arrive than expected in September? AD explained that closure is not an officer decision and that in October when a report is produced for the Executive an update on current numbers will be included. This will ensure the Executive can make a decision based on the position at that time.

Why didn't we have a meeting with the community prior to meeting with parents?

DM explained the initial meeting with parents was arranged to explain the change in class structure and it was at that time parents began to question the likelihood of closure. This was before the decision was taken to commence consultation.

A grandparent said there is a need for the local community to lobby the support of the MP around change of national policy. The MP Representative said he would be happy to take any comments or views back to Julian Smith MP.

A member of staff commented that they have done everything they can to make the school attractive to parents.

A local resident commented that they had attended a school with only two classes when they were younger so why can't it work here?

SA said there are schools in North Yorkshire that work well with just two classes but financial pressures here does not make that viable. Educational sustainability is a concern due to issues around staff recruitment.

A comment was made that the community should have been consulted before now and felt the closure was already underway.

AD confirmed there are statutory processes that must be followed but assured the public this is a consultation and no decisions on closure have yet been made.

4. Closing remarks

Cllr Mulligan closed the meeting shortly after 8.45 and expressed thanks to all those involved and to the members of the community who had come along to the meeting.

Consultation Responses

Number	Comments	Interest
1	<p>You will be aware that Craven District Council are currently consulting on the Pre Publication Craven Local Plan, which, once adopted will set out the planning framework for Craven outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park for the period 2012-2032. NYCC Education has commented on previous drafts of this plan in terms of the number of houses proposed and the educational requirements resulting from this level of housing growth. NYCC Education have indicated that 1 or 2 new schools will be required in Skipton and that new classrooms will be required at surrounding village schools (details have been provided). The proposals to close Skipton Ings Community Primary School has not been raised by NYCC Education in response to past consultations on the Craven Local Plan. Given the current proposal it is hoped that NYCC Education will provide a detailed consultation response to the Pre Publication Craven Local Plan June 2017 in terms of future education requirements in Craven given the level of housing growth proposed in the draft Local Plan and the current proposal to close Ings Primary School, Skipton. Details of the Craven Local Plan consultation can be found at: http://www.cravendc.gov.uk/newlocalplan</p>	Craven District Council
2	<p>NYCC have the perfect opportunity now to convert Ings Primary School into a Pupil Referral Unit for primary aged children and here are some reasons why:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in primary schools are being witness to hitting, spitting, kicking, shouting, climbing furniture, swearing, throwing objects, screaming etc. from children who are in crisis because they simply cannot cope within a mainstream school. Classrooms have to be evacuated and this is damaging to the children in crisis and to those who witness it. Schools are also losing valuable teaching time. • All children should have access to the right learning environment from the beginning of their education, and not have to struggle on because there is no alternative long term provision for them. A fully supportive and positive educational experience is needed for all and this can be provided intensively at a PRU. • There is a Secondary Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) on Keighley Road, Skipton but no Primary PRU and we have more Primary schools in the Skipton and Craven area than Secondary Schools. Having a Secondary PRU highlights a need for a Primary PRU where issues can be addressed earlier in a child's education. NYCC needs to support children from an earlier age so they can return to mainstream education, if this is appropriate for the child. • Money is available when needed to provide one to one, or two to one, staff in mainstream schools to support individual children. This money could be re-directed into providing more intensive support to children in a PRU and makes sense on a long term financial level. 	Parent of child who attends Christ Church School, Skipton

3	I think closing a valuable school unit in Skipton is madness, especially when every other school aside one, is oversubscribed! Why not keep the school setting and split one of the other oversubscribed schools into KS1 & KS2? Why waste a school when there's two many children? Sticking all the kids in brougham Street will only allow that to be oversubscribed further down the line. Spilt an already oversubscribed school to even put the numbers and free up space? Why turn it into an academy? Parents still won't want to send their children to an academy? Use the space for good, use it as a primary school, invest in the teaching and staff and allow Skipton to save this precious educational establishment.	Parent of pupil at Brougham Street School
4	If the school closes, it would be ideal for a Primary Pupil Referral Unit to serve the area.	Holistic therapy tutor working in Craven
5	Yes it should.	Parent of pupil at Cononley School
6	I teaching Keighley so out of NY but we have no classroom supports because everyone we do have works with specific children leaving no support for others. The children who have got places in a PRU have had a wait or one of my 6 year olds had to travel to Bradford for a place! We need more help in primaries and with the same view as nurture rooms / systems it needs tackling early to try to get children back into mainstream education early. I did some supply at the school and felt it was a great setting with some excellent staff and pupils.	Local resident Teacher at Nessfield Primary, Keighley
7	It should be kept open and used as a primary PRU.	Governor at Cononley School
8	It is shortsighted. With other schools being oversubscribed and struggling with large numbers, plans to build 100s of homes in the area, there lan a desperate need for a primary education facilities add to this that many of the parents have no form of transport and are now having to walk for miles in the Yorkshire weather just so their child can get to school. Let's also consider the impact this will have on other schools in the area.	Parent of pupil at Ings
9	I'm utterly disgusted that a school like Ings is being close, It's a hub of the local community ... I was at a meeting last night and I do feel that the decision has already been made and the council is just going through the motions	Parent of past pupil at Ings
10	I'm shocked that there is a proposal to close a school, from my understanding places are needed in the Skipton area and there has been a struggle for parents of children attending Ings primary to find suitable places for their children at other schools. One Skipton resident has put forward the idea of Ings Primary being turned into a Pupil Referral unit for primary, if Ings is to close as it currently is.	Pupil at another school

	I believe a PRU sounds like the next best option and would be beneficial for every child in the area.	
11	Obviously my first view is that the school shouldn't be closed, especially since it services an area of Skipton that is otherwise a considerable distance from the other Primary Schools in Skipton. I also think that there needs to be more support for other Schools who will be taking in the children from Ings as well as for the families who have been offered places at Schools out of Skipton. If the School does close I strongly think that the premises should be converted into a Primary PRU, a service that is desperately needed for the Craven area!	Local resident
12	It really needs to be remain a school due to the increase in demand for places.	Local resident
13	I think it would be a terrible shame to lose this school. It seems really unfair on the people who live in the Broughton Road end of town not to have a local school they can easily walk to. I have been told they will now fall into the Gargrave catchment area - if this is true, it's completely unacceptable/ bonkers! I also understand that all the other primaries in town are oversubscribed/ and or in special measures. Why would you close Ings when this is the case? There are various factors contributing to the falling numbers at Ings, not least of which is racism - the "white flight" to other local schools, which I saw when my own children were at Christchurch. This has been followed by the more aspirational Asian parents also applying "anywhere but Ings", as they don't want their children to be educated in isolation from the rest of the Skipton community. A community without a primary school will struggle even harder to feel like/ integrate as a community. There must be an alternative to closing Ings. If Ings does shut, it must retain an educational function and I feel very strongly this should be under NYCC control. Under no circumstances should it become a free school for any particular interest/ faith group. It has been suggested it would be suitable for conversion to a Primary PRU, which seems a sensible idea. I know from friends who work in, or have children at, local schools that there is a small but significant problem with primary-age children who can't cope in mainstream education disrupting their own and others' learning, sometimes for years on end. These children often receive (very costly) one-to-one support within the mainstream environment, but this isn't sufficient to address their complex needs. They need access to the intensive, appropriately qualified support only available in PRUs. And their classmates have a right not to have their education disrupted while this intensive support takes place. Some children struggle in mainstream education for the whole of primary school, only to end up in a secondary PRU later. It would make more sense financially, educationally and socially for them to receive the support of a PRU at an earlier age, hopefully avoiding the need for a PRU when they move up to secondary education.	Parent of child who attends a local upper school
14	To whom it may concern these are my points as to why the school shouldn't close down because, 1 the children that have SEN in	Local resident

	<p>place are settled, 2 what about the impact on the schools in Skipton that are already packed to the rim and schools are already failing the current students. 3 the impact on the school children that are at the other schools that are in a routine! 4 The 300 new homes that Skipton is supposed to be getting where are these children going to go? 5 siblings that currently go to school due to practical reasons being split up now last time I checked no one can be in 2 places at once!</p>	
15	<p>We are having problems with older children playing football on Broughton Road Play Area to the extent that parents are preventing their younger children from playing there for fear of injury. There have already been several reports of small children being hit in the face and/or knocked down by leather footballs and the problem seems to be getting worse. We've put up special signs asking older children not to play football in the play area but they just keep tearing them down. We are told that the problem may have been caused by older children being prevented from playing ball games at the nearby MUGA on Ings Road. We have heard from several children that they "can no longer play at Ings", since it was announced that the school is closing, and at least one parent has said that the holiday club has stopped her taking her children into the MUGA. From my point of view it is important that the MUGA remains available to the community whatever happens to the school; not just in the short term, to prevent our football problem in the play area, but for the longer term. Is there any way we can ensure that, if the school is closed, whoever buys the land – presumably for development – has to leave the MUGA in place and makes it available to the general public?</p>	Skipton Town Council
16	<p>I think its a disgrace. Poorly managed by NYCC, they have allowed the school to close by not intervening earlier. This consultation is a box ticking exercise and is trying to sweep the underlying issues of Ings being deemed and asain primary school under the carpet. NYCC needs to work with the local community to increase community cohesion, rather than take the easy way out.</p>	Local resident
17	<p>As you are aware one of Skipton's primary schools Ings is due for closure in December. I'm lucky because my daughter is not primary school age as of yet. If this school was to close this would put more pressure on the other schools in the area. Not to mention the fact that a lot of children that do attend Ings have special educational needs. Parents have been given other choices for schools but these are either unfit especially for the children that have SEN in place or have siblings and the school can't take both children. Apart from that Skipton is supposedly having 300 more homes built which is great but where are these children going to go? Parents have tried contacting you in regards to this matter and you have stated that you are either at other meetings etc, I can appreciate that, that maybe the case but this should be a priority as Skipton's MP.</p>	Parent

Annex C: Equality Impact Assessment

Equality impact assessment (EIA) form: evidencing paying due regard to protected characteristics

(Form updated May 2015)

Proposal to cease to maintain Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School

If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print or audio, please contact the Communications Unit on 01609 53 2013 or email communications@northyorks.gov.uk.



যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔

Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are public documents. EIAs accompanying reports going to County Councillors for decisions are published with the committee papers on our website and are available in hard copy at the relevant meeting. To help people to find completed EIAs we also publish them in the Equality and Diversity section of our website. This will help people to see for themselves how we have paid due regard in order to meet statutory requirements.

Name of Directorate and Service Area	CYPS Strategic Planning Team
Lead Officer and contact details	John Lee, Strategic Planning Officer, CYPS, County Hall
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the EIA	Julia Temple, Strategic Planning Officer, CYPS, County Hall
How will you pay due regard? e.g. working group, individual officer	LA Officers and School Governing Body
When did the due regard process start?	Consultation started on 26 June 2017

Section 1. Please describe briefly what this EIA is about. (e.g. are you starting a new service, changing how you do something, stopping doing something?)

A proposal to cease to maintain (to close) Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School. A period of consultation with the community has been carried out, including written consultation and a public meeting.

Section 2. Why is this being proposed? What are the aims? What does the authority hope to achieve by it? (e.g. to save money, meet increased demand, do things in a better way.)

The County Council is under a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places in the area, promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote fulfilment of every child's educational potential. There are four key concerns: 1) Standards of teaching and learning; 2) Low pupil numbers; 3) The school's financial position; and 4) Staffing. These issues are laid out in detail in the consultation document and the report to CYPS Executive Members on 13 June 2017.

Section 3. What will change? What will be different for customers and/or staff?

It is proposed that Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School should close with effect from 31 December 2017.

If the proposal is approved, the area currently served by Skipton Ings CP School would in future be served by an alternative school(s) from 1 January 2018. This will be the subject of further consultation with local schools during the 4 week representation period.

Section 4. Involvement and consultation (What involvement and consultation has been done regarding the proposal and what are the results? What consultation will be needed and how will it be done?)

The consultation period ran from 26 June to 15 September 2017. Consultation documents were distributed to a wide range of stakeholders, and a public meeting was held. The consultation document and responses are included in the report to the Executive on 17 October 2017.

Section 5. What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?

Cost neutral

Please explain briefly why this will be the result.

Any savings to the Dedicated Schools Grant arising from the closure, if approved, would remain

within the ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant as part of the funding for all schools. Any revenue or capital balances would be made available to the receiving school in line with the Closing School Accounting Policy.

If the school closed, currently there would be no potential additional cost to the Local Authority in providing transport to other schools. Free home to school transport would be provided for entitled pupils within the enlarged catchment area in accordance with the County Council's Home to School transport policy. Based on current pupil numbers and places of residence there are no eligible pupils.

Section 6. How will this proposal affect people with protected characteristics?	No impact	Make things better	Make things worse	Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.
Age	x			No impact is anticipated
Disability	x			<p>Pupils – The school is mainstream offering universal provision.</p> <p>Expertise will be utilised from the County Council to provide appropriate SEN support.</p> <p>Staff – As an organisation NYCC will continue to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 which obligates us to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate disabled individuals as employees or service users.</p>
Sex (Gender)	x			No impact is anticipated.
Race	x			No impact is anticipated.
Gender reassignment	x			No impact is anticipated.
Sexual orientation	x			No impact is anticipated.
Religion or belief	x			No impact is anticipated
Pregnancy or maternity	x			No impact is anticipated.
Marriage or civil	x			No impact is anticipated.

partnership				
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Section 7. How will this proposal affect people who...	No impact	Make things better	Make things worse	Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.
..live in a rural area?	x			No impact anticipated
...have a low income?	x			No impact anticipated

<p>Section 8. Will the proposal affect anyone more because of a combination of protected characteristics? (e.g. older women or young gay men) State what you think the effect may be and why, providing evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.</p> <p>All pupils and staff at the school would experience changes under these proposals that staff and governors would need to manage sensitively.</p> <p>The County Council's Officers now feel that this decision is in the best interests of children and families served by the school. Pupil numbers have fallen to a level where it will be difficult to provide a high quality of education for pupils in the long term.</p> <p>The Local Authority's Admission Team will continue to work with families to try to meet their individual preferences for primary schools.</p> <p>Home to school transport will be assessed in line with the County Council's policy.</p>

Section 9. Next steps to address the anticipated impact. Select one of the following options and explain why this has been chosen. (Remember: we have an anticipatory duty to make reasonable adjustments so that disabled people can access services and work for us)	Tick option chosen
1. No adverse impact - no major change needed to the proposal. There is no potential for discrimination or adverse impact identified.	x
2. Adverse impact - adjust the proposal - The EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. We will change our proposal to reduce or remove these adverse impacts, or we will achieve our aim in another way which will not make things worse for people.	
3. Adverse impact - continue the proposal - The EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. We cannot change our proposal to reduce or remove these adverse impacts, nor can we achieve our aim in another way which will not make things worse for people. (There must be compelling reasons for continuing	

with proposals which will have the most adverse impacts. Get advice from Legal Services)	
4. Actual or potential unlawful discrimination - stop and remove the proposal – The EIA identifies actual or potential unlawful discrimination. It must be stopped.	
Explanation of why option has been chosen. (Include any advice given by Legal Services.) It is anticipated there would be no identifiable impact on specific groups as a result of the proposal.	

Section 10. If the proposal is to be implemented how will you find out how it is really affecting people? (How will you monitor and review the changes?)

Monitoring of standards will be carried out through the County Council’s Education and Skills Team and through Ofsted inspections. Monitoring of sufficiency of school places in the Skipton town area will be undertaken by the CYPS Strategic Planning Team.

Section 11. Action plan. List any actions you need to take which have been identified in this EIA, including post implementation review to find out how the outcomes have been achieved in practice and what impacts there have actually been on people with protected characteristics.

Action	Lead	By when	Progress	Monitoring arrangements
Not applicable				

Section 12. Summary Summarise the findings of your EIA, including impacts, recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker.

The purpose of the consultation and proposed decision is to ensure that the children are provided with the best education provision in the area in a sustainable, stable and effective manner.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Proposal to Cease to Maintain a School
Skipton, Ings Community Primary and Nursery
School**

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD, intends to discontinue Skipton, Ings Community Primary and Nursery School, Broughton Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 1TE on 31 December 2017.

Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE and are available on the County Council's website at www.northyorks.gov.uk.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 5pm on 23 November 2017.

Signed:

B. Khan
Assistant Chief
Executive (Legal and
Democratic Services)

Publication Date:

26 October 2017

Appendix 8: Draft statutory proposals and statutory notice

Statutory proposals for school closures

As set out in the Establishment and Discontinuance Regulations the information below **must** be included in a proposal to close a school:

Contact details

The name and contact address of the local authority or governing body publishing the proposals and the name, address and category of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

Proposal published by North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD, to discontinue Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School, Broughton Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 1TE from 31 December 2017.

Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School is a 3-11 community primary school in the Skipton town area.

Implementation

The date on which it is proposed to close the school or, where it is proposed that the closure be implemented in stages, the dates of and information about each stage.

It is proposed to close the school from 31 December 2017.

Reason for closure

A statement explaining the reason why closure of the school is considered necessary.

There are four key concerns: 1) Standards of teaching and learning 2) Low pupil numbers; 3) The school's financial position 4) Staffing

1) Pupil Numbers

The number of children at Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School has been low for several years. During the summer term of 2016/17 only 42 children were on roll in the school and 5 in the nursery. At the start of the new school year in September there was just one pupil on roll. The school is designed to accommodate up to 180 pupils if all spaces are in use. Forecasts indicate that these numbers will not recover in the longer term.

In these circumstances, it is difficult to deliver quality education.

2) Standards of teaching and learning

In July 2013 the school was judged by Ofsted as Inadequate and became subject to Special Measures. The school has been re-inspected by Ofsted in October 2014 and November 2016 and on both inspections was judged as Requires Improvement.

The school has been trying to improve standards following the inspections but the low pupil numbers lead to a need to further reduce staff which compromised any further attempts the school could take to deliver an acceptable quality of education. The governors took the decision at during the summer term to reduce to a 2 class structure from September and reduce teaching assistant support.

3) The Financial Position

Pupil numbers determine the school budget. Revised budget projections based on lower pupil numbers of 31 have shown larger in-year financial deficits for 2017/18 and 2018/19 at £56,300 and £105,300 respectively and a projected cumulative deficit at the end of 2018/19 of £249,400. Clearly with now even lower numbers this position is much worse.

4) Staffing

During the last academic year Governors made the decision to reduce to a two class structure from September 2017 and advised that a number of teaching staff had already left the school and others were exploring other opportunities. They had been heavily reliant on supply teachers during the summer term 2016/17 and subsequently a number of staff did leave at the end of fixed term contracts or due to resignation.

The current position is that appropriate staffing is being maintained in accordance with our obligation to provide the best possible education while the school remains open.

Pupil numbers and admissions

The numbers (distinguishing between compulsory and non-compulsory school age pupils), age range, sex, and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is currently made at the school.

There is now only one pupil on roll at the start of this academic year.

The school's age range is 3-11 years, and provision is available for boys and girls. There is no boarding provision. Information on special educational needs of pupils is not provided as this would contravene the Data Protection Act. Total pupil numbers are significantly lower than the capacity of the school which is designed to accommodate up to 180 pupils.

Displaced pupils

A statement and supporting evidence about the need for school places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

Details of the schools or further education colleges at which pupils at the school to be discontinued will be offered places, including—

- a) any interim arrangements;
- b) the provision that is to be made for those pupils who receive educational provision recognised by the local authority as reserved for children with special educational needs; and
- c) in the case of special schools, the alternative provision made by local authorities other than the local authority which maintain the school.

Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or further education college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

- a) No interim arrangements have been necessary. All but one pupil at the school has moved to an alternative primary school.

There are other schools in Skipton town within walking distance of the Skipton Ings site.

Travel distances to other schools:

Walking distance in miles	Christ Church	Ings CP	Water Street	Parish Church CE	St Stephen's Catholic	Greatwood CP
Christ Church		0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
Ings CP	0.8		1	1.1	0.9	1.4
Water Street	0.4	1		0.6	0.1	0.9
Parish Church CE	0.4	1.1	0.6		0.5	0.5
St Stephen's Catholic	0.4	0.9	0.1	0.5		0.8
Greatwood CP	0.5	1.4	0.9	0.5	0.8	

At the start of the school year 2017/18 all pupils had been offered alternative places at local schools. All but one pupil took up those places offered.

41 pupils were offered alternative places at local schools for September 2017. All but one pupil has subsequently transferred to another school.

The transfer details are as follows:

Christ Church CE VC – 7 pupils

St Stephens Catholic Primary – 5
Skipton Greatwood CP – 1
Skipton Parish CE VC – 14
Carleton Endowed – 5
Cracoe and Rylstone VC CE – 4
Gargrave CE VC – 1
Embsay CE VC – 4

There remain 127 places available across three Skipton Town primary schools as of 3 October 2017. This represents an 11.5% vacancy of all available places excluding the Ings capacity.

Parents have a right to express a preference for any school and, in the case of community and voluntary controlled schools, the relevant 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 decide 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.

- b) Not applicable in this case
- c) Not applicable in this case

Impact on the community

A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community of the closure of the school and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

The school has in the past run a wide variety of after school and extra-curricular clubs and activities for children, including a before and after school club. There have also been a wide variety of sport clubs on offer such as football, netball and cricket. The reduction in pupil numbers has meant that these clubs have now stopped.

The governing body has encouraged community use of the school buildings and has attempted to increase lettings of the premises to support the budget. The school has also made links with the Adult Learning Service to broaden the range of services offered with a view to increasing regular contact with the community. Despite these attempts community uses of the facilities remain low. Given the small number of community uses of the school premises, and the alternative venues available locally, the impact on the community should be minimal.

Rural primary schools

Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of Section 15 (Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA), a statement

that the local authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered Section 15(4) EIA.

Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School is not designated as a rural school.

Balance of denominational provision

Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

Not applicable

Maintained nursery schools

Not applicable

Sixth form provision

Not applicable

Special educational needs provision

The existing provision at Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School is not reserved for pupils with special educational needs.

Travel

Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how the proposed arrangements will mitigate against increased car use.

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 each child's home address and individual circumstances.

Where a child attends a school which is not their normal school or nearest school, parents are normally responsible for making transport arrangements.

Parents were and will 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 into account the child's home address.

North Yorkshire County Council's Home to School transport policy states that 'Transport will be arranged so that children will not normally spend more than 1 hour 15 minutes travelling to a secondary school or 45 minutes to a primary school. Journey

times might need to be longer than this in some more rural areas and where road or weather conditions mean that these times are not practical.' This is in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education. The journey time for children living within the current Skipton Ings School catchment area would depend on which other school they attended and their home address. There are five other schools that are less than two miles from Ings CP School.

Procedure for making representations (objections and comments)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director-Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 23 November 2017.

Consultation

The decision to consult on closure was taken by the Executive Member for Schools following a request from governors on 13 June 2017. A consultation paper setting out the proposal was sent to parents of pupils on roll, staff at the school as well as other interested parties and individuals. A copy of the consultation paper is attached as Appendix 1. A list of the consultees is attached as Appendix 2. The consultation period ran from 26 June to 15 September 2017, extended over the summer period to ensure six term weeks. A public meeting was held at the school on 19 July 2017, a note of that meeting is attached as Appendix 3. There have been 17 consultation responses received (Appendix 4).

Appendix 1: Consultation Paper

Appendix 2: List of the Consultees

Appendix 3: Notes of the Public Meeting

Appendix 4: Consultation Responses