

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

THE EXECUTIVE

24 MARCH 2020

PROPOSAL TO CEASE TO MAINTAIN CLAPHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Report by the Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Service

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To report to the Executive, the outcome of the public consultation carried out by the Children and Young People’s Service on a proposal to close Clapham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School.
- 1.2 The report asks the Executive to consider the responses to the consultation, and determine whether the publication of statutory proposals should be authorised, and that the final decision on the proposal be scheduled for 9 June 2020.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 On 17 December 2019 Executive Members for the Children and Young People’s Service gave approval to progress a consultation on a proposed closure of Clapham CE VC Primary School with effect from 31 August 2020. The report provided the full background and is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The consultation proposed that the local authority would cease maintaining the school from 31 August 2020 and that the catchment areas of both Austwick CE VA Primary School and Bentham Community Primary School would be extended to form a shared catchment area to serve the area currently served by Clapham CE Primary School.
- 2.3 The consultation commenced on 10 January 2020 and closed on 28 February 2020. This report details the responses to the consultation, and requests the Executive give approval to the publication of statutory notices.
- 2.4 The report is supported by a number of Appendices as listed below:

Appendix 1: Report of Corporate Director Meeting with Executive Members –
17 December 2019

Appendix 2: Record of the public meeting

Appendix 3: Responses to the consultation document

Appendix 4: Revised Pupil Forecast

Appendix 5: Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 6: Draft Statutory Notice

Appendix 7: Draft Statutory Proposal

3.0 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

- 3.1 A consultation document was distributed to the list of consultees shown appended to the 17 December report. The document was also displayed on the NYCC website. The consultation period, which included a half term, ran from 10 January to 28 February 2020. The length of this consultation period was seven weeks to allow the recommended six weeks of term time.
- 3.2 A public meeting was held in the village hall of Clapham on 4 February. This was attended by 32 people. The record of the public meeting is attached as Appendix 2.
- 3.3 By the closing date 27 individual consultation responses had been received and these are shown in full in Appendix 3. Three responses indicated support for the closure and three indicated opposition. The bulk of the remainder cover other issues with the catchment area proposal being the main one.
- 3.4 In addition to the written responses received, during the public meeting there were some questions raised with several concerning the catchment area.
- 3.5 The following section of the report addresses the main issues raised by respondents and updates on some of the key areas of concern.

4.0 PUPIL NUMBERS

- 4.1 The number of children at Clapham CE VC Primary School has been falling over the past few years. At the beginning of September 2019, there were 25 pupils on roll in the school. This is well below the capacity of the school – which is designed to accommodate up to 59 pupils if all spaces are in use. Since the start of this academic year there has been a further fall in numbers with 9 on roll in January, and as of February the school has 7 pupils remaining on roll.
- 4.2 A pupil forecast from January 2020 is attached at Appendix 4 and shows the 9 pupils on roll at that time. It is based on our standard methodology and predicts no new Reception aged starters in 2020/21. This combined with the progressive reduction in existing year groups results in a forecast total roll by 2020/21 of 5 pupils.

5.0 CURRICULUM AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION

- 5.1 Ofsted
The Ofsted inspection in June 2019 judged the school to be inadequate in all areas. The school was judged to require Special Measures. The report found that over time, there has been a significant decline in the standard of education provided for pupils and that leaders have not been effective in reversing or halting this decline. During the public meeting questions were asked around why the inspection had been carried out during a time when the Headteacher was not available, and why it had been left so long between inspections.
- 5.2 Ofsted are an entirely independent organisation and the local authority cannot dictate when inspections are carried out. A school can ask to defer or cancel an inspection, but only in exceptional circumstances. Ofsted had previously requested a visit in February 2019 but the inspection was cancelled due to the closure

consultation at that time. When the call came again in June, Ofsted were not minded to delay the inspection for a second time. The previous Ofsted judgement from May 2011 judged the school to be outstanding. Schools judged outstanding at their most recent inspection are currently exempt from further routine inspections, although the Government consulted in January on removing this exemption.

6.0 CATCHMENT AREA

- 6.1 The consultation document suggested the catchment areas of both Austwick CE VA Primary School and Bentham CP School should be extended to include the current catchment area served by Clapham CE Primary School. The majority of consultee responses related to this matter. There is a clear indication from responses by Ingleton residents of a preference that the catchment should be shared three ways to include Ingleton Primary School. The response from Ingleton Primary School also suggests a three way share of the catchment area to include Ingleton. Bentham CP School would like to see the catchment area shared between Bentham CP School and Austwick CE VA Primary as is proposed. Of the responses from consultees in other areas there does not appear to be a consensus of opinion that gives a clear indication of preference regarding the future treatment of the catchment area.
- 6.2 It would be very unusual in North Yorkshire for a catchment area to be shared between three primary schools. Having such an arrangement in a large rural area is likely to increase home to school transport costs. It is proposed that the statutory proposals for the closure of Clapham CE Primary School include for the catchment areas of Austwick CE VC Primary School and Bentham CP School to be extended from 1 September 2020 to jointly serve the area currently served by Clapham CE VC Primary School. This would provide all stakeholders with a further opportunity to comment on this specific element of the proposal.
- 6.3 The existing North Yorkshire Home to School Transport policy provides for transport to either the catchment school(s) or, importantly in many cases, to the nearest school to the home address providing that the journey is above the 2 or 3 miles qualifying distance dependent on age.
- 6.4 All local schools have, irrespective of any catchment decision, indicated a willingness to admit children from Clapham as far as their capacity enables them to do so. Early indications for the September 2020 admissions round are that each of the 3 schools immediately adjacent to Clapham, namely Austwick, Bentham and Ingleton are likely to be undersubscribed to varying degrees indicating that in the short-term at least catchment areas will not be a determining factor in deciding school admissions. This may of course change prior to the allocation date in April 2020.
- 6.5 Whatever is ultimately determined regarding the catchment area there would be merit in committing to keep the arrangements under regular review in future in light of any demographic change, housing development or general change in pupil numbers.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The financial position

Previously reported in year deficits are now expected to be much worse with the reduction in pupil numbers the school is now facing. Current financial forecasts are showing in-year deficits of £46k in 2020/21 and £77.9k in 2021/22, and a cumulative deficit of £202.6k by the end of that year. These were based on pupil assumptions of 27 in 2019/20 and 22 in 2020/21, and have assumed pupil numbers of 7 in 2021/22. The position will deteriorate further as numbers fall with no reasonable prospect of recovery.

7.2 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. Any surplus revenue or capital balances would be made available to the receiving school(s) in line with the Closing School Accounting Policy.

7.3 Transport costs

If the school closed, there could be a 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. Depending on the individual choices of schools by parents, potentially up to nine children attending Clapham at the start of the consultation period could be eligible for home to school transport. This may require a mini bus at a cost of between £75 to £120 per day (£14k - £22k per annum) or, if there are less than 5 pupils, 1 taxi at a cost of £55 per day (£10k per annum). Other transport costs may arise dependent on individual circumstances of individual pupils.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The School Organisation Regulations and Guidance¹ cover the processes involved in school closures. Careful regard has been given to these provisions.

8.2 Clapham CE VC Primary School is designated as a rural school under the Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) Order. The School Organisation regulations and guidance contain a presumption against closure of rural schools, and it is a requirement that proposers must consider the effect of the discontinuance of any rural primary school on the local community. The statutory guidance specifically states that 'This does not mean that a rural school will never close, but the case for closure should be strong and a proposal must be clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area.' The guidance states that when producing a proposal, the proposer must carefully consider:

- the likely effect of the closure of the school on the local community;
- the proportion of pupils attending the school from within the local community i.e. is the school being used by the local community;
- educational standards at the school and the likely effect on standards at neighbouring schools;

¹ School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 and Department for Education statutory guidance Opening and closing maintained schools 2019

- the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;
- whether the school is now surplus to requirements (e.g. because there are surplus places elsewhere in the local area which can accommodate displaced pupils, and there is no predicted demand for the school in the medium or long term);
- any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the closure of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- any alternatives to the closure of the school.

These factors are considered in the draft statutory proposal, attached as Appendix 7. The key points in relation to transport are: If the school closed, there would be a potential additional cost in the range of £10k - £22k per annum to the Local Authority in providing transport to other schools. It is difficult to predict an accurate figure as it depends on parental preference for alternative schools. It is not considered that there would be significant additional car use if the school were closed. This is primarily because of the low pupil numbers. Some children in the catchment area are already travelling privately to alternative schools.

9.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

10.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken in respect of a closure proposal and is attached at Appendix 5.

11.0 NEXT STEPS

11.1 Should the decision be to publish statutory proposals to cease to maintain Clapham CE VC Primary School the proposed timetable would be:

Executive decision to publish statutory notices (if approved the following timetable would apply)	24 March 2020
Statutory Notices published (4 weeks for representations to be made)	23 April 2020
Representation period starts	23 April 2020
Representation period ends	21 May 2020
Final decision by County Council's Executive or Executive Member	9 June 2020
Implementation of closure	31 August 2020

12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 That the Executive:

- Authorise the publication of statutory proposals on 23 April 2020, proposing to cease to maintain Clapham CE VC Primary School with effect from 31 August 2020; and proposing that the catchment areas of Austwick CE VC Primary School and Bentham CP School be extended from 1 September

2020 to jointly serve the area currently served by Clapham CE VC Primary School.

- (ii) Schedule a final decision on the proposal for 9 June 2020.

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

Report prepared by Julia Temple, Strategic Planning Team

List of Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Report of Corporate Director Meeting with Executive Members –
17 December 2019
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NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

CORPORATE DIRECTOR MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

17 December 2019

Clapham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval to consult on a proposal that the County Council should cease to maintain Clapham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School with effect from 31 August 2020.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

2.2 Pupil numbers at the school have been falling, reducing from 42 on roll in 2014/15 to 25 at the start of the 2019/20 academic year. The drop in numbers increased concern around the financial sustainability of the school and its ability to provide good quality education.

2.3 On 5 February 2019 Executive Members gave approval to progress a consultation on a proposed closure of Clapham CE VC Primary School with effect from 31 August 2019. The consultation commenced on 14 February 2019 and closed on 4 April 2019. During the consultation period a number of responses were received including a detailed response from the Governing Body showing a recovery plan, which they felt, along with ongoing community support, could see the school recover to a position that would enable the school to stay open. At a meeting on 30 April 2019 the Executive agreed that the proposal to cease to maintain Clapham CE VC Primary School should be stopped to allow the Governing Body to implement their recovery plan, with a formal review of the position scheduled for the end of the spring term 2020.

2.4 Following the April Executive meeting the school was inspected by Ofsted in June 2019 and was placed in special measures. The previous full Ofsted inspection was in May 2011 and the school at the time was judged to be Outstanding. The publication of the recent inspection result in September has led to a further, more rapid, decline in pupil numbers making the Governing Body's recovery plan no longer viable. Following a meeting of the Governing Body on the 4 November 2019 the Governors wrote to the Director of Education asking the LA to begin a consultation on closure.

- 2.5 Low pupil numbers have led to the school being in a financial deficit position, and unable to afford its own Headteacher. Despite numerous attempts by the LA to secure a shared headship arrangement with another school, this has not been successful.
- 2.6 The four key concerns remain; low pupil numbers, breadth of curriculum, financial position, and school leadership.

3.0 PUPIL NUMBERS

- 3.1 The number of children at Clapham CE VC Primary School has been falling over the past few years. At the beginning of September 2019, there were 25 pupils on roll in the school. This is well below the capacity of the school – which is designed to accommodate up to 59 pupils if all spaces are in use. Since the start of this academic year there has been a further fall in numbers and as at the end of November the school had 10 pupils remaining on roll.
- 3.3 The current and past numbers in each year group at the school are:

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20 (Nov)
Reception	5	2	5	3	2	0
Year 1	7	3	2	5	3	1
Year 2	10	6	2	2	4	1
Year 3	3	11	6	3	4	3
Year 4	4	4	9	5	3	0
Year 5	7	6	4	6	6	1
Year 6	6	7	6	3	6	4
Total	42	39	34	27	28	10

- 3.4 A pupil forecast is attached at **Appendix 1**. It is based on our standard methodology and predicts only one new Reception aged starter in 2020/21. This combined with the progressive reduction in existing year groups results in a forecast total roll by 2020/21 of seven pupils.

4.0 CURRICULUM AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION

4.1 Outcomes

Pupil numbers in each year are very small and thus percentages are not meaningful. However, over time patterns can be observed. Over the three-year period 2017-19, the percentage of pupils attaining the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at Key Stage 2 is below the national average: the percentage attaining at the higher level is also below the national average.

In June 2019 the school was inspected by Ofsted and judged to be inadequate. In relation to pupil outcomes, the report stated

- Owing to the weaknesses in teaching over time, pupils underachieve considerably. Because pupils are not taught the full range of subjects, they have considerable gaps in their knowledge. Pupils' progress is weak because teaching does not identify and meet pupils' needs. This means that pupils do not reach the levels of attainment of which they are capable.
- Pupils' books show that their progress in reading, writing and science is particularly poor. Pupils also have gaps in their knowledge across a range of other subjects, including history and geography.
- In early years, children make limited progress, particularly in writing. Their writing shows little improvement in pencil control or letter formation. Considering each child's individual starting point, their attainment lags behind where they should be across all areas of learning.
- The ineffective teaching of phonics means that many pupils struggle to develop appropriate fluency in their reading. This hampers their progress in all subjects. Many pupils have poor spelling knowledge. This particularly restricts their progress in writing.
- Over the last three years, very few pupils at the end of key stage 1 or key stage 2 have reached the higher standards of learning in reading, writing or mathematics. This is because teachers' understanding of the requirements of the national curriculum is underdeveloped. Therefore, they do not reliably enable pupils to achieve or exceed the standards expected for their age.

Teaching in the school is now significantly better than in June 2019 and teachers are addressing gaps in pupils' learning in reading, writing and maths.

4.2 Curriculum

The inspection found that

- The curriculum is poorly planned. Teaching does not offer pupils access to their full entitlement of subjects. Consequently, pupils have significant gaps in their knowledge.
- Leaders have not ensured that the curriculum is broad and balanced. Pupils are not taught the full range of national curriculum subjects in sufficient depth. For example, science lessons are infrequent and only cover a very small part of the science curriculum. This leaves pupils ill-prepared for the next stage of their education.

The new leaders of the school (from September 2019) fully recognised that the wider curriculum needs significant development and planning is well underway. However, as yet pupils are not studying the National Curriculum in full. While it is understood that in schools with mixed age classes the coverage of different subjects is on a rolling programme (over two or four years), pupils have yet to study RE and PSHCE this term. Further, curriculum planning, does not, currently, make clear what subjects are to be studied when and what time is to be given to ensure coverage. As yet, the

school has not planned for the delivery of a modern foreign language. Consequently, the gaps in pupils learning are not being plugged sufficiently rapidly.

4.3 Small schools

The small size of the school and the very small number of pupils in each year group limit the range of personal and academic challenges for pupils including opportunities for child-initiated play and interaction in early years. This is particularly the case in Class 1 where there are now just two pupils.

The Ofsted Education Inspection Framework, introduced in September 2019, places significant weight on curriculum provision. Delivering a curriculum that has 'breadth and ambition' is a particular challenge for a very small school. For example, the National Curriculum for PE states that "pupils should be taught to play competitive games (for example, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rounders)". With a pupil count of 10 (ranging in age from 6 to 11) it is very difficult for the school to provide meaningful opportunities for competitive sport.

4.4 Ofsted

The Ofsted inspection in June 2019 judged the school to be inadequate in all areas. The school was judged to require Special Measures.

The report found that

- Over time, there has been a significant decline in the standard of education provided for pupils. Leaders have not been effective in reversing or halting this decline
- The arrangements for safeguarding pupils are ineffective. Leaders have not acted to ensure that pupils are safe
- Governors have not held leaders to account effectively for safeguarding, the quality of teaching and pupils' outcomes.

Since the start of the 2019/20 academic year, the new leadership of the school is working hard to address the many weaknesses identified in the inspection report. Significant improvements have been made to safeguarding.

Improvements are also evident in the quality of teaching.

To ensure rapid school improvement the LA has made an application for the governing board to be replaced by an Interim Executive Board.

5.0 THE FINANCIAL POSITION

- 5.1 Pupil numbers determine the school budget. The school has overwhelming challenges in managing its budget faced with such low numbers. As a result of a reduced budget the school may have to further reduce staff.

5.2 Previously reported in year deficits are now expected to be much worse with the reduction in pupil numbers the school is now facing. Current financial forecasts are showing in year deficits of £46k in 2020/21 and £77.9k in 2021/22, and a cumulative deficit of £202.6k by the end of that year. These were based on pupil assumptions of 27 in 2019/20 and 22 in 2020/21, and have assumed pupil numbers of 7 in 2021/22. The position will deteriorate further as numbers fall with no reasonable prospect of recovery.

5.3 The school's projected financial position based on current staffing structures is attached at **Appendix 2**.

5.4 The local authority's ability to support schools experiencing financial difficulties is now limited and small schools became vulnerable following the introduction of a national funding formula which is largely driven by pupil numbers.

6.0 LEADERSHIP

6.1 In 2009 Clapham CE VC Primary School confederated with two other small schools, Austwick CE VA Primary and Horton in Ribblesdale CE VA Primary. The three schools shared a Headteacher up until the end of December 2015 when all three Governing Bodies decided to formally end the collaboration. The Governing Body then appointed a new Headteacher who continued in post until his resignation in July 2018. With no time to advertise for a Headteacher, the LA secured an acting headteacher from another school, initially for the autumn term. This arrangement was then extended until the end of the 2018/19 academic year.

6.2 Previous attempts to recruit a substantive Headteacher did not prove possible. Prior to the recent Ofsted judgement, LA officers and the Diocese had conversations with schools both locally and in neighbouring County's but were not able to identify another school that was prepared to share a Headteacher.

6.3 With effect from September 2019 Executive Headteacher from The Priestley Multi Academy Trust has been appointed to oversee school leadership and is using the skills and experience of colleagues in the Priestley MAT to provide additional support. A full time Head of School from the MAT has also been appointed for this school year. The LA is currently providing temporary financial support to meet the cost of the Executive Headteacher but this is not sustainable.

6.4 Governance has been one of the most critical issues for the school this term. Within the recovery plan submitted to the Executive in April the Governing Body proposed a number of measures to improve Governance to include a regular and robust programme of Governor training, with individual Governors taking responsibility for specific core areas of the curriculum. They were informed this term that if their plans to improve effectiveness were not achieved the Governing Board would be replaced by an Interim Executive Board.

7.0 PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN THE LOCAL AREA

7.1 There are seven other North Yorkshire primary schools within reasonable travelling distance with places available currently, shown in **Appendix 3**. Across the area there are places available for all the pupils currently at Clapham CE VC Primary School. The nearest Church of England school is Austwick CE VA Primary School which is 2 miles from Clapham by road and has a good Ofsted judgement. There is also Ingleton Primary School which is 4.7 miles from Clapham, Bentham CP School at 5.5 miles and Giggleswick Primary School at 5.8 miles, Settle CE VC Primary at 6.9 miles and Long Preston VA School at 9.7 miles away, all of which were rated Good in their last Ofsted inspections.

7.2 It is proposed that the catchment areas of both Austwick CE VA Primary School and Bentham CP School are expanded to include the current catchment area of Clapham. Consultees would be invited to comment on the future arrangements for Clapham School catchment area.

7.3 Parents will be able to express a preference for any local school. All of the schools listed in Appendix 3 have been consulted regarding the admission of pupils potentially to be displaced from Clapham School and have indicated a general willingness to admit, subject to available capacity and resources being available for the specific year groups concerned.

8.0 PROPOSAL FOR CLOSURE

8.1 In the light of the above information it is proposed that consultation should be undertaken on the closure of Clapham CE VC Primary School with effect from 31 August 2020. This would mean that the school would close to pupils at the beginning of the summer holidays in July 2020.

8.2 There are a number of other local schools and existing parents would be assisted to find alternative places for their children.

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

9.0 PROCESS AND TIMESCALE

9.1 It is proposed to initiate a consultation on 10 January for a period of seven weeks including half term. A draft consultation document is attached at **Appendix 4**. It is proposed to hold a public meeting at the school in January or February on a date to be confirmed. The views of a range of stakeholders will be invited. The consultation will close on 28 February 2020.

- 9.2 As the school is a voluntary controlled primary school maintained by the local authority the decision to publish statutory notices will be taken by the Executive at the end of the consultation period. All responses to the consultation will be made available to members.
- 9.3 The final decision on closure will be taken by the Executive (or by the Executive Member for Schools if there are no objections during the representation period).
- 9.4 The key dates are shown below:

Approval to consult	17 December 2019
Consultation opens	10 January 2020
Public meeting at the school	January/February 2020
Consultation closes	28 February 2020
Executive decision to publish statutory notices (if approved the following timetable would apply)	24 March 2020
Statutory Notices published (4 weeks for representations to be made)	20 April 2020
Representation period starts	20 April 2020
Representation period ends	18 May 2020
Final decision by County Council's Executive or Executive Member	9 June 2020
Implementation of closure	31 August 2020

10.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 It is recommended that approval be given to commence consultation on the proposal that the County Council will cease to maintain Clapham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School with effect from 31 August 2020.


CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE.

Report prepared by Andrew Dixon, Strategic Planning Manager

Action AgreedExecutive Member
Date: 17 December 2020

Action RequestedCorporate Director
Date: 17 December 2020

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

DfE Number	3234	Previous DfE No		School:	Clapham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School																			
Pupils as at	OCTOBER 2019?	Academy Trust																						
	Live births %	Migration	Workings	District:	Diocesan Area: Church Schools only	SCAP Locality:	Strategic Planning Officer:	County Councillor/s:	PAN 2019/20	Lead Adviser														
Actual:	0.37	0	Mig. -0.87	Craven	Leeds Diocese (CE)	North Craven Outer Area	Julia Temple	David Ireton	8	Matt Blyton														
Local MP	Julian Smith MP			36UB	Age Range	3 to 11	8151322	Federated with																
Urban/Rural Name	Rural village in a sparse setting			URN	121557																			
School Year	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33	33/34	34/35
Live Births & forecast births	476	461	450	454	469	464	458	458	458	456	454	453	451	448	444	440	436	431	427	424	422	420	420	420
% actual live births from District							0.65	0.44	0.00															
4+			5	5	2	5	3	2	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
5+			9	7	3	2	5	3	1	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
6+			2	10	6	2	2	4	1	1	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
7+			3	3	11	6	3	3	3	1	1	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
8+			7	4	4	9	5	3	0	3	1	1	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
9+			6	7	6	4	6	6	1	0	3	1	1	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
10+			8	6	7	6	3	6	4	1	0	3	1	1	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total			40	42	39	34	27	27	10	7	8	10	9	10	11	13	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14

Housing	Notes	Number																						
Permissions	5 yr	31*	8	Housing yield - Outstanding Permissions		2	3	5	6	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
				Forecast with outstanding permissions (with rounding)		10	9	11	15	15	18	19	21	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
Unapproved applications	7 yr	4*	1	Housing yield - Unapproved applications		0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
				Forecast with OP and Un Apps (with rounding)		10	9	11	15	16	18	19	22	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
Local Plan	15 yr plan	11*	3	Housing yield - Local Plan / current unapproved applications (with rounding)		0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Total	rounded	46	12	Total forecast inc. housing yield (with rounding)		10	9	11	15	16	19	20	23	24	24	24	24	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Net Capacity		56	PANs	IAN	8	Y2 17/18	8	Y5 14/15	10	Number of North Yorks pupils living within catchment*** (2018/19)													32	
Maximum Workplaces		59		R 19/20	8	Y3 16/17	8	Y6 13/14	10	Number of pupils attending from within catchment (2018/19)													18	
Academy Funding Agreement		#N/A		Y1 18/19	8	Y4 15/16	10	20/21	0	Number of pupils from within catchment attending other North York Schs (2018/19)													14	
Nursery age pupils currently attending school				FT	N1		N2		FTE	0	Attending above school from other school catchment areas**** (2018/19)													9
				PT	N1		N2		FTE	1.5	*** This may include a shared area **** This may include out of county													

* To be confirmed when latest information is received.

REVENUE FINANCIAL FORECAST

School Name: Clapham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School
 DFE No.: 3234
 Revenue Financial Forecast: 2019/20 to 2021/22 Version: Current
 Version Name: 2019 20 Revised Forecast
 Version Description: Employee: 2019 20 Revised Foreacst, Funding: 2019 20 Revised Forecast 4, Other I/E: 2019 20 Revised Forecast 4

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

	<u>2019/20</u> <u>Financial Year</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>2020/21</u> <u>Financial Year</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>2021/22</u> <u>Financial Year</u> <u>£'000</u>
a) Income			
Funds Delegated by The LEA	232.9	219.3	175.1
Funding for 6th Form Students	0.0	0.0	0.0
SEN Funding	6.4	6.4	6.4
Pupil Premium	1.3	1.3	1.3
Other Income	32.2	24.7	24.7
Community Focused Extended School Income	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Income	272.8	251.7	207.5
b) Expenditure			
Teaching Staff	146.2	150.7	138.7
Supply Teachers	25.9	2.0	2.0
Techs/Teaching Staff Support	36.0	37.7	37.8
Admin and Clerical Staff	9.0	10.8	11.1
Other Employees Costs/Expense	11.1	10.1	9.4
Premises Costs	37.1	35.4	35.4
Learning Resources	26.2	23.4	23.4
Supplies and Services	30.9	27.6	27.6
Capital Financing From Revenue	0.0	0.0	0.0
Community Focused Extended School Costs	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Expenditure	322.5	297.7	285.5
c) Summary Position			
In Year Position	-49.7	-46.0	-77.9
Balance Brought Forward	-29.1	-78.7	-124.7
Balance carried forward	-78.7	-124.7	-202.6
2. BALANCE INFORMATION			
General School Revenue Balance	-78.7	-124.7	-202.6
Extended School Balance(Community Focused)	0.0	0.0	0.0
School Revenue Balance Percentage(%)	-35.54	-58.56	-119.67
3. PUPIL NUMBER ASSUMPTIONS			

	<u>2018 Census.</u> <u>2019/20</u> <u>Funding</u>	<u>2019 Census.</u> <u>2020/21</u> <u>Funding</u>	<u>2020 Census.</u> <u>2021/22</u> <u>Funding</u>
Reception	2.00	1.00	1.00
Year 1	3.00	1.00	0.00
Year 2	4.00	3.00	1.00
Year 3	3.00	5.00	1.00
Year 4	3.00	3.00	3.00
Year 5	6.00	2.00	0.00
Year 6	6.00	7.00	1.00
Totals	27.00	22.00	7.00
Total Main School	27.0	22.0	7.0
Total Sixth Form	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number of classes	2.0	2.0	2.0

4. STAFFING ASSUMPTIONS

	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>
a) Teaching Staff(full time equivalent)			
April	2.5	3.0	2.5
September	3.0	2.5	2.5
January	3.0	2.5	2.5
b) Technicians(hours per week)			
April	0.0	0.0	0.0
September	0.0	0.0	0.0
January	0.0	0.0	0.0
c) Admin and Clerical Staff(hours per week)			
April	20.0	20.0	20.0
September	20.0	20.0	20.0
January	20.0	20.0	20.0
d) Teaching Support Staff(hours per week)			
April	69.8	64.2	64.2
September	64.2	64.2	64.2
January	64.2	64.2	64.2
e) SEN Teaching Support Staff(hours per week)			
April	0.0	0.0	0.0
September	0.0	0.0	0.0
January	0.0	0.0	0.0

5. KEY BENCH MARKING INDICATORS

REVENUE FINANCIAL FORECAST

Pupil:Teacher Ratio(as at April)	10.8	7.3	2.8
Average Class Size (as per No. of classes)	13.5	11.0	3.5
Classes:Teachers Ratio(as at April)	0.80	0.67	0.80

6. OTHER KEY ASSUMPTIONS/INFORMATION

Funding- The 2019/20 and 2020/21 years are based on the soft implementation of the National Funding Formula (NFF). The 2021/22 year has been calculated on the same basis and would be subject to change should the DfE move to the full implementation of the NFF. The funding for 2020/21 is currently out to consultation with schools. The consultation seeks the views of North Yorkshire schools in order to inform the following key decisions:

- The use of funding from the school's budget in 2020/21 to support the continuing financial pressures relating to children and young people with High Needs
- The level at which the minimum funding guarantee (MFG) protection and associated cap on funding gains which an individual school can benefit from is set.

Support Staff - There is a 2% (estimated) increase included for April 2020 for all support staff grades.

Teaching Staff - There is a 2.5% (estimated) increase included for September 2020 across all teaching salary ranges and allowances.

The DfE have provided funding in 2019/20 to cover the increased employers contribution in relation to teachers pensions which rose from 16.48% to 23.68% from September 2019. They have also confirmed that they will provide funding to help schools in meeting the additional costs of the pension increase in future years. At this stage, no further information is available with regard to how this funding will be calculated, therefore schools are advised to assume a cost neutral position until further notification is received.

2019 20 based on Section 251 funding, 2020 21 based on October 2019 census although currently 10 pupils in school. Future years pupil numbers per NYCC Strategic Services.

Early years: No funding included as no Nursery provision

SEN funding for one EHCP - presumed will continue & at same level but will change on annual review to new banding system. Note: £8,273 element 2 delegated funding included in delegated funding.

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

Sports Grant: £16,000 lump sum plus £10 per pupil Y1-Y6. Expenditure £2300 towards Lunchtime Activity Leader, £3,000 for TA support & CPD, balance in Learning Resources for coaching, resources, transport – future years £16,000 as minimum funded sum.

Extended Schools: No provision for Breakfast Club or After School Club - currently been covered with existing staff

Teaching Staffing: 3 FTE for 2019/20 academic year (1.0 Headteacher plus 2 FTE Teaching staff) then assumes 0.5 EHT from September 2020 on L12 - no confirmation at this stage.

Support staff: From Sept 2019 GTA 27.5 hpw GTA SEN 30 hpw only HLTA 6.75 hpw. Budget for required hours however some hours currently being paid on supply rather than directly employed by school.

MSA: From September 2019 - 1.5 hpw - some MSA cover included in TA hours above re SEN & other existing staff

Admin: 20 hpw

Trips & visits: Presumed income/expenditure matches for budget purposes although shortfalls will need to be met from School Fund / PTA / other income per discussions at start budget.(Note £3,058 shortfall in 2018 19)

7. ANALYSIS OF MAIN VARIATIONS SINCE LAST FORECAST

	<u>2019/20</u> <u>£'000</u>	-	<u>2020/21</u> <u>'000</u>	-	<u>2021/22</u> <u>'000</u>
In year revenue position as above	-49.7		-46.0		-77.9
In year revenue position reported to Governors on: 16/05/2019	-35.0		-58.8		-73.3
Variances	-14.7		12.8		-4.6

Analysis of main variances:

2019 20 variance per September 2019 monitoring report.

Overview of 2020 21 variance:

9.73 Teachers pension/pay grant
0.41 School meals
0.65 Teaching staff 3 FTE to 2.5
3.43 Support staff
0.43 Admin staff
1.29 MSA staff
3.30 Sports grant - TA staff & CPD

- 0.80 LA funding
- 0.03 App levy
- 1.08 Staff absence insurance
- 0.04 Testing
- 0.82 Cleaning & Caretaking
- 0.26 Electric
- 0.03 Website
- 0.50 Photocopying
- 0.28 Telephone
- 2.55 Professional Services

12.87 Total variance

CAPITAL SUMMARY

Capital Financial Forecast: 2019/20 to 2021/22

	<u>2019/20</u> <u>Financial Year</u> <u>£'000</u>	-	<u>2020/21</u> <u>Financial Year</u> <u>£'000</u>	-	<u>2021/22</u> <u>Financial Year</u> <u>£'000</u>
1. CAPITAL FINANCIAL FORECAST					
a) Income					
CI01 Capital Income	4.3		4.3		4.3
CI03 Private Income	0.0		0.0		0.0
CI04 Revenue Financing	0.0		0.0		0.0
Total Income	4.3		4.3		4.3

REVENUE FINANCIAL FORECAST

b) Expenditure

CE01 Acquisition of Land & Existing Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
CE02 New Construction, Conversion & Renovation	0.0	0.0	0.0
CE03 Vehicles, Plant, Equipment & Machinery	0.0	0.0	0.0
CE04 ICT	2.0	2.0	2.0
Total Expenditure	2.0	2.0	2.0

c) Summary Position

In Year Position	2.3	2.3	2.3
OB03 Balance Brought Forward	7.3	9.6	11.9
Balance carried forward	9.6	11.9	14.2

2. INFORMATION REGARDING CAPITAL BALANCES/PROJECTS

B03 DEVOLVED FORMULA CAPITAL	9.6	11.9	14.2
B04 OTHER STDS.FUND CAPITAL BAL	0.0	0.0	0.0
B05 OTHER CAPITAL BALANCES	0.0	0.0	0.0

Appendix 3	Clapham CE	Austwick CE	Ingleton Primary	Bentham CP	Giggleswick Primary	Settle Primary	Long Preston VA
Distance from Clapham CE School by road	NA	2.0 miles	4.7 miles	5.5 miles	5.8 miles	6.9 miles	9.7 miles
Overall judgement at last Ofsted Inspection*	Inadequate June 2019	Good May 2019	Good June 2016	Good March 2016	Good January 2017	Good January 2016	Good February 2017
Net Capacity (places available at the school)	56	70	180	210	90	210	84
Current Pupil Roll	10	60	166	109	65	175	58
Current Capacity -/ +	+46	+10	+14	+106	+25	+35	+26
Pupil Roll 2020/21	7	60	167	110	66	174	57
Pupil Roll 2021/22	8	62	161	111	71	186	62
Pupil Roll 2022/23	10	66	164	112	71	188	60
Pupil Roll 2023/24	9	69	160	116	72	190	62
Pupil Roll 2024/25	10	71	156	115	74	192	64
Potential additional pupils from housing**							
Pupils from outstanding permissions by 2024/25	8	1	14	14	3	18	3
Potential pupils from future housing – Local Plan (over 15 years)	1	0	8	33	2	24	0

* There are several individual judgements which make up the overall outcome; parents are advised to consider the whole of the Ofsted report

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

APPENDIX 4



***Draft
Consultation
Document***

Proposal to close Clapham Church of England

Voluntary Controlled Primary School

from 31 August 2020

Clapham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

10 January 2020

This paper sets out details of a proposal to close Clapham CE VC Primary School with effect from 31 August 2020. It gives the background to the proposal. There will be a public meeting on:

January/February at 6.00pm

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

The Current Position

At a meeting on 4 November 2019 the Governing Body of Clapham CE VC Primary School voted to request that the County Council begin consulting on a proposal to close the school at the end of the current academic year. Officers from the Local Authority and the Diocese agree that this is in the best interests of current and future pupils from Clapham because numbers have fallen to a level where it will be difficult to provide a high quality of education for pupils in the long term. The County Council is therefore now consulting on the proposal to close the school with effect from 31 August 2020.

Background

Pupil numbers at the school have been falling, reducing from 42 on roll in 2014/15 to 25 at the start of the 2019/20 academic year. The drop in numbers increased concern around the financial sustainability of the school and its ability to providing good quality education.

On 5 February 2019 Executive Members gave approval to progress a consultation on a proposed closure of Clapham CE VC Primary School with effect from 31 August 2019. During the consultation period a number of responses were received including a

detailed response from the Governing Body showing a recovery plan, which they felt, along with ongoing community support, could see the school recover to a position that would enable the school to stay open. At a meeting on 30 April 2019 the Executive agreed that the proposal to cease to maintain Clapham CE VC Primary School should be stopped to allow the Governing Body to implement their recovery plan, with a formal review of the position scheduled for the end of the spring term 2020.

Since the April Executive meeting the school has been inspected by Ofsted and placed in special measures. The publication of the recent inspection result in September has led to a further decline in pupil numbers making the Governing Body's recovery plan no longer viable. This led to the Governing Body requesting a consultation on a proposed closure.

This is a wholly new consultation and focusses on four key areas of concern: 1) Low pupil numbers; 2) Breadth of curriculum, 3) The schools financial position, and 4) Leadership

The critical concern is the fall in pupil numbers, which would inevitably result in an inability to provide the necessary breadth of curriculum experience and

would also irrevocably undermine the school's future financial position.

Pupil Numbers

At the start of the 2019/20 academic year there were 25 pupils on roll. This is well below the capacity of the school – which is designed to accommodate up to 59 pupils if all spaces are in use. Since September there has been a further fall in numbers and as at the end of November 2019 the school had 10 pupils. Forecasts indicate that these numbers will not recover significantly in the longer term.

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

Total roll numbers:

2014/15 – 42

2015/16 – 39

2016/17 – 34

2017/18 – 27

2018/19 – 28

2019/20 – 25 (at the start of the year, dropping to 10 in November)

Pupil numbers as at 7 January 2020:

REC	
Y1	
Y2	
Y3	
Y4	
Y5	
Y6	
Total	

Latest forecast information predicts only one new Reception aged starter in 2020/21. This combined with the progressive reduction in existing year groups results in a forecast total roll of 7 in 2020/21.

Breadth of Curriculum

The LA has already identified concerns around the school's ability to meet the educational need of children with such small numbers. As numbers on roll continue to fall it will be increasingly difficult to provide the remaining pupils with access to the full range of experiences they need, particularly opportunities for working and playing with children their own age. The Ofsted inspection in June judged the school to be inadequate in all areas.

The Financial Position

Pupil numbers determine the school budget. Examination of the predicted financial position has led to concerns about the school's ability to provide a good quality of education. The school is projecting in year deficits of £46k in 2020/21 and £77.9k in 2021/22, and cumulative deficit of £202.6k by the end of that year. These were based on pupil assumptions at the time of 27 in 2019/20 and 22 in 2020/21, so the position will deteriorate further as pupil numbers fall with no reasonable prospect of financial recovery.

Leadership

Previous attempts to recruit a substantive headteacher or identify another school prepared to share a headteacher has not proved possible. With effect from September 2019 an Executive Headteacher from The Priestley Multi Academy Trust has been appointed to oversee school leadership. A full time Head of School from the MAT has also been appointed for this school year. The LA is currently providing temporary financial support to meet the cost of the Executive Headteacher but this is not sustainable.

The Proposal

For the reasons outlined above it is proposed that Clapham CE VC Primary School should close with effect from 31 August 2020.

The nearest Church of England school, 2 miles from Clapham, is Austwick CE VA Primary School. There is also, Ingleton Primary School which is 4.7 miles from Clapham, Bentham CP School at 5.5 miles, Giggleswick Primary School at 5.8 miles, Settle CE Primary at 6.9 miles and Long Preston VA School at 9.7 miles away.

It is proposed that the catchment areas of both Austwick CE VA Primary School and Bentham CP School are expanded to include the current Clapham catchment area.

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

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

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. In the case of Voluntary Aided schools the Governing Body is the Admissions Authority.

All of the local schools have indicated a willingness to admit pupils potentially displaced from Clapham School, subject to available capacity and resources being available for the specific year groups concerned. Where a child attends a school, which is not their normal school or nearest school, parents are normally responsible for making transport arrangements.

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

The School Site

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

What Happens Next?

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

Friday 28 February 2020

Paper responses should be returned to North Yorkshire County Council at the address below:

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

Online responses may be submitted by following this link:

The closing date for responses is

All responses to the consultation received by this date will be considered by the County Council's Executive on 17 December 2020.

If the County Council's Executive decides to proceed with the closure proposal, then statutory notices would be published in the local press on 20 April 2020. These notices provide a further four weeks for representations to be made. A final decision would then be made by North Yorkshire County Council's Executive on 9 June 2020. If agreed the school would close on 31 August 2020.

Anticipated Key Dates

All dates are subject to approvals at each stage.

Consultation opens	10 January 2020
Public meeting at the school	January/February 2020
Consultation closes	28 February 2020
County Council's Executive considers consultation response	24 March 2020
Statutory Notices published (4 weeks for representations to be made)	20 April 2020
Final decision by County Council's Executive	9 June 2020
Proposed school closure date	31 August 2020

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

Observations and/or suggestions:

Interest/Status

e.g. Parent/Governor/Teacher/Community

Name of School

Signed

Date:

Name (Block Capitals)

Address:

.....

.....

Postcode:

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

Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

.....

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

FREEPOST RTKE-RKAY-CUJS

Clapham

Strategic Planning

North Yorkshire County Council

County Hall

NORTHALLERTON

DL7 8AE

Or go to:

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

and submit your response there

To be received by no later than 28 February 2020

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

Record of Public Meeting concerning Clapham CE VC Primary School

Meeting held on 4 February 2020 at Clapham Village Hall

Present: Rob Atkins (Co-chair of Interim Executive Board), Janet Booth (Co-chair of Interim Executive Board), Matthew Atkinson (Executive Headteacher), Adam Kay (Head of Clapham Primary School), County Cllr Patrick Mulligan (Executive Member for Education and Skills, NYCC), Judith Kirk (Assistant Director, Education and Skills, NYCC), Andrew Dixon (Strategic Planning Manager, NYCC), Julia Temple (Strategic Planning Officer, NYCC), Kate Lounds (Lead Advisor, NYCC), Richard Noake (Director of Education, Anglican Diocese of Leeds), Simone Bennett (Anglican Diocese of Leeds), Maria Farrer (Governor), Claire Pearson (Headteacher, Bentham Primary School), Rev Anne Russel (Vice-chair of Govs, Bentham Primary and C of E Area Dean), Jenny Thistlethwaite (Governor, Ingleton Primary)

Additionally, there were 7 parents, 9 residents and 1 member of staff.

Apologies: Councillor David Ireton sent his apologies prior to the meeting.

32 people were present

AGENDA

6.30	Meeting opens – brief welcome	Rob Atkins – Co-chair of Interim Executive Board
6.40	Executive Members Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the Panel • Short statement about background • Handover to LA Officer for presentation 	County Cllr Patrick Mulligan
7.00	Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal • Background to the proposal • Pupil numbers and housing • Finances • Local Schools • Catchment area • How can people comment 	Andrew Dixon
7.30	Question and Answer Session	County Cllr Patrick Mulligan and panel
8.00	Meeting Close	County Cllr Patrick Mulligan

1. Welcome

Rob Atkins, Co-chair of the Interim Executive Board, opened the meeting a little after 6.30pm and welcomed those present.

2. Executive Member opening remarks

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan introduced himself and the rest of the panel.

3. Presentation by Andrew Dixon

Andrew Dixon introduced himself as the Strategic Planning Manager at NYCC and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to consult on a proposal to close Clapham CE Primary School, and to seek observations and comments around the future treatment of the catchment area if the school was to close.

AD explained the process and followed with a presentation which gave information on the background, the current position and what happens next.

4. Questions and Answers

A local resident began by enquiring as to whether the available spaces at other local schools takes into account pupils that have already moved from Clapham. Andrew Dixon confirmed that was the case.

Another resident questioned how much the County Council is committed to its policy of maintaining rural schools. Andrew Dixon responded that NYCC supports rural schools as far as they are able to do so. This has been evidenced by the County Council's response to the school last time when the closure proposal was halted. Cllr Mulligan added that it is ultimately about the social, personal, and emotional wellbeing of the children, and that when a school gets into a situation of such low numbers the impact upon those children has to be paramount.

A resident asked if the proposal is to create a shared catchment area, would there be transport to Bentham and Austwick. Andrew Dixon said yes, if the journey was over the relevant qualifying distance of 2 or 3 miles dependent on age, or the route was deemed not be safe.

The Chair of Governors at Ingleton expressed her sadness at the school being in this position again. She wanted to make the point that if the school was to close, there was no reason the catchment area couldn't be shared between three schools to include Ingleton Primary. She felt that this would give parents choice. Andrew Dixon welcomed any comments on the treatment of catchment areas and would be interested to hear people's views. He explained the reason behind the proposal for the two way shared catchment was that Austwick seemed the obvious choice, being a church school and the closest to Clapham, and there was more comfort in Bentham providing sufficient places. Adding Ingleton would add complications and cost to home to school transport arrangements. The proposal avoids splitting the existing catchment by drawing arbitrary lines between schools which are often unhelpful to parents. Andrew Dixon gave assurance that any points raised would be put to Members, and said a meeting had been held with local schools prior to the consultation process getting underway.

A local resident who has been looking at the existing catchment maps felt the areas need to be redrawn, particularly the Ingleton catchment area which splits the town. Previous school closures have resulted in catchment areas that no longer serve the schools they represent.

A parent commented that there are already children living within Clapham who attend the nursery at Ingleton, and they would like a guarantee that their child would receive transport to whichever school they choose. Cllr Mulligan said they cannot give any guarantees but would welcome responses on the catchment area issue.

A resident expressed concern around the future of Clapham once the school was gone. He felt the County Council was not being true to its own commitments. Cllr Mulligan responded to say they are facing enormous challenges in North Yorkshire with the number of small rural schools. He confirmed the County Council does not have a plan of rural school closures. This very issue is currently being looked at via the Rural Commission and there are wider, more complex issues at play and it is not just about schools.

A parent commented that the house prices in the area are too high for young families and questioned where were the affordable homes.

Questions were asked around the recent Ofsted outcome and in particular how the school got itself into special measures, and why an inspection was carried out at this time. Kate Lounds said the Ofsted inspection was carried out in June but they had previously requested a visit in February. When they rang in June the Ofsted inspectors were not minded to postpone again because of a HeadTeacher absence. Judith Kirk added that Ofsted are an entirely independent organisation and the local authority cannot influence their decision. A further question was asked about why it had been left so long between inspections. Kate Lounds explained that a law had been passed that said schools would not be re-inspected following an outstanding judgement so that local authorities could focus on schools that were not as good. This has now changed but local authorities continue to have no involvement in when an Ofsted inspection is carried out.

A resident asked why alarm bells did not start ringing when a large number of children were removed all at once and there was a fast turnover of HeadTeachers. Judith Kirk responded that changes in headteacher are not generally a cause for alarm. Work was being done but the changes happened quickly. Kate Lounds added that she has been working closely with the Governing Board. Simone Bennett talked about the difficulty in finding interim leadership and headteachers for small rural schools and although none of these are excuses they are reasons for the decline in standards. It was known that changes needed to be made.

A parent or resident asked does the local authority not have a duty to maintain an outstanding judgement? Judith Kirk responded that when a school is sat on an outstanding judgement, the focus of school improvement moves to support schools that are not doing so well. It is only when other factors come into play that checks and re-evaluations are then carried out.

A resident said he noticed that there has been no mention of federation or amalgamation and asked if this had been revisited. Andrew Dixon said that last time there was no appetite from other schools to join a federation with Clapham and given the further fall in numbers it would be unlikely that this would be an option now. Andrew also added that it would not pass due diligence by Academy Trusts.

A further comment was made that if the local authority was aware the school was on a downward slide then so too would the parents be aware and that is why they would pull their children out. Judith Kirk responded that the school community also has a role in turning a school around and although the local authority has a duty to provide support it is the Governing Body's duty to lead.

Anne Russell, Vice Chair of Bentham and area Dean, wanted to say Bentham is a super school and that they already do have pupils on roll from the Clapham catchment area. She said that sustainable communities are key and every rural school is vulnerable. In response to a query on how parents and Governors can be expected to take on the responsibility of a school Anne said that although as Governors they start off unprepared you just have to get stuck in, even if you haven't yet got those skills. Judith Kirk added that there is no blame here, that it is a set of circumstances that had a series of consequences. She said the local authority, school, and Governors did their best. Last July there was no headteacher and no teachers. Over the summer the local authority worked hard with the Diocese, Governors and the Priestley Academy Trust to ensure the school was in a stable position for the start of term. It was a real positive at the time, then the Ofsted judgement came and numbers started to drop further. There are now no KS1 children in school.

A Governor of Clapham said the challenges the school has faced over the past few years have been extraordinary. They would like to recognise the support of the local authority and in particular Stuart Boothman (School Governance Team) for their support. Leadership at the school is now fantastic. They would also like to thank the neighbouring schools for their continued support.

A member of the Community Action Group said he was there at the Executive meeting last year and felt the full support of the County Council which led to the U-turn on the closure proposal. He fully endorsed Judith's last comments and wished local parents the very best.

The meeting ended with parents thanking Matthew Atkinson and Adam Kay for their leadership since the start of term.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

1.	<p>As the Executive Head who joined the school this year, I did it to turn its fortunes around and make things better for the children and the community. It is with a massively heavy heart, that after all of the hard work and progress that I write this response. In my view the LA would be wrong to continue to maintain this school given its numbers. The school is not viable. It saddens me that we can barely organise a playground game. Classroom activities are so hard to deliver with such limited children. The curriculum offer is not feasible to such a small heart. I genuinely wanted to turn this schools fortunes around but I cannot see a feasible future for the school.</p>
2.	<p>The transfer of catchment of Clapham school to Austwick and Bentham should surely be shared between Ingleton as well. There are children who would have a far longer and more hazardous journey than if they were to travel in Ingleton with the A65 and many hazardous minor roads to be negotiated. The fact that Burton's entire catchment was transferred to Bentham when it closed was in itself ridiculous. When you look at a map and consider the distance from places such as Westhouse, Thornton and Masongill (which now fall into Bentham catchment) a strong case exists for this to be the opportunity to redraw the catchment areas for all 3 schools - Austwick, Ingleton and Bentham to future proof the sustainability of each and ensure the safety of students travelling there. Surely just adding mile upon mile of catchment to Bentham school will result at some point in a catchment more akin to a secondary than a rural primary school and further fragment local communities. As an example In Burton in Lonsdale and Westhouse alone children go to at least 6 different primary schools as catchments areas are so divisive and nonsensical, this has resulted in a village where children don't actually know other children in the village. Extending Bentham's catchment to such a degree is only going to make this worse as people choose other closer, more preferred primary schools rather than go with the distant catchment offer in a totally different community.</p>
3.	<p>I am concerned that on the proposed closure of Clapham Primary School, clapham parish children will be in the catchment area of either Bentham or Austwick Primary School, and Ingleton Primary School has not been considered. The proposal is that the catchments of both Austwick Primary (2 miles away) and Bentham Primary (5.5 miles away) are expanded to include the current Clapham catchment area even though Ingleton Primary is closer to Clapham - 4.7 miles away. I am concerned that this is discriminating against future families living in the Clapham area who might want to choose Ingleton Primary for their children in the years to come. Bentham's catchment area already includes Thornton, Westhouse, Masongill which are all closer to Ingleton than Bentham, and Burton which is also very close. Ingleton has been left with a very small catchment area compared to Bentham. This seems very unfair in terms of parental/family choice for the future. I really think this needs further consideration, in order to be fair to all local schools and not just bias to Bentham Primary School.</p>

4.	<p>I can't deny that closing Clapham as a primary school is the right choice but the catchment area suggestions area an absolute disgrace and an embarrassment. Looking at simple straight line distances, Newby (currently in the Clapham catchment) is 2.2 miles from Ingleton Primary School and 4.6 miles from Bentham. By car, it is 3.4 miles to Ingleton and 4.6 miles to Bentham, which is even further than to Austwick even. That, by itself, is enough to raise an eyebrow when you suggest extending the already extended Bentham catchment area to include Newby. But then you look at the impact North Yorkshire's school previous school closures has had on Ingleton's catchment and it's even more farcical. Thornton is in Bentham's catchment area. Thornton is 2.99 miles from Bentham and 0.85 to Ingleton. By car, it is even more ridiculous: 4.6 to Bentham and 1.6 to Ingleton. What is this anti-Ingleton prejudice that is running through the local authority? Why is more money being pumped in to Bentham than Ingleton? Why is Ingleton being squeezed and restricted on all sides? This screams of discrimination and a conscious and deliberate act by the council to prevent Ingleton from having an equal standing in the area. I understand that a lot of money was spent on a new school building, but that doesn't mean you can squeeze other schools until they yield to the will of the council. It causes resentment from the local community and division between the two villages. Even worse, whilst both schools remain very professional, it is obvious that this will be causing a strained relationship between the two. As you may be able to tell, I work in a school (in Cumbria, thank goodness) and therefore fully understand the importance of local schools working collaboratively and maintaining a positive relationship. What the council is already doing is driving a wedge between two good schools that would have more energy and ability to thrive if they were allowed to work together. By totally ignoring Ingleton with the catchment split from Clapham, you are highlighting the inequality in the council and how they will stop at nothing to force people to one school. Parents vote with their feet: the council trying to bully them in to going to Bentham by withholding transport that they should be entitled to is at best petty, and at worse discrimination. If the split does not include Ingleton, we shall be putting in a range of freedom information requests (a pain in the neck at the best of times) to investigate the funding differences and the decisions that have gone to promoting Bentham against all others, regardless of distances and practical considerations. And in this day of environmental awareness, can you really say that trying to force people to travel further by car to get to their local school is the right thing? Instead of having a school they can cycle to, they have a school they need to drive to. Brilliant - Greta would love that one... We will not be supporting the proposal as it stands and will be resisting it in the strongest possible terms if you decide to go ahead with it. Parents will not be forced in to going to Bentham just because the council decided they want them to, they will just resent missing out transport - or is that the plan to avoid having to pay for it? Either way, the council is wrong and needs to alter things somewhat. As a post script to this, I have the highest regard for Bentham as well. Pitching the two school schools against each other is not the answer, so please stop it.</p>
5.	<p>Having looked at the boundary map for the local schools it seems that the catchment area should be shared between Ingleton, Bentham and Austwick. Children at for example Newby an Clapham who's parents may well work in Ingleton as there are more job opportunities will be able to choose which school of the three suits them most as they are all so close in proximity.</p>

6.	The proposed changes to the catchment areas would seem to be ill thought out. If there is space available at the two nearest schools to Clapham it seems perverse to propose transporting children to the furthest of the three local schools, surely it must be more environmentally sound to reduce unnecessary transportation as much as possible by dividing the existing catchment in such a way that children go to the school that is closest by road or footpath. Perhaps this might present an opportunity to reassess catchment areas across North Craven to try and reduce unnecessary emissions from road travel as it seems contrary to current thinking that pupils living within the village of Ingleton, or Thornton in Lonsdale who could potentially walk or cycle to school instead are encouraged to drive to Bentham, or are entitled to funded road transportation.
7.	Please consider widening the catchment of Ingleton rather than the catchments of Austwick and Bentham. We have a beautiful village school which needs continued numbers to thrive. Parents should always be offered the closest school as this is better for them in terms of travel and for the children and friendships. Austwick school is already bursting at the seams whereas Ingleton has lots of room for a larger community.
8.	The catchment areas are unfair and only sets out to benefit Bentham Primary School in the hope that NYCC can justify the amount they spent on it, and not giving other local very good schools the opportunity for funding and development.
9.	Surveys like this are a waste of time as will close anyway, my primary school (burton) and middle school (ingleton) were both closed and I saw a massive decrease in families with children moving to burton and it became a bit of a ghost town. I have a feeling the same will happen to Clapham as other than the school they don't have much else to offer. And for current students of clapham, uprooting them and chucking them into a larger school like bentham or ingleton could come with some problems for them and their parents but not the biggest concern right?
10.	My observations are in regard to the exclusion of Ingleton in the catchment area which takes away parent choice. I was not aware of how this could impact on Ingleton as a thriving village going forward. I don't think many villagers know that the catchment are for Ingleton school ends at the waterfalls entrance and at the iron bridge in the A 65. There is no logic or sense to this, why are very young children travelling to school further than they need to? It's certainly not environmentally friendly and makes their school day longer than necessary. Really, I fail to see any positives from this.
11.	I feel that Clapham should be included in the catchment area for Ingleton Primary School. It is closer geographically than Bentham and Bentham Primary has already had loads of money thrown at it. Ingleton school desperately needs a new classroom.
12.	The closure of Clapham primary has been inevitable for a while but I cannot understand why you would want the children of Clapham, and Newby in particular, to go anywhere other than Ingleton Primary. It makes me wonder if you have ever been or if you are just drawing lines on a map!
13.	I am pleased with the catchment going to Austwick & Bentham Primary Schools. Our children at Ingleton are full to bursting and children are always accepted out of catchment area anyway. I would rather see the other 2 local schools who have space fill theirs.

14.	<p>On behalf of the governing body for Bentham Community Primary School I wish to express our sadness that Clapham Primary has again reached the decision to consult to close. We know how difficult school governance can be, and how passionately everyone at Clapham works for the needs of the school and the community - and in most cases voluntarily. Clapham is a wonderful village with a strong community spirit and I am confident that it will continue to flourish. We are happy to have been considered in the proposed catchment of the Clapham area should the closure take effect. It seems appropriate that Clapham parents would have a choice of a church school and a community one. We are incredibly lucky at Bentham to be able to offer children a modern, spacious and nurturing learning environment and with capacity for growth, the proposal offers long term sustainability for education in the area. As has always been the case, we at Bentham Community Primary will continue to offer help and support to the Clapham community and its children however it is required.</p>
15.	<p>I would like to make particular reference to the proposed catchment area. The proposal is that the catchments of both Austwick Primary (2 miles away) and Bentham Primary (5.5 miles away) are expanded to include the current Clapham catchment area even though Ingleton Primary is closer to Clapham - 4.7 miles away. I feel that this is discriminating against future families living in the Clapham area who might want to choose Ingleton Primary for their children in the years to come and could in the future negatively impact on Ingleton Primary School which already has a very small catchment area.</p>
16.	<p>Clapham Consultation – a response from the Headteacher at Ingleton Primary School Clapham is our “neighbour” and we have always worked closely with members of the school community. We have helped informally and formally as much as we could and we are genuinely saddened by this second proposal for closure. We have provided headship cover and support, teaching input and training, as well as admin support over the past few years. We also initiated a teacher secondment to relieve some of the financial/staffing pressures. Unfortunately we have been aware of the challenges this lovely small school has faced. Last year before the first consultation on closure our Governing Body considered a shared Headship, but felt that assisting on a permanent basis would be detrimental to Ingleton Primary School. In the consultation document Austwick is named as the nearest church school and we are named as the nearest community school, yet it is proposed that the catchment areas for Bentham CP School and Austwick are expanded to include the Clapham area. We object to this and we would like our catchment area to be reviewed too. We request that the Clapham catchment be shared between Ingleton, as well as Austwick and Bentham. As a school we feel very strongly that this is discriminating against future families living in the Clapham area who might want to choose Ingleton Primary for their children in the years to come. This isn't about us taking in additional children to expand our school now, it is about future-proofing our school and giving a fair choice to families in the area. The Ingleton catchment area is already quite small in terms of populated areas. Families who live over the second bridge in the bottom of the village are actually in the Bentham Primary catchment. Thornton, Westhouse, Burton, Masongill are all out of our catchment area. When Richard Thornton’s (Burton-in-Lonsdale) closed, the authority gave the entire catchment to Bentham Primary School even though Thornton and Westhouse pupils live considerably closer to Ingleton and they have always attended our school. Our school catchment suffered because of the Burton closure and we want to avoid history repeating itself. If the proposed catchment area is actually mapped then we could potentially have a geographical area (which incidentally includes very little populated land up from Chapel-le-dale) nearly surrounded by a vast and well populated Bentham Primary catchment area which includes plenty of built up places including Low Bentham, High Bentham, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Westhouse, Thornton-in-Lonsdale, Keasden, Clapham, Newby etc. In the future this proposed catchment would be extremely detrimental to our school and our community.</p>

	<p>We are very supportive of our local schools and we work together closely. We do care about the sustainability of all the remaining schools in this area, ours included, and that is why a fair decision is needed.</p>
17.	<p>I think it is a shame for the parents who want their children to go to Clapham C of E Primary School that it is closing, but the school has struggled for a long time, so its closure seems inevitable. As a parent with children at Bentham Community Primary School, I believe that the children who currently attend Clapham School would definitely benefit from attending Bentham School. Bentham is a brilliant school with wonderful teachers and lots of extra-curricular opportunities. Bentham School has plenty of space to accommodate more children (it in fact has the capacity to take lots more children) and already has lots of positive links with Clapham. I believe the catchment should include Austwick as a church school and Bentham as a community school. There is no need for other schools to be included in the catchment.</p>
18.	<p>I would like to support the proposal that the Clapham catchment area be shared between Bentham C P School and Austwick C of E School. I believe the children within the catchment area should be given the option to choose between a community school and church school. I also strongly believe that no other schools should share the catchment area as Bentham school was built with the capacity to take on more children and so far these places have not been wholly fulfilled. This, in turn, means high building costs and mixed age classes. As a parent I would like to see single age classes, in the future, to better meet the needs of the children. Additionally, Bentham School needs better financial security for the future as currently building maintenance costs and empty classrooms are compromising that.</p>
19.	<p>It is very sad that Clapham CE Primary School finds itself under consultation for closure again. The school has been at the heart of the local community for a long time. Should the decision be taken to close the school on this occasion, I would like to express my views on the proposed division of the Clapham School catchment. As the document notes, there are a number of alternative good schools around and I believe that this should be fairly represented between the 3 remaining schools in the locality - Ingleton Primary, Bentham Primary & Austwick Primary. All children living along the A65 from Ingleton as far as and including Newby would have Ingleton Primary School as their nearest school with the closure of Clapham, yet my understanding is that the Clapham catchment would only be divided between Bentham and Austwick. This would mean that the nearest primary school from my home from September 2020 will not become my child's catchment school. I live along the A65 within the current Clapham catchment. Under the current proposals, this would mean that my child would have longer travel times to school each day and have to travel on back roads rather than a direct route to Ingleton. I understand that my child's catchment school would become Bentham Primary under these proposals. From my home in the Newby Parish (LA2 8JD), these are the distances to the 3 remaining schools (Googlemaps) Ingleton - 2.7 miles Austwick - 4.1 miles Bentham - 5.0 miles I would always choose to send my child to Ingleton Primary as the nearest good school (February 2020). From Newby village: Ingleton - 3.1 miles Austwick - 3.4 miles Bentham - 4.4 miles Therefore, to reduce travelling times and costs, I hope you will consider how the division of the Clapham catchment impacts on children and parents, and ensure that our children have the right to attend their nearest primary school, not one at a greater distance imposed on us. Should the outcome of the consultation be to close Clapham, I hope that the division of the catchment will be fair to ensure the long term future of our 3 remaining village schools with the best interests of our children at the heart of this difficult decision-making process at this difficult time.</p>

20. I am a lifelong resident of Keasden, the small hamlet just outside of Clapham and work on a self-employed basis serving my community as a community physiotherapist. I have two small children under the age of two whom I had wished to attend Clapham Primary School. I feel the current situation with the school is extremely sad and disappointing and struggle to comprehend the circumstances which have led to the schools demise. I attended the school as a child as did three generations of my family before me and am very grateful for the excellent education the school provided for me and for other members of my family, which is why I find this situation so upsetting. I am heartbroken, that after my husband and I have worked, and continue to work so hard to provide them with a grounded rural childhood similar to that which we received, the opportunity to attend such a fantastic local school has now been taken away. People with young families who have been born and bred in this area already face a struggle to remain in the area they have grown up in and pay extortionate rents and mortgages for the privilege of doing so. In addition to this, we, in this area, pay a considerable amount in council tax compared to our counterparts in the city yet our public services have been, and continue to be, cut to the bone. Unfortunately it is getting to the stage where this area will be a place where young families just can't afford to stay and I'm sad to say closure of Clapham School is yet another step in that direction. I feel very strongly that there is a need for small rural schools, not only for rural children already living in the area but also for those who will undoubtedly move into the area given the amount of new house building that is currently being undertaken. Additionally, the surrounding schools which are similar to Clapham are already full, clearly demonstrating the appetite among parents to have their children attend a school that has reasonable class sizes and provides a good quality education. Therefore, it is my sincere opinion that to close Clapham primary school, even given its poor OFSTED report is a mistake, not only for the children of Clapham and the surrounding area but also for the community. Removing the school from Clapham is going to have a huge detrimental effect on the village both in terms of community adhesion but also for the businesses in the village, as there will now be a reduction in the amount of people passing through to support these businesses. If the school closes, the council's planning department should review its procedures and cease passing planning for new developments in the Clapham area when there is no longer a school. Certainly, families with primary school age children are now very unlikely to choose to live in Clapham when there isn't a school within the village. This will almost certainly result in the village becoming a retirement village which will, in time, enhance the social care problems that all communities are now facing with an aging population. However, for this area these problems will be further compounded if few young people remain. Having a balance between the younger and older generations is essential for good community relations and social adhesion, particularly in a rural area and I feel strongly that the community as a whole will be much poorer with the loss of the school. However, having attended the recent consultation meeting I am of the sad opinion that the end result of this consultation will be closure of Clapham Primary School. Therefore as a parent, I am deeply concerned about the future of my children's education and moreover the council's ability to provide it, given the circumstances surrounding Clapham's demise. In particular, the council's specified desire to reallocate children in the Clapham catchment area to either Austwick or Bentham and not include Ingleton, despite it being nearer to Clapham than Bentham and on the list of alternative schools at the meeting, concerns me particularly as this reduces parental choice, something which I believe to be essential both for current and future parents in the Clapham area. It is vital that parents in the Clapham area, like myself, have the choice as to which of the three nearest schools their child/children attend without any barriers, for example to funding for their place or school transport. In order to give parents that choice, it is essential that the catchment areas of Austwick, Bentham and Ingleton be expanded to include the current Clapham catchment area, encapsulating the three nearest schools to Clapham, thus

offering parents a real choice. This would also ensure that each of the three schools nearest to Clapham and proposed as alternatives by the council in both the previous and current consultation meetings, receive the correct funding and assistance to fully meet the needs of both the current and additional pupils they will gain as a result of this school closure, both in the short and long term. Additionally, home to school transport should be provided by the council, without question, to the three nearest schools, Austwick, Ingleton & Bentham (ordered in distance from Clapham) for those children in the current Clapham catchment area who will now be forced to attend elsewhere due to the closure of their local school. It is not the fault of the children or their parents that the school has closed and therefore, parents and future parents in this rural area should be supported by the council with home to school transport to the three nearest schools. Moreover, the environmental cost of closing the school must be considered with parents facing the prospect of travelling their children to one of the three nearest schools. Surely it cannot be environmentally beneficial to have an influx of cars running from the Clapham area either end of the day to Austwick, Ingleton and Bentham? Certainly if the council were to allow this to be the case, it would be a direct contrast to the pledges made by the UK government in its climate change policy. Congestion in Austwick, Ingleton and Bentham already causes significant issues, clearly signalling the need for school transport in order to reduce this, if these schools are to take on additional pupils resulting from the closure of Clapham. It is essential that all steps are taken to prevent further traffic problems in these areas for residents, businesses and for the environment, both now and in the future. It is said that education is the wing on which dreams fly, something I have found from personal experience to be very true. Therefore, it is imperative that children in this area receive the highest possible standard of education and the duty of the council to ensure that this is the case, by supporting the current and future children of the Clapham area and their parents, be it by maintaining Clapham Primary School or supporting parents' choice with regard to the three nearest alternative schools. Additionally, the council must support the staff and governing bodies of Austwick, Ingleton and Bentham in ensuring these schools have all the provisions they require in order to cope with the increased demands placed upon them, should the school close. Lessons must be learnt from the sad situation Clapham Primary School has found itself in and it is the duty of the council to ensure no other school in the area ends up in the same situation, as ultimately it's not just the children and their parents that lose out, the entire rural community is irreparably affected.

21.	<p>As a school we were very saddened to hear that Clapham School is once again under consultation to close and we recognise the strength of feeling within the local community at potentially losing another small school within North Craven. Before the formal consultation process began, local schools were invited to meet to discuss the options, moving forwards, to the catchment arrangements should the decision be made for Clapham School to close. We were pleased that the Local Authority held this meeting so that an open and honest discussion could take place and that Bentham School is named as part of the proposal for the current catchment area of Clapham School alongside Austwick School. We believe that this is the best option moving forwards for the following reasons: Austwick School is a Church school and the families, both present and in the future, should be given the option of their child attending a church school, as they would have done if Clapham School were to remain open. Austwick School has some available space for new children and adequate sufficiency of places in the future. Bentham School has sufficient space both now and in the future, in all year groups, without the need to build additional classrooms. Bentham and Austwick School are both within short travelling distance to all parts of the current Clapham catchment area. Bentham School has school transport already in place, providing transport from the current Clapham catchment area. Bentham School needs to be sustainable and the additional children from an extended catchment area would support this sustainability. Throughout the consultation process, there have been discussions around a three way shared catchment area with Ingleton Primary School. As a school we accept that Ingleton School does lie closer to some areas of the current Clapham catchment. However, we believe Ingleton Primary School should not be included in the proposal for the following reasons: A three-way division of transport is not financially viable, sustainable or environmentally productive. A three-way division of the catchment area would make projecting future intake of children more challenging. Ingleton School draws from a densely populated, albeit small, catchment area with housing continuing to be built within the current catchment area. Ingleton School has already used their hall as a classroom to be able to accommodate increased numbers demonstrating lack of space currently. Ingleton School have applied for, and had refused, funding to build an additional classroom; demonstrating the issues around sufficiency of places both now and in the future. Austwick and Bentham both have space within their schools, without needing to extend or use further LA funding to create additional space. As a school we would urge the County Council's Executive to consider the above very carefully and encourage a decision to be made that secures the sustainability of the remaining schools in North Craven.</p>
22.	<p>As a parent of a child in Bentham CP I would welcome more children at my daughter's school. It is a wonderful, spacious, purpose built school and is not even near capacity at present. We would also very much welcome single aged classes which, with more children and more finance would be more likely to become a reality.</p>
23.	<p>Being involved in the previous attempt to keep Clapham Primary School open made me realise how vulnerable village institutions are in small rural communities. Yet in this age where child and adolescent mental health, carbon footprint, an ageing population and social isolation are such enormous issues, bigger is not always better. I hope that other villages will learn from our loss and realise that a school is a vital element of a happy, sustainable and balanced community.</p>

24.	<p>The very low number of pupils remaining at Clapham means that maintaining the school is no longer educationally or financially viable. NYCC should ensure that it provides the current school leadership with the right resources and support to complete the current school year and to close the school whilst ensuring the best possible outcomes both for the current pupils and for the community in the long term. Careful consideration should be given to the reallocation of school catchment areas upon closure of the school. This should be based on the needs and wishes of the community and not purely on distance. Many members of the community clearly feel more closely connected to Ingleton than to Bentham. Ingleton is connected via a faster road connection and a reasonably regular, fast and convenient bus service. Historically, the communities have been closely connected socially and economically. I understand that the temptation may be to prioritise Bentham, which is a slightly closer option for many and is likely to have greater capacity, however I ask that the Council carefully consider the needs and wishes of the Clapham community, who (subject to the result of this consultation) are already losing their community school.</p>
25.	<p>I object to the proposal re sharing the catchment area not including Ingleton Primary School which is the second nearest primary school to Clapham. I understand NYCC concerns regarding Bentham Primary School having significant spare capacity - however this is not Clapham parents problem. To not include Ingleton compromises parental choice and results in a longer journey to Bentham and therefore a longer school day. The route to Ingleton is also more direct than the route to High Bentham. At the recent public meeting current Clapham parents expressed, quite strongly, their support for the above. I sincerely hope NYCC will consider this and put the pupils and parents welfare first as opposed to decisions based purely on finances.</p>
26.	<p>Regarding the new proposed catchment areas, I would strongly prefer Austwick Primary School to be the catchment school for Keasden and Clapham and Newby too if Austwick School has the capacity to cover the whole of the old Clapham School catchment area, as Austwick is much nearer and is the nearest match in size and culture to Clapham School, to help existing and future pupils.</p>
27.	<p>I have been a resident of Clapham for 15 years, am the parent of three sons, grandparent of eight children and have worked in the schools sector for a number of different Local Education Authorities for a total of 30 years. I am totally committed to State education in both principle and practise.</p> <p>I attended the consultation meeting held in Clapham on 7 March 2019 to consider the closure of Clapham Primary School and the meeting held in Clapham on 4 February 2020 to again consider the closure of that school. I am one of the people who, when the school was threatened with closure, gave money to help to solve the budgetary issues which confronted the school.</p> <p>I am compelled to say that at the February consultation meeting I was disappointed by the demeanour of the LA and Diocesan officers laying out their case for the closure of the school. They gave every appearance that the decision had already been made and that the school would close whatever parents and other residents said. The Consultation Document unequivocally proposed that the school close with effect from the end of this coming August. There appears to be no plan for any alternative to closure.</p> <p>It was pointed out that Clapham Primary School currently has few children on roll. At the meeting I made the point that the stated policy of North Yorks County council is to support its many small rural schools. I see from their website that the County Council has, in response to draconian cuts in funding, established a Rural Commission which seeks ways in which to "...maximise the sustainability of the super-sparse rural communities..." and to find ways in which to "halt and reverse rural decline". The view of the County Council is there stated to be "... that if small schools are to survive, then communities must remain sustainable...".</p>

These are reassuring words which suggest that Clapham School should be kept open, that every attempt will be made to keep it open in spite of budgetary constraints. And yet, at the consultation meeting, this did not appear to be the case. Neither the Local Authority nor the Diocesan authority appear to have taken to heart the County Council's commitment to small rural schools.


The aim of the NYCC's Rural Commission is stated on the NYCC website to be to identify actions which would "...maximise the sustainability of the super-sparse rural communities in North Yorkshire" and would "...strengthen the case for greater government support in seeking to maximise rural sustainability".

The website claims that the Council is "transformative", "entrepreneurial", that it promotes "stronger communities", that it is "outstanding across the board for children's services, that is "...working...to maintain the life and economic viability of rural areas...". The website also points out that North Yorkshire is "...ageing faster than other parts...", that it has fewer young people than the national average.

The decision to close Clapham school would condemn the village to housing an ageing community with fewer children and young people as families of prospective residents look elsewhere for a home near a school for their children. Clapham would become a geriatric ghetto. This would clearly not be the government's intention. The statutory guidance on school closure (www.Opening_and_closing_maintained_schools1012) exhorts decision makers to "Provide evidence to show they have carefully considered... the overall and long-term impact on the local community of the closure of the village school..." it would be helpful if the conclusions of such consideration were made available to the Clapham community.

The LEA closed Keasden School in October 1946, closed Newby School in 1977, closed Horton School in July 2017 and now plans to close Clapham School in 2020. This cannot be the way to support small rural communities. The LEA is clearly failing to uphold NYCC policy towards those communities, it is indeed working against that policy and appears to have been doing so for some years.

The NYCC Rural Commission states that it plans to "...provide an action plan and workable recommendations by next summer to maximise sustainability...". Assuming that the summer in question is that of 2020 I would beg the LEA to review its closure decision and instead to give Clapham School another year or two, during which the Rural Commission's action plan could be put into effect and given time to demonstrate its efficacy. To fail to do so would be to condemn the plan before it is even announced.

DfE Number	3234	Previous DfE No	0	School:	Clapham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School																				
Pupils as at	Initial 1st prefs		Academy Trust																						
	Live births %	Migration	Workings		District:	Diocesan Area: Church Schools only	SCAP Locality:	Strategic Planning Officer:	County Councillor/s:	PAN 2020/21	Lead Adviser														
Actual:	0.15	0	Mig.	-0.60	Craven	Leeds Diocese (CE)	8151322	Julia Temple	David Ireton	8	Kate Lounds														
					36UB - E07000163	Age Range	3 to 11	North Craven Outer Area	Urban/Rural Name	Rural village in a sparse setting															
Federated with		Not applicable										URN	121557				Local MP	Julian Smith MP							
School Year	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33	33/34	34/35	35/36	36/37	
Live Births & forecast births	450	454	469	464	458	458	458	456	456	454	453	451	448	444	440	436	431	427	424	422	420	419	419	420	
% actual live births from District						0.44	0.00	0.00																	
4+	5	5	2	5	3	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
5+	9	7	3	2	5	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
6+	2	10	6	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
7+	3	3	11	6	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
8+	7	4	4	9	5	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
9+	6	7	6	4	6	6	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
10+	8	6	7	6	3	6	4	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Total	40	42	39	34	27	27	9	5	4	5	3	4	5	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	

Housing	Notes	Number																									
Permissions	5 yr	31	8	Housing yield - Outstanding Permissions									2	3	5	6	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	
				Forecast with outstanding permissions (with rounding)									9	7	7	10	9	12	13	14	15	15	15	15	15	15	
Unapproved applications	7 yr	4	1	Housing yield - Unapproved applications									0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
				Forecast with OP and Un Apps (with rounding)									9	7	7	10	10	12	13	15	16	16	16	16	16	16	
Local Plan	15 yr plan	11	3	Housing yield - Local Plan / current unapproved applications (with rounding)									0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3
Total	rounded	46	12	Total forecast inc. housing yield (with rounding)									9	7	7	10	10	13	14	16	17	17	17	18	18	18	18
Net Capacity			56	PANs	IAN	8	Y2 18/19	8	Y5 15/16	10	Number of North Yorks pupils living within catchment*** (2020/21)												10				
Maximum Workplaces			59		R 20/21	8	Y3 17/18	8	Y6 14/15	10	Number of pupils attending from within catchment (2020/21)												18				
Academy Funding Agreement			#N/A		Y1 19/20	8	Y4 16/17	10	21/22	0	Number of pupils from within catchment attending other North York Schs (2020/21)												-8				
Nursery age pupils currently attending school					N1	0	N2	0	Total	0	Attending above school from other school catchment areas**** (2020/21)												-13				
										*** This may include a shared area												**** This may include out of county					

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

(Form updated April 2019)

Proposal to close Clapham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary 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	Andrew Dixon, County Hall
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the EIA	Julia Temple, Strategic Planning officer
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 10 January 2020

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 close (cease to maintain) Clapham CE VC Primary School. A period of consultation with the community has been carried out, including written consultation and a public meeting and a statutory representation period will follow.

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) Low pupil numbers; 2) Breadth of curriculum, 3) The schools financial position, and 4) Leadership. These issues are laid out in detail in the consultation document and the report to CYPS Executive Members on 17 December 2019.

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

It is proposed that Clapham CE VC Primary School should close with effect from 31 August 2020 and that the catchment areas of both Austwick CE VA Primary School and Bentham Community Primary School would be extended to form a shared catchment area to serve the area currently served by Clapham CE Primary School.

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 10 January to 28 February 2020. 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 30 April 2019.

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

Please explain briefly why this will be the result.

There may be some additional pupil transport costs.

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, there could be a 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.

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	X	Currently there are only 7 pupils on roll. If the decision is taken to close the school this adversely affects the current cohort. Moving to an alternative school will increase the opportunities for pupils to work and play with children their own age.
Disability	X			Pupils – The school is mainstream offering universal provision. Expertise will be utilised from the County Council to provide appropriate SEN support. 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.
Sex	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	If the decision is taken to close the School, this will adversely impact upon those pupils who wish to be educated in a Church of England School. However, the nearest Church of England school, 2 miles from Clapham, is Austwick CE VA Primary School. There is also a Church of England school at Settle CE VC Primary School, 7 miles away.
Pregnancy or maternity	X			No impact is anticipated.
Marriage or civil partnership	X			No impact is anticipated.

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	<p>This proposal would have an adverse impact for those living within its catchment that attend the school as they would have to travel to alternative schools.</p> <p>Across the area there are places available for all the pupils currently at Clapham CE VC Primary School. The nearest Church of England school is Austwick CE VA Primary School which is 2 miles from Clapham by road and also holds good Ofsted judgement. There is also Ingleton Primary School which is 4.7 miles from Clapham, Bentham CP School at 5.5 miles and Giggleswick Primary School at 5.8 miles away, all of which were rated Good in their last Ofsted inspections.</p> <p>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. The County Council's Home to School transport policy sets out that free school transport will be provided to the catchment school or nearest school to a child's home address if it is over the statutory walking distances set out by law.</p>
...have a low income?	x			No impact anticipated

...are carers (unpaid family or friend)?	X			No impact anticipated

Section 8. Geographic impact – Please detail where the impact will be (please tick all that apply)	
North Yorkshire wide	
Craven district	X
Hambleton district	
Harrogate district	
Richmondshire district	
Ryedale district	
Scarborough district	
Selby district	
If you have ticked one or more districts, will specific town(s)/village(s) be particularly impacted? If so, please specify below.	
Clapham	

<p>Section 9. 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.</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>

<p>Section 10. 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)</p>	<p>Tick option chosen</p>
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1. No adverse impact - no major change needed to the proposal. There is no potential for discrimination or adverse impact identified.	
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)	x
4. Actual or potential unlawful discrimination - stop and remove the proposal – The EIA identifies actual or potential unlawful discrimination. It must be stopped.	
<p>Explanation of why option has been chosen. (Include any advice given by Legal Services.)</p> <p>This proposal would have an adverse impact for those living within its catchment that attend the school as they would have to travel to alternative schools, as set out above in Section 7.</p> <p>Clapham CE VC Primary School is designated as a rural school under the Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) Order. The School Organisation regulations and guidance contain a presumption against closure of rural schools, and it is a requirement that proposers must consider the effect of the discontinuance of any rural primary school on the local community. The statutory guidance specifically states that ‘This does not mean that a rural school will never close, but the case for closure should be strong and a proposal must be clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area.’ Careful consideration has been had to alternatives to closure, transport implications and the impact on local people and the wider community of closure of the school. A detailed analysis of these issues is contained in the Statutory Proposals and the report to Executive of 24 March 2020. It is concluded that the case for closure is strong and in the best interests of educational provision in the area.</p>	

<p>Section 11. 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?)</p> <p>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 Clapham area will be undertaken by the CYPS Strategic Planning Team.</p>

<p>Section 12. 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.</p>				
Action	Lead	By when	Progress	Monitoring arrangements
Not applicable				

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Section 13. 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. In order to achieve these aims, despite the adverse impacts identified, the proposal to close the school needs to be considered.

Section 14. Sign off section

This full EIA was completed by:

Name: Julia Temple
Job title: Strategic Planning Officer
Directorate: CYPS
Signature:

Completion date: 04/03/20

Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature): Judith Kirk

Date: 04/03/20

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
Proposal to Cease to Maintain a School
Clapham Church of England Primary 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 8AE, intends to discontinue Clapham Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, The Green, Clapham, Lancaster, LA2 8EJ on 31 August 2020.

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 21 May 2020.

Signed: B. Khan
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic
Services)
Publication Date: 23 April 2020

DRAFT

To be finalised in the event of a decision to proceed with the 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

Proposal, published by North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, to discontinue:

Clapham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, The Green, Lancaster, LA2 8EJ, from 31 August 2020.

Clapham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a 3-11 Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school in North Yorkshire.

Implementation

It is proposed to close the school from 31 August 2020.

Reason for closure

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

Low pupil numbers

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

The number of children at Clapham CE VC Primary School has been falling over the past few years. At the start of the 2019/20 academic year, there were 25 pupils on roll in the school and these fell to 9 pupils by January 2020. Since January a further 2 pupils have now left the school. This is well below the capacity of the school – which is designed to accommodate up to 59 pupils if all spaces are in use. Local Authority forecasts indicate that these numbers will not recover significantly in the longer term and may reduce further still in the following years as the larger year groups move into secondary education.

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

Breadth of Curriculum

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

The Financial Position

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

Examination of the predicted financial position has led to concerns about the schools ability to preserve the quality of education. The school is projecting in year deficits of £46k in 2020/21 and £77.9k in 2021/22, and cumulative deficit of £202.6k by the end of that year. These were based on pupil assumptions at the time of 27 in 2019/20 and 22 in 2020/21, and have assumed pupil numbers of 7 in 2021/22. The position will deteriorate further as pupil numbers fall with no reasonable prospect of recovery.

Leadership

Despite a number of attempts to recruit a substantive Executive Headteacher this has not proved possible. With effect from September 2019, the Executive Headteacher from The Priestley Multi Academy Trust has been appointed to oversee school leadership and is using the skills and experience of colleagues in the Priestley MAT to provide additional support. A full time Head of School from the MAT has also been appointed for this school year. The LA is currently providing temporary financial support to meet the cost of the Executive Headteacher but this is not sustainable. The current interim arrangements cannot continue into the future. It has not been possible to identify another school locally that would be prepared to share a Headteacher.

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 are currently 7 pupils on roll at the school as of February 2020, all of which are pupils of mainstream school age with 0 nursery-aged pupils. 4 out of these 7 pupils are female and 3 of the pupils are male.

	Pupil numbers	PAN
Reception	0	8
Year 1	0	8
Year 2	0	8
Year 3	1	8
Year 4	0	10

Year 5	2	10
Year 6	4	10
Totals	7	

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 59 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.

There are four other North Yorkshire primary schools within reasonable travelling distance with places available currently. Across the area there are places available for all the pupils currently at Clapham CE VC Primary School. The nearest Church of England school is Austwick CE VA Primary School which is 2 miles from Clapham by road. There is also Ingleton Primary School which is 4.7 miles from Clapham, Bentham CP School at 5.5 miles and Giggleswick Primary School at 5.8 miles away, all of which were rated Good in their last Ofsted inspections.

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

For any children currently at Clapham CE VC Primary School, North Yorkshire County Council would work with each family to try to meet their individual preferences for other schools.

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.

- a) No interim arrangements have been necessary.
- 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 an early years unit but currently doesn't have any children registered in the nursery.

The community shop has strong links with the school and has undertaken specific projects including a joint gardening project. They see much of their trade coming from parents, carers and children coming to the store before and after the school day, and also benefit from an account with the school. In a previous consultation, the community shop suggested that closure of the school would potentially reduce their contact with families and potentially put the future of the shop at risk.

Elderly residents in the parish currently visit the school each month for lunch, organised by Age UK. Members of the community have also delivered a series of 'lectures' at the school.

In a previous consultation, the Clapham School Action Group stated that the school ICT suite was opened with the benefit of reducing the number of people in the community who suffer from digital exclusion.

In some communities the school is the only meeting space. However, at Clapham, there is a Village Hall at Cross Haw Lane, which has capacity for 150. It was recently refurbished and has central heating and a fully equipped kitchen. There is also a Reading Room on Church Avenue which hosts afternoon games clubs, the Bethel Chapel at Cross Haw Lane, which currently hosts a weekly village playgroup, and St James' Church on Church Avenue. These could provide venues for the community activities that are currently taking place in the school building. It is not clear how extensively the school ICT facility is currently being used by the public. Public internet and computer access and help and support using IT is available at Ingleton and Bentham libraries (both 5 miles from Clapham).

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

In a previous consultation, the Ingleborough Estate stated that they have a policy of letting cottages at below-market rents on the basis of full-time occupation, and for all appropriate properties, priority is given to families with young children. The estate saw the school as important for encouraging young families into the area. They have not made a formal response to the current consultation.

Both Craven District Council and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority have previously stated that the proposal to close Clapham Primary School runs counter to their aims. Their proposals focus on building more affordable housing, creating jobs, and improving access to key services to promote the area as a place for young people to live. They have not made formal responses to the current consultation.

Whilst it is to be welcomed that the community and planning authorities in this area wish to encourage economic development including further housing there is no evidence that in the foreseeable future that the scale of this housing will lead to significant numbers of additional children on roll at the school to ensure its sustainability.

Whilst the impact on the wider economic and social sustainability of the community is an important consideration, the key consideration is to determine whether the proposal is in the best interests of children's education.

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.

Clapham CE VC Primary School is designated as a rural school under the Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) Order. The School Organisation regulations and guidance contain a presumption against closure of rural schools, and it is a requirement that proposers must consider the effect of the discontinuance of any rural primary school on the local community. The statutory guidance specifically states that 'This does not mean that a rural school will never close, but the case for closure should be strong and a proposal must be clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area.' The guidance states that when producing a proposal, the proposer must carefully consider:

the likely effect of the closure of the school on the local community;

- the proportion of pupils attending the school from within the local community i.e. is the school being used by the local community;
- educational standards at the school and the likely effect on standards at neighbouring schools;
- the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;
- whether the school is now surplus to requirements (e.g. because there are surplus places elsewhere in the local area which can accommodate displaced pupils, and there is no predicted demand for the school in the medium or long term);

- any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the closure of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- any alternatives to the closure of the school.

These are examined in turn below.

The likely effect of closure of the school on the local community

Please see the section above 'Impact on the Community'

The proportion of pupils attending the school from within the local community i.e. is the school being used by the local community

There are currently 7 pupils on roll at the school 5 of which reside within the Clapham School catchment area.

There are 32 primary aged children who reside in the Clapham CE catchment and attend a North Yorkshire maintained school.

Educational standards at the school and the likely effect on standards at neighbouring schools

The Ofsted inspection in June 2019 judged the school to be inadequate in all areas. The school was judged to require Special Measures.

The report found that

- Over time, there has been a significant decline in the standard of education provided for pupils. Leaders have not been effective in reversing or halting this decline
- The arrangements for safeguarding pupils are ineffective. Leaders have not acted to ensure that pupils are safe
- Governors have not held leaders to account effectively for safeguarding, the quality of teaching and pupils' outcomes.

Since the start of the 2019/20 academic year, the new leadership of the school is working hard to address the many weaknesses identified in the inspection report. It is the view of the Local Authority's advisers that significant improvements have been made to safeguarding and improvements are also evident in the quality of teaching.

It is not expected that the closure of Clapham CE Primary School would have a negative impact on neighbouring schools.

The availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools

If the school closed, there would be a 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. The County Council's Home to School transport policy sets out that free school transport will be provided to the catchment school or nearest school to a child's home address if it is over the statutory walking distances set out by law. This is:

- Two miles for children under eight years of age;
- Three miles for children aged over eight; or
- where the route to the catchment or nearest school is not safe to walk accompanied by a responsible adult.

If the nearest catchment or nearest school is full, transport will be provided, in accordance with the authority's transport policy, to the nearest school with places available. In this case, it is estimated that there would be additional home to school transport costs in the range of £14,000 to £22,000 each year, dependant on the pattern of parental preference to alternative schools, and the mix of transport provision that would be required.

Children from low income families (children entitled to free school meals or whose parent are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit) have additional eligibility criteria for additional home to school transport and details are available on the County Council's website at <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/26071/School---travel-support>

Whether the school is now surplus to requirements (e.g. because there are surplus places elsewhere in the local area which can accommodate displaced pupils, and there is no predicted demand for the school in the medium or long term)

The latest forecasts are included in Appendix 4 of the report to the Executive 24 March 2020.

It is proposed that the catchment areas of Austwick CE VA Primary School and Bentham CP School are expanded to include the current catchment area of Clapham CE Primary School. The current pupil numbers and class structures of these schools are shown below.

Austwick	Pupil numbers	PAN
Reception	7	10
Year 1	9	10
Year 2	7	10
Year 3	7	10
Year 4	7	10
Year 5	10	10
Year 6	9	10
Totals	56	60

Bentham	Pupil numbers	PAN
Reception	18	25
Year 1	13	25
Year 2	17	25
Year 3	11	25
Year 4	15	25
Year 5	15	25
Year 6	15	25
Totals	104	180

There are 4 schools within 6 miles of Clapham School by road:

- Austwick CE VA Primary School
- Ingleton Community Primary School
- Bentham Community Primary School
- Giggleswick Community Primary School

Austwick CE VA Primary School

- 2.0 miles by road from Clapham
- Rated Good by Ofsted in May 2019
- Net Capacity 70
- 56 pupils on roll
- Forecast 63 pupils + 1 from housing by 2023/4
- Published Admission Number of 10

Ingleton Community Primary School

- 4.7 miles from Clapham by road
- Rated Good by Ofsted in June 2016
- Net capacity 180
- 166 pupils currently on roll
- Forecast 162 pupils + 17 from housing by 2023/4
- Published Admission Number of 26

Bentham Community Primary School

- 5.5 miles from Clapham by road
- Rated Good by Ofsted in March 2016
- Net capacity 210
- 104 pupils currently on roll
- Forecast 114 pupils + 36 from housing by 2023/4
- Published Admission Number of 25

Giggleswick Community Primary School

- 5.8 miles from Clapham by road
- Rated Good by Ofsted in January 2017
- Net capacity 90
- 65 pupils currently on roll

- Forecast 74 pupils + 4 from housing by 2023/4
- Published Admission Number of 13

It remains the view of the Local Authority that there are surplus places in the local area which can accommodate displaced pupils.

Any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the closure of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase

It is not considered that there would be significant additional car use if the school were closed given the relatively small number of pupils. Some parents may choose to use their own transport but children in the catchment area are already travelling privately to alternative schools. 17 primary-aged children in the Clapham CE catchment area already travel to other primary schools, and 2 children attend Clapham CE who live outside the catchment area.

Any alternatives to the closure of the school

The Governing Body and officers from the County Council and Diocese have explored alternatives to the closure of the school. There have not been any offers from multi-academy trusts willing to take on the school, and it is considered that there is no potential for the school to convert to academy status or to join a multi-academy trust because it would not meet tests of due diligence due to its small size. The fundamental issues of low numbers and insecure leadership remain.

Attempts have been made during autumn 2018 to broker a federation between Clapham School and other primary schools in neighbouring counties. Discussions progressed with several schools but were unsuccessful. To date, no other school has come forward that would be prepared to share a Headteacher or to federate with Clapham CE. Federation is a decision for individual school governing bodies and cannot be imposed by the County Council. Whilst collaboration between schools can enrich children's educational experiences to some extent and lead to sharing of resources or services it cannot guarantee the security of a school, which has reached a critical level in terms of pupil numbers and associated budget deficits, without other forms of support or intervention.

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.

Clapham is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School. The LA is under an obligation to consider the impact on the proportion of church places before it determines the outcome of school closure proposals.

The nearest Church of England school, 2 miles from Clapham, is Austwick CE VA Primary School. There is also a Church of England school at Settle CE VC Primary School, 7 miles away.

The Diocese is supporting the LA with the consultation and given the availability of

places at other local Church of England schools has expressed no specific concerns about the impact on proportionality of places in this area.

Maintained nursery schools

Not applicable

Sixth form provision

Not applicable

Special educational needs provision

The existing provision at Clapham CE VC Primary 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 a nearer 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 Clapham CE VC Primary School catchment area would depend on which other school they attended and their home address. The nearest schools are Austwick CE VA Primary School (2 miles from Clapham CE School, approx. travel time 6 minutes), Ingleton Primary School (4.7 miles from Clapham School, approx. travel time 12 minutes), Bentham CP School (5.5 miles, approx. travel time 14 minutes), and Giggleswick Primary School (5.8 miles away, approx. travel time 10 minutes). The travel times to all these schools from homes in the Clapham CE School catchment

area are well below the maximum travel time of 45 minutes for primary-aged pupils. Pupils would be eligible for travel arrangements from NYCC in line with the transport policy.

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 21 May 2020.

Consultation

The decision to consult on closure was taken by the Executive Member for Schools on 17 December 2019 following a request from governors. 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 and a list of the consultees is included in Appendix 1. The consultation period ran from 10 January to 28 February 2020. A public meeting was held at the village hall on 4 February 2020, a note of that meeting is attached as Appendix 2. There have been 27 consultation responses received (Appendix 3).

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Consultation Paper and list of consultees
- Appendix 2 - Notes of the Public Meeting
- Appendix 3 - Consultation Responses