



## Agenda

**Meeting:** Executive

**Members:** Councillors Carl Les (Chairman), Derek Bastiman, David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Keane Duncan, Michael Harrison, Simon Myers, Janet Sanderson, Greg White and Annabel Wilkinson.

**Date:** Tuesday 7th May 2024

**Time:** 11.00 am

**Venue:** The Grand Meeting Room, County Hall, Northallerton DL7 8AD

Members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting as observers for all those items taken in open session. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer whose contact details are below if you would like to find out more.

This meeting is being held as an in-person meeting that is being broadcasted and recorded and will be available to view via [www.northyorks.gov.uk/livemeetings](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/livemeetings). The meeting is also 'hybrid', which enables people to attend the meeting remotely using MS Teams. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer whose contact details are below if you would like to find out more.

Recording is allowed at Council, committee and sub-committee meetings which are open to the public, please give due regard to the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at public meetings, a copy of which is available to download below. Anyone wishing to record is asked to contact, prior to the start of the meeting, the Democratic Services Officer whose details are at the foot of the first page of the Agenda. We ask that any recording is clearly visible to anyone at the meeting and that it is non-disruptive.

### Business

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 April 2024** (Pages 5 - 10)

3. **Declarations of Interest**

4. **Exclusion of the Public**

Members are recommended to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of each of the items of business listed in Column 1 of the following table on the grounds that they each involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph(s) specified in column 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to information)(Variation) Order 2006:-

Item number on the agenda	Paragraph Number
9	3 and 5

**5. Public Participation**

Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have given notice to Elizabeth Jackson, Principal Democratic Services Officer, [elizabeth.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk) and supplied the text by midday on Wednesday 1 May 2024, three working days before the day of the meeting. Each speaker should limit themselves to 3 minutes on any item. Members of the public who have given notice will be invited to speak:

- at this point in the meeting if their questions/statements relate to matters which are not otherwise on the Agenda (subject to an overall time limit of 30 minutes);
- when the relevant Agenda item is being considered if they wish to speak on a matter which is on the Agenda for this meeting.

If you are exercising your right to speak at this meeting, but do not wish to be recorded, please inform the Leader who will instruct anyone who may be taking a recording to cease while you speak.

**6. Review of Maximum Hackney Carriage Fares (Pages 11 - 28)**

**Recommendation**

To approve the publication of the proposed variation to the Council’s Hackney Carriage Table of Fares as set out in Appendix D (with or without modifications), subject to further consideration in the event of any objections being received.

**7. Proposal to close St Hilda’s Ampleforth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School (Pages 29 - 116)**

**Recommendations**

- Statutory proposals and notices be published on 22 May 2024 proposing to cease to maintain St Hilda’s Church of England VC Primary School with effect from 31 August 2024.
- The proposals include that, in the event of closure, the catchment area currently served by St Hilda’s Church of England VC School will be split between Terrington CE VA Primary School, Helmsley Community Primary School and Husthwaite CE. The parishes of Gilling East, Grimstone, Cawton and Coulton would become part of the catchment area for Terrington Church of England. The parishes of Oswaldkirk and Stonegrave would become part of the catchment area for Helmsley Community Primary School. The parishes of Byland with Wass and Ampleforth would become part of the catchment area for Husthwaite Church of England
- The Executive schedule taking a final decision on these proposals on 16 July 2024.

**8. Adoption of the “Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale National Landscape (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) Supplementary Planning Document (Pages 117 - 164)**

**Recommendations**

- That the Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty SPD is adopted, to be used as a material consideration in planning decisions within the

Nidderdale AONB area.

- ii) That the Head of Planning Policy and Place be authorised to make minor amendments and graphical improvements ahead of adoption.

**9. Creation of new audit company – Veritau Assurance Limited (Pages 165 - 192)**

**Recommendations**

- i) approve the Business Case at Appendix A
- ii) approve the implementation of a new jointly owned company, in accordance with the details set out in the Business Case at Appendix A;
- iii) approve the setting up of a company limited by guarantee;
- iv) delegate to the Chief Executive (as Shareholder Representative) the approval of any dividend payment by Veritau Limited and authorise the Chief Executive (as Shareholder Representative) to sign any relevant shareholder resolutions in relation to a dividend;
- v) approve the investment of a “subscription fee” in NewCo;
- vi) delegate the approval of the articles, the company name, the members agreement and any other governance documents associated with new company to Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Democratic Services;
- vii) delegate the Council entering into all other agreements and documents necessary for the establishment of the new company to the Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Democratic Services;
- viii) delegate to the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services to progress and conclude the working arrangements of NewCo including the method of the provision of support services, staffing and secondment arrangements between NewCo and Veritau Limited;
- ix) delegate all other necessary steps to secure the implementation of the proposed Option to the Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Democratic Services;
- x) delegate to the Chief Executive (as Shareholder Representative) the appointment of the directors of NewCo on behalf of the Council; and
- xi) agree that the appointed officers to the board of directors of the company on behalf of the Council will be entitled to indemnity in accordance with the Council’s Indemnity Policy for Members and Employees.

**10. Area Constituency Committee Feedback Report (Pages 193 - 202)**

**Recommendation**

The Executive is asked to note the report and consider any matters arising from the work of the Area Constituency Committees detailed above, that merit further scrutiny, review or investigation at a county level.

**11. Forward Plan (Pages 203 - 222)**

**12. Any Other Items**

Any other items which the Leader agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances

**13. Date of Next Meeting - 21 May 2024**

**Members are reminded that in order to expedite business at the meeting and enable Officers to adapt their presentations to address areas causing difficulty, they are encouraged to contact Officers prior to the meeting with questions on technical issues in reports.**

**Contact Details:**

Enquiries relating to this agenda please contact *Elizabeth Jackson, Principal Democratic Service Officer*

Tel: 01423 556409 or e-mail: [elizabeth.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk)

Website: [www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)

Barry Khan  
Assistant Chief Executive  
(Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall  
Northallerton

Friday, 26 April 2024

## North Yorkshire Council

### Executive

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th April 2024 commencing at 11.00 am.

Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. Councillors Derek Bastiman, David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Michael Harrison, Simon Myers, Janet Sanderson, Greg White and Annabel Wilkinson.

In attendance: Councillors Chris Aldred, Hannah Gostlow, Liz Colling and George Jabbour.

Officers present: Karl Battersby, Stuart Carlton, Gary Fielding, Richard Flinton, Nic Harne, Barry Khan, Richard Webb, Elizabeth Jackson, Harriet Clarke, Andrew Rowe (remote) and Joanne Marriot (remote).

Apologies: Councillor Keane Duncan.

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**Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book**

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#### **428 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Keane Duncan.

#### **429 Minutes of the Meetings held on 12 March 2024 and 19 March 2024**

##### **Resolved –**

That the public Minutes of the meetings held on 12 March 2024 and 19 March 2024, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **430 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **431 Public Participation**

There were no public questions or statements.

#### **432 Amendments to the Council's Constitution**

Considered – A report of the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services presenting amendments to the Constitution made under delegated powers and presenting proposed amendments to the Constitution for recommendation to full Council. The views of Members were also sought in relation to a proposed full review of the Constitution following 12 months' operation of the unitary authority.

Councillor David Chance, Executive Member for Corporate Services, introduced the report and provided an overview of the proposed changes to the Constitution, as detailed in the report and its appendices. Councillor David Chance referred to the adoption of the Constitution

by Council when it had agreed that a review of the Constitution should take place after 12 months' operation of the unitary authority. The Constitution had been reviewed by the Member Working Group on the Constitution throughout the year and the Executive Member suggested the Executive may wish to recommend a continuation of this ongoing procedure.

Barry Khan, the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services, drew specific attention to the proposed changes to the Council Procedure Rules as set out at Section 6 and Appendix 4 of the report. In particular Members were requested to consider whether the changes to Council Procedure Rule 9 – Public Questions should apply to all Committee meetings or just meetings of the Council. He also highlighted the proposals that the Transition (Local Government Reorganisation) Overview and Scrutiny Committee be replaced by a Housing and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee with effect from the Annual Meeting on 15 May 2024.

Executive Members welcomed the proposed Housing and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Chance advised that it was proposed that the Scrutiny Board be consulted on the redistribution of the work of the Transition Overview and Scrutiny Committee between the various scrutiny committees. Members also supported the process of continually reviewing the Constitution and the recommendations were updated to reflect this. Consideration of Council Procedure Rule 9 was held over for the Council to consider.

Having considered the proposals, the Executive voted in favour of the recommendations, and it was

**Resolved (unanimously)** – that the following be noted and recommended to Council for approval:

- (a) the proposed amendments to the Constitution set out in Part A of Appendix 1;
- (b) the amendments to the Constitution set out in Part B of Appendix 1 to this report, made by the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services under his delegated powers, be reported back to full Council for information;
- (c) the consequential amendments to the Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules as set out in Appendices 2a and 2b to this report made by the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services under his general delegations in Article 15.02(c) of the Constitution and specific delegated power from full Council on 15 November 2023, be noted for reporting back to full Council for information;
- (d) the Development Plan Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Powers consequentially included in the Constitution and attached at Appendix 3 to this report be noted for reporting back to full Council for information;
- (e) there be 5 full Council meetings per year, the fourth meeting to consider the Council Budget and Council Plan only and the reserve date to be used for the rest of Council business:
  - i. for 2025, the scheduled meeting on 19 February 2025 be the additional Council meeting dedicated to the consideration of the Budget and the Council Plan and all other business normally scheduled for 19 February 2025 be moved to the reserve date of 21 February 2025;
  - ii. for 2026, the meetings be spaced so that the dedicated Budget and Council Plan meeting is held in February and the other meeting held in March or April;

- iii. for 2026, a reserve date should be kept for the Budget and Council Plan meeting; instead of this being on the Friday in the week of the meeting, it is recommended that the reserve date be on the following Wednesday (a week after the Budget and Council Plan Council meeting);
- (f) Members consider and determine whether the proposed amendments to Council Procedure Rules 9.2 and 9.4 set out in Appendix 4 should apply to all committee meetings or just full Council meetings and the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make any further consequential amendments as required to the Council Procedure Rules in this respect;
- (g) the proposed amendments to the Council Procedure Rules set out in section 6 of this report and Appendix 4 be recommended to full Council for approval and the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make any further consequential amendments which may be required to the Constitution;
- (h) the Transition (LGR) Overview and Scrutiny Committee should formally cease as of the 15 May 2024 Council meeting and that any outstanding work should be re-allocated, in liaison with Scrutiny Board, to the other overview and scrutiny committees (with the exception of matters relating to leisure); that the proposed amendments to the overview and scrutiny committee terms of reference in Article 6 of the Constitution as set out by way of tracked changes in Appendix 5b be recommended to full Council for approval; and that the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make any further consequential amendments which may be required to the Constitution;
- (i) a new Housing and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 16 Members and politically balanced (as per the other overview and scrutiny committees) be created at the 15 May 2024 Council meeting, appointments to which to be made at that meeting of full Council and the first meeting of the new overview and scrutiny committee to follow in June 2024; that the proposed amendments to the overview and scrutiny committee membership lists in Part 3, Schedule 3 of the Constitution as set out by way of tracked changes in Appendix 5c be recommended to full Council for approval; and that the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make any further consequential amendments which may be required to the Constitution;
- (j) the proposed revised Terms of Reference for the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel on Member Allowances that have been proposed by the Panel Members as set out at Appendix 7; and
- (k) instead of a detailed review of the Constitution post 12 months' operation of the new authority, the current process of ongoing review by the Members' Working Group on the Constitution be continued.

**433 Domestic Abuse Policy for Housing Service - Approval of the Proposed New Policy following Consultation**

Considered – A report of the Corporate Director Community Development presenting the Domestic Abuse Policy for the Housing Service for approval. As a stock holding housing authority the council was required to have a domestic abuse policy to comply with the Regulator of Social Housing's updated Neighbourhood and Community Standard.

Councillor Simon Myers, Executive Member for Culture, Arts and Housing, introduced the report and advised that the policy would support council officers in responding effectively to domestic abuse and supporting victims. The policy had been developed following consultation with partner organisations and key staff within the council.

In response to a question Councillor Myers confirmed that the policy was robust and proactive and in line with other registered social landlords. Nic Harne, Corporate Director Community Services, confirmed that the policy formed the foundation of the Council's work towards gaining Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation, which provided the gold standard benchmark for a housing provider response to domestic abuse. Councillor Janet Sanderson welcomed the policy as the Safeguarding Partnership regularly considered the implications for children who were victims of domestic abuse, and she confirmed that the Partnership was happy to support the policy.

**Resolved (unanimously) – that:**

- i) the contents of the report, the proposed Domestic Abuse Policy for the Housing Service, consultation responses and the Equality Impact Assessment be noted; and
- ii) the Domestic Abuse Policy for the Housing Service be approved.

**434 Scrutiny Task and Finish Group - Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Provision in the Scarborough and Whitby Area**

Considered – A report of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group concerning SEND provision in Scarborough and Whitby.

Councillor Janet Sanderson, Executive Member for Children and Families, introduced the report and advised that the Task and Finish Group had been proposed by Councillor John Ritchie at Council on 17 May 2023 and the terms of reference subsequently approved by the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 23 June 2023. At the Council meeting held on 17 May 2024 a new SEND Strategy had been adopted and the Task and Finish Group had confirmed that the new strategy had correctly identified those needs. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the findings of the Task and Finish Group and had acknowledged that there was a strategy in place. The Executive Member confirmed that the Council was working to mitigate the issues highlighted and would continue to develop targeted mainstream provision to keep children in their own local areas, whilst being mindful of capacity and budgets.

Councillor Liz Colling, Chair of the Task and Finish Group, acknowledged the commitment of councillors and officers in undertaking the review. Whilst the review had focused on Scarborough and Whitby the group considered that the recommendations applied across North Yorkshire. She was pleased that the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee had endorsed the report and had committed to review progress on implementation of the suggestions at the end of 2024.

Councillor Sanderson thanked the Task and Finish Group for this piece of work and also those parents, carers and families who contributed. Councillor Sanderson moved that Executive endorse the suggestions set out in Section 7 of the report.

**Resolved – that:**

The suggestions set out in Section 7 of the report be endorsed.

**435 Forward Plan**

Considered –

The Forward Plan for the period 8 April 2024 to 30 April 2025 was presented.

**Resolved** - That the Forward Plan be noted.

**436 Date of Next Meeting - 7 May 2024**

The meeting concluded at 11.26 am.

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## North Yorkshire Council

### Executive

07 May 2024

### Review of Maximum Hackney Carriage Fares

#### Report of the Assistant Director – Assistant Director for Integrated Passenger Transport, Licensing, Public Rights of Way and Harbours

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider a proposal to vary the Council's Hackney Carriage Table of Fares.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In accordance with section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Council may fix the maximum rates of fares to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages within North Yorkshire by means of a table (hereafter referred to as a "table of fares"). The table of fares may comprise charges for time, distance and all other charges in connection with the hire of a hackney carriage vehicle.
- 2.2 A hackney carriage vehicle can be hailed by passengers on the roadside, it can stand on a rank to await the approach of passengers and it can be pre-booked by telephone. In contrast, private hire vehicles are licensed to perform pre-booked work only, which must be obtained through a licensed private hire operator. The Council's table of fares applies only to hackney carriage vehicles. The Council has no power to set maximum fares in respect of private hire vehicles.
- 2.3 The current table of fares came into effect in April 2023 following consultation and consideration by the Executive. The current table of fares is attached at Appendix A. It should be noted that drivers may agree to charge a lower amount than the maximum fares at their own discretion.
- 2.4 Any proposed variation to the table of fares must be advertised at the Council offices and by way of a notice in a local newspaper stating a period (not less than 14 days from the date of publication) within which interested parties may lodge objections. Where there are no outstanding objections, the proposed table of fares shall come into effect upon the expiration of the period specified in the notice. If objections are received, the Council shall set a further date (not later than two months from the first specified date), at which time the table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications as determined by the Council after consideration of the objections.
- 2.5 Members are therefore asked to approve the publication of statutory notices proposing a variation to the table of fares as outlined in this report, subject to further consideration in the event of any objections being lodged.

#### 3.0 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN AND RESPONSES

- 3.1 On receipt of two requests from the hackney carriage trade to review the table of fares, the existing table of fares was compared against the maximum daytime, night-time and public holiday rates set by neighbouring authorities. The comparison charts are attached at Appendix B.

3.2 The comparison charts were sent to all drivers, proprietors and operators in the week commencing 26 February 2024 along with an invitation to provide comments on any potential fare increase.

3.3 A total of 17 responses were received from the trade, summarised as follows:

Daytime rates (tariff 1)

- There was a general consensus that the flag fall rate (£4 for the first 440 yards) should not be increased.
- Some respondents indicated that the current running mile (20p for each 167.2 yards) and waiting time rates (20p for every 37.36 seconds) should not be increased while others requested an increase of around 5%.

Night-time rates (tariff 2)

- There was a general consensus that the flag fall rate (£6 for the first 440 yards) should not be increased although some indicated that this was already too high.
- Some respondents indicated that the current running mile (30p for each 167.2 yards) and waiting time rates (30p for every 37.36 seconds) were also too high while others requested an increase of around 5%.
- Some respondents indicated that tariff 2 should apply from 10pm (11pm currently) and one indicated that it should apply until 7am (6am currently).

Christmas and New Year rates (tariff 3)

- Aside from requests to either reduce, freeze or increase fares across all tariffs, there were no specific responses relating to Christmas and New Year rates.

Other charges

- Some respondents indicated that the call-out charge of £1 per mile should be increased while one indicated that it is difficult for drivers to explain the call-out charges because fares for outward journeys may differ from inbound journeys.
- Some respondents indicated that the £1.50 charge per person when travelling in larger groups was too high while others indicated that larger vehicles should have their own tariff to apply irrespective of the number of passengers being carried.

3.4 The full responses are attached at Appendix C.

3.5 The Licensing Team has also consulted colleagues in the Council's Integrated Passenger Transport service (IPT) following concerns that the value of some home-to-school and social care contracts involving hackney carriage vehicles may exceed the Council's table of fares.

3.6 The purpose of fixing a maximum rate of fares is to protect the public from unfair or unreasonable charges. In the case of home-to-school and social care contracts, financial safeguards are already in place through IPT's tendering process and therefore any risks associated with these charges are adequately managed by other means. However, it remains an offence for a driver to charge in excess of the maximum rates and therefore further measures have been considered to ensure that the Council's table of fares does not have an adverse impact on IPT's ability to secure transport for children and vulnerable adults in North Yorkshire.

3.7 Officers have reviewed the current table of fares having taken into account the comparisons with neighbouring authorities, the outcome of the preliminary consultation, the general impact of inflation and cost of living and any wider concerns raised in relation to fares for home-to-school and social care contracts involving hackney carriage vehicles.

- 3.8 A proposed table of fares is attached at Appendix D along with the rationale to illustrate the purpose of each variation. The proposal makes provision for the following:
- A 5% increase on the running mile and waiting times in Tariff 1 (daytime rates)
  - Applying tariff 2 rates from 10pm to 7am (currently 11pm to 6am)
  - An increase from £1 per mile to £1.50 per mile on the maximum call-out charge
  - An increase from £1.50 per head to £2 per head for the carriage of 5 or more passengers subject to an additional requirement that the surcharge may only be applied where it has been agreed with passengers at the time of hiring.
  - The introduction of a new maximum surcharge of £50 (plus £50 per passenger assistant) for each hiring under the terms of a contract with North Yorkshire Council.

#### **4.0 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

- 4.1 The Council is committed to protecting communities, safeguarding children and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the public.
- 4.2 A regular review of the table of fares supports economic growth and incentivises work in the hackney carriage industry, which delivers significant public protection benefits.

#### **5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 The Council is not legally obligated to set the maximum rates of charges. However, the vast majority of licensing authorities do set maximum fares to provide certainty, consistency and, particularly in relation to occasional passengers, protection from unfair or unreasonable charges.
- 5.2 The Council may consider retaining the existing table of fares. However, this may impact on the ability of the hackney carriage trade to deliver a vital service and any ambiguities over charges under school and social care contract arrangements would persist.

#### **6.0 IMPACT ON OTHER SERVICES/ORGANISATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council's Integrated Passenger Transport Service (IPT) is responsible for arranging and managing school and social care transport for children and vulnerable adults across North Yorkshire. It is in the public interest to ensure that the table of fares does not adversely affect the Council's ability to secure transport via hackney carriage services.

#### **7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Costs relating to the statutory public notice, consultation and any subsequent meetings are recovered from licence fees charged by the council and paid by the hackney carriage trade.
- 7.2 Any increase in fares would have a financial impact on taxi-users throughout North Yorkshire, although drivers may agree to charge a lower amount than the maximum fares at their own discretion.
- 7.3 Any hackney carriage proprietors wishing to charge fares at the increased rates would incur a small, one-off cost for the meter calibration.

#### **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The legislative framework for setting maximum hackney carriage fares has been explored at paragraph 2 of this report.

8.2 Section 9D of the Local Government Act 2000 provides that any function of a local authority which is not specified in the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 is to be the responsibility of an executive of the authority under executive arrangements. The power to fix maximum hackney carriage fares under section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 is not specified in the regulations and is therefore the responsibility of North Yorkshire Council's Executive in this instance.

## **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Disability is a protected characteristic within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010. Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not, the Council must endeavour to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and take steps to meet their needs.

9.2 A balance must be sought to allow hackney carriage drivers to make a reasonable living from their trade whilst also removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who have relevant protected characteristics.

9.3 The maximum table of fares applies equally to all licensed hackney carriage vehicles. Drivers of hackney carriage vehicles are not permitted to make any additional charges for carrying mobility aids or for providing reasonable assistance to disabled passengers.

## **10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 Regular reviews of the hackney carriage table of fares ensure that drivers and proprietors are able to plan for future investment in new vehicles, which should mitigate the environmental impact of licensed vehicles in North Yorkshire.

## **11.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 In its Best Practice Guidance published in November 2023, the Department for Transport recommends that "in reviewing fare rates, authorities should pay particular regard to the needs of the travelling public, with reference both to what it is reasonable to expect people to pay but also to the need to give taxi drivers the ability to earn a sufficient income and so incentivise them to provide a service when it is needed. There is likely to be a case for higher fare tariffs at times of higher demand to encourage more drivers to make themselves available or when the journeys are required at anti-social times".

## **12.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 Hackney carriage drivers play a particularly important role in the night-time economy by transporting members of the public home safely late at night. On that basis, it is in the interests of the public to ensure that drivers are fairly rewarded for working during anti-social hours and encouraged to continue providing a vital public service.

## **13.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

13.1 The Council is expected to set and regularly review the maximum fares to be charged by hackney carriage drivers with a view to protecting the public and ensuring that licensees are fairly rewarded for their work.

## **14.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 14.1 To approve the publication of the proposed variation to the Council's Hackney Carriage Table of Fares as set out in Appendix D (with or without modifications), subject to further consideration in the event of any objections being received.

### **APPENDICES:**

- Appendix A – Current table of fares
- Appendix B – Fare comparison charts
- Appendix C – Responses to preliminary consultation
- Appendix D – Proposed table of fares

### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
- Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Best Practice (Department for Transport)

Paul Thompson  
Assistant Director for IPT, Licensing, Public Rights of Way & Harbours.  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
17 April 2024

Report Author: Simon Fisher, Licensing Service Development Lead; and  
Gareth Bentley, Head of Licensing

Presenter of Report: Simon Fisher, Licensing Service Development Lead; and  
Gareth Bentley, Head of Licensing



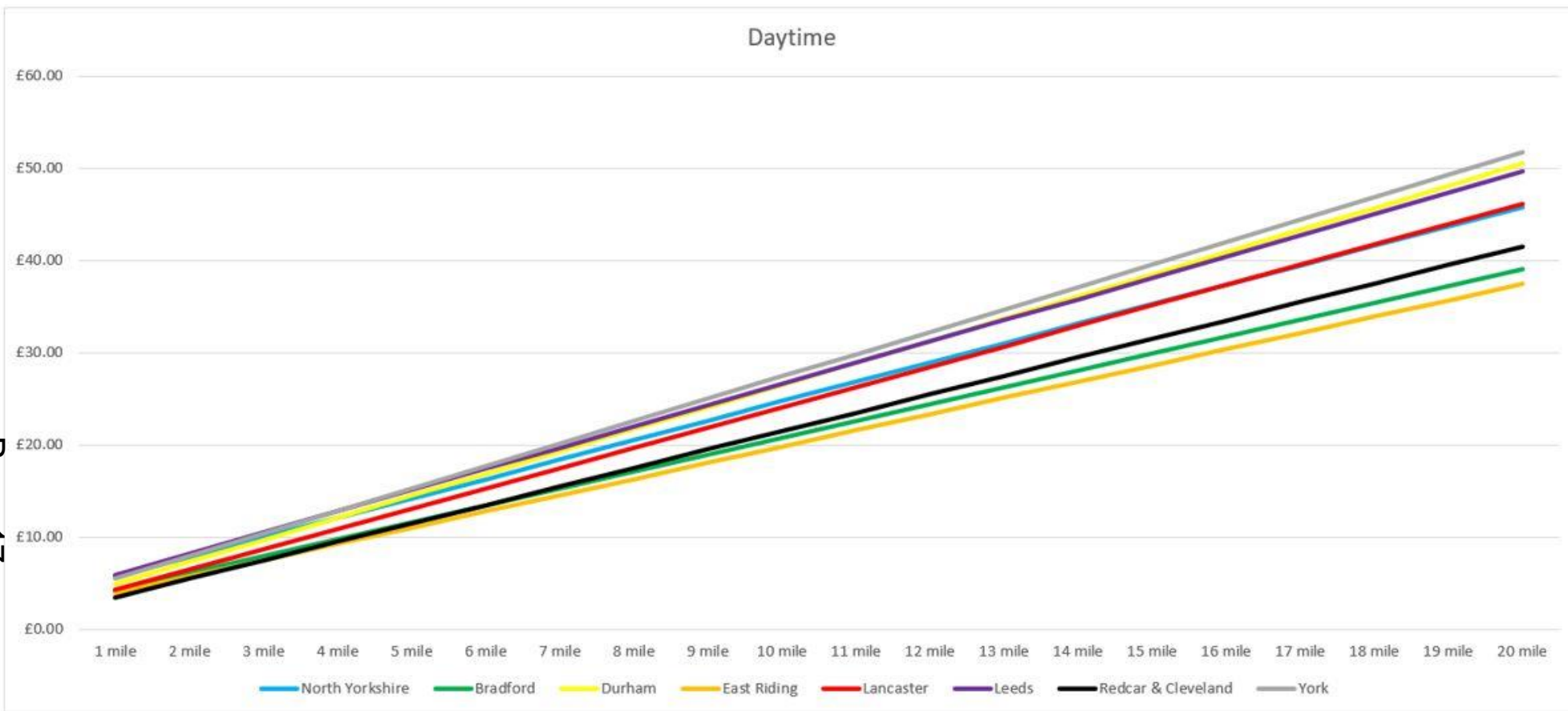
## SECTION 65 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976

<b>Tariff 1 (Between 6am and 11pm)</b>		
Flag fall for the first 440 yards or part thereof		£4.00
Drop at 440 yards and every 167.62 yards or part thereof:		£0.20
Waiting time for each period of 37.36 seconds or part thereof:		£0.20
<b>Tariff 2 (Between 11pm and 6am &amp; Public holidays*)</b>		
Flag fall for the first 440 yards or part thereof		£6.00
Drop at 440 yards and every 167.62 yards or part thereof:		£0.30
Waiting time for each period of 37.36 seconds or part thereof:		£0.30
*All public holidays other than those listed in tariff 3, tariff 2 applies throughout the 24-hour period.		
<b>Tariff 3 (Christmas and New Year**)</b>		
Flag fall for the first 440 yards or part thereof:		£8.00
Drop at 440 yards and every 167.62 or part thereof:		£0.40
Waiting time for each period of 37.36 seconds or part thereof:		£0.40
**From 18:00 hrs 24 December to 06:00 hrs 27 December and 18:00 hrs 31st December to 06:00 hrs 2nd January.		

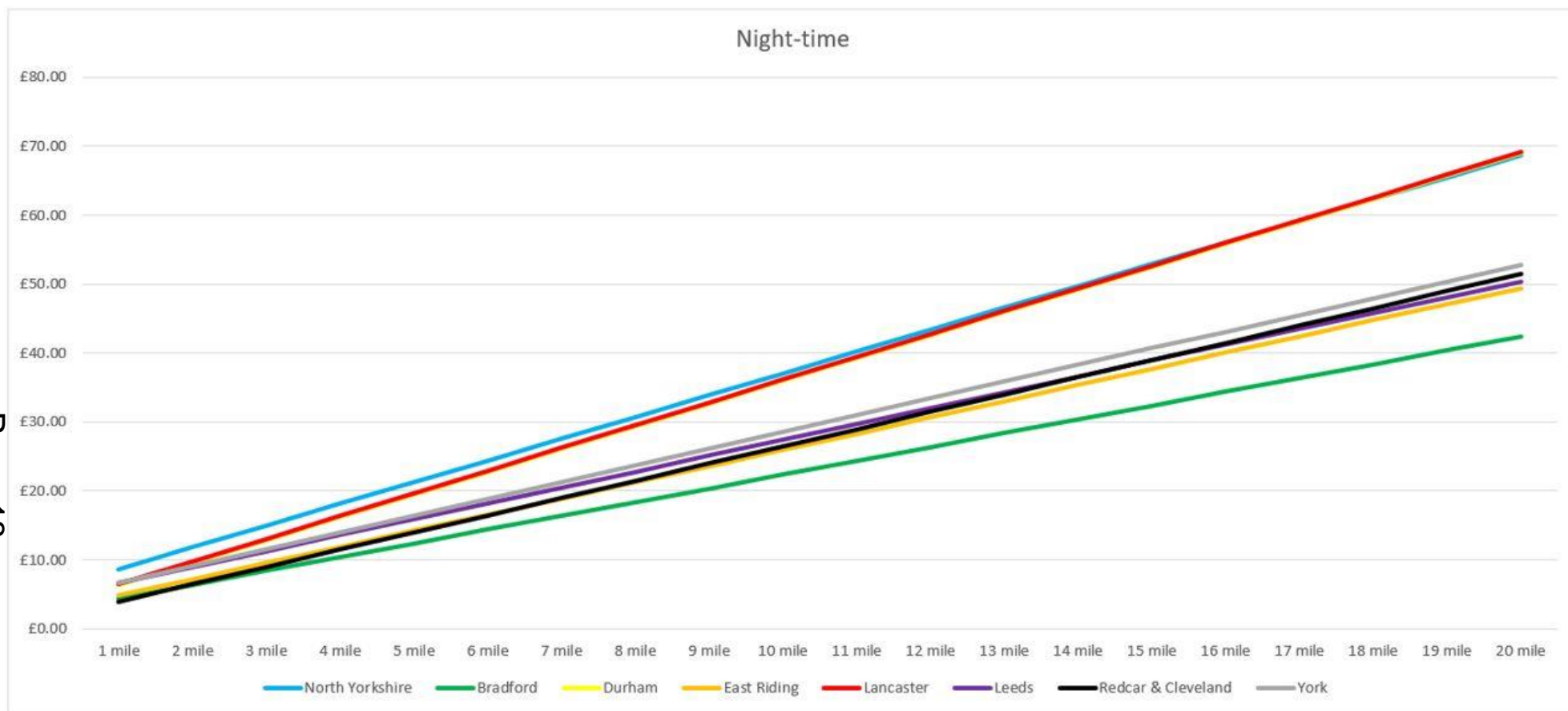
<b>Fouling charge</b>	Maximum charge:	£100.00
<b>Extra charges</b>	Extra charge per head which can be charged for ALL PASSENGERS when carrying 5 or more:	£1.50
<b>Call out or summoning charge</b>	Maximum additional rate of charge per mile for call outs over 1 mile: To be used for any part of the district (one way only). This is a maximum rate of charge, the whole or part of which is to be agreed with the hirer as an extra at the time of booking before the hire is accepted or journey commenced and is to be included on the taxi meter as an extra.	£1.00

STATEMENT OF THE MAXIMUM FARES TO BE DISPLAYED WITHIN THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE in clearly distinguishable letters and figures. The above fares are applicable for all journeys within the Council boundary, if the hiring takes the journey **outside** the North Yorkshire Council boundary, the driver must charge in line with this table of fares unless the fare has been agreed with the hirer **before** the journey starts for a **greater or lesser** amount than that shown on the meter.

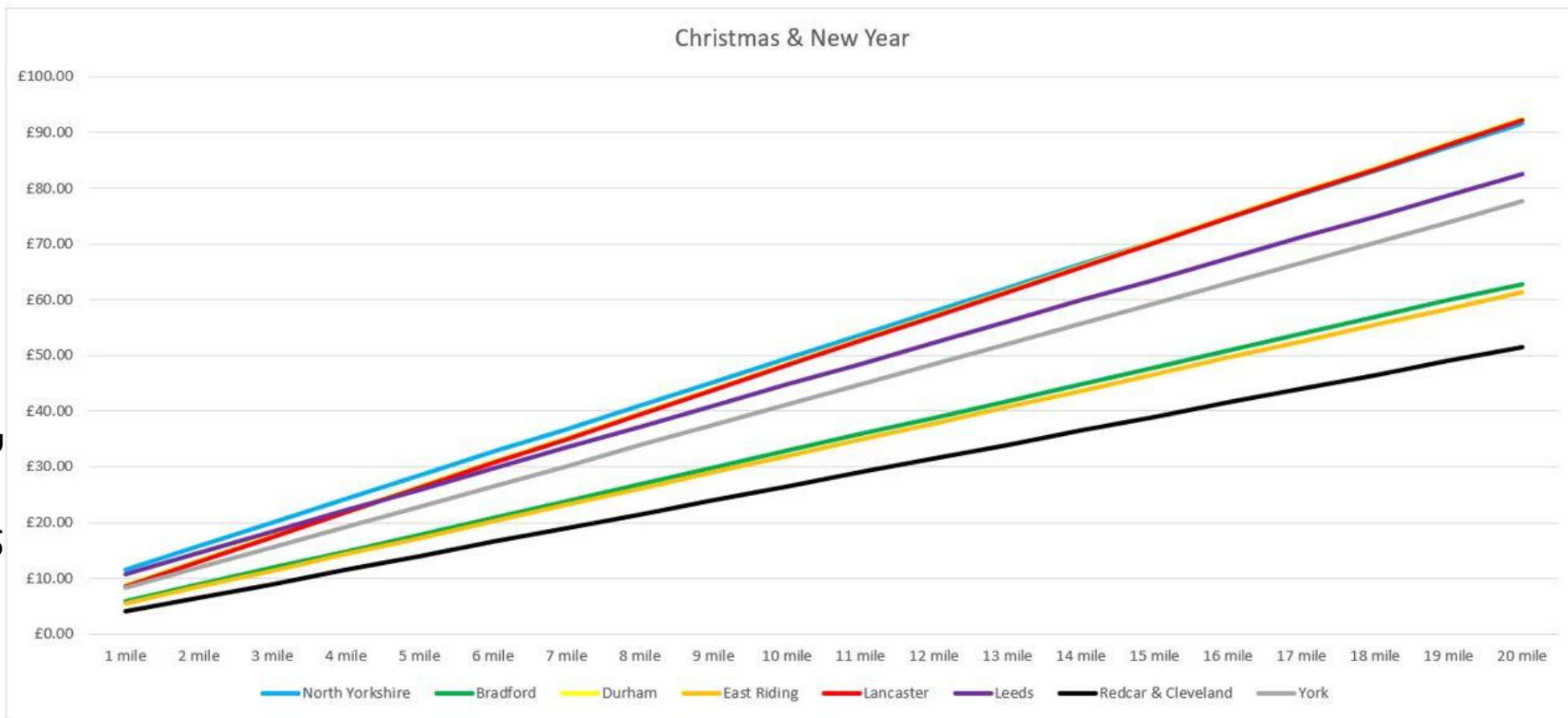
Daytime



	1 mile	2 mile	3 mile	4 mile	5 mile	6 mile	7 mile	8 mile	9 mile	10 mile	11 mile	12 mile	13 mile	14 mile	15 mile	16 mile	17 mile	18 mile	19 mile	20 mile
<b>North Yorkshire</b>	£5.78	£7.88	£9.99	£12.09	£14.20	£16.31	£18.41	£20.52	£22.62	£24.73	£26.83	£28.94	£31.04	£33.15	£35.25	£37.36	£39.46	£41.57	£43.67	£45.78
<b>Bradford</b>	£4.23	£6.07	£7.90	£9.73	£11.57	£13.40	£15.23	£17.07	£18.90	£20.73	£22.57	£24.40	£26.23	£28.07	£29.90	£31.73	£33.57	£35.40	£37.23	£39.07
<b>Durham</b>	£4.90	£7.30	£9.70	£12.10	£14.50	£16.90	£19.30	£21.70	£24.10	£26.50	£28.90	£31.30	£33.70	£36.10	£38.50	£40.90	£43.30	£45.70	£48.10	£50.50
<b>East Riding</b>	£3.98	£5.74	£7.50	£9.26	£11.02	£12.78	£14.54	£16.30	£18.06	£19.82	£21.58	£23.34	£25.10	£26.86	£28.62	£30.38	£32.14	£33.90	£35.66	£37.42
<b>Lancaster</b>	£4.30	£6.50	£8.70	£10.90	£13.10	£15.30	£17.50	£19.70	£21.90	£24.10	£26.30	£28.50	£30.70	£32.90	£35.10	£37.30	£39.50	£41.70	£43.90	£46.10
<b>Leeds</b>	£5.91	£8.21	£10.52	£12.82	£15.12	£17.42	£19.72	£22.02	£24.32	£26.62	£28.92	£31.22	£33.52	£35.82	£38.12	£40.42	£42.72	£45.03	£47.33	£49.63
<b>Redcar &amp; Cleveland</b>	£3.50	£5.50	£7.50	£9.50	£11.50	£13.50	£15.50	£17.50	£19.50	£21.50	£23.50	£25.50	£27.50	£29.50	£31.50	£33.50	£35.50	£37.50	£39.50	£41.50
<b>York</b>	£5.53	£7.96	£10.39	£12.83	£15.26	£17.69	£20.12	£22.55	£24.98	£27.41	£29.84	£32.27	£34.70	£37.14	£39.57	£42.00	£44.43	£46.86	£49.29	£51.72



	1 mile	2 mile	3 mile	4 mile	5 mile	6 mile	7 mile	8 mile	9 mile	10 mile	11 mile	12 mile	13 mile	14 mile	15 mile	16 mile	17 mile	18 mile	19 mile	20 mile
<b>North Yorkshire</b>	£8.67	£11.83	£14.98	£18.14	£21.30	£24.46	£27.62	£30.77	£33.93	£37.09	£40.25	£43.41	£46.56	£49.72	£52.88	£56.04	£59.19	£62.35	£65.51	£68.67
<b>Bradford</b>	£4.40	£6.40	£8.40	£10.40	£12.40	£14.40	£16.40	£18.40	£20.40	£22.40	£24.40	£26.40	£28.40	£30.40	£32.40	£34.40	£36.40	£38.40	£40.40	£42.40
<b>Durham</b>	£6.30	£9.60	£12.90	£16.20	£19.50	£22.80	£26.10	£29.40	£32.70	£36.00	£39.30	£42.60	£45.90	£49.20	£52.50	£55.80	£59.10	£62.40	£65.70	£69.00
<b>East Riding</b>	£4.86	£7.21	£9.56	£11.90	£14.25	£16.60	£18.94	£21.29	£23.64	£25.98	£28.33	£30.68	£33.02	£35.37	£37.72	£40.06	£42.41	£44.76	£47.10	£49.45
<b>Lancaster</b>	£6.45	£9.75	£13.05	£16.35	£19.65	£22.95	£26.25	£29.55	£32.85	£36.15	£39.45	£42.75	£46.05	£49.35	£52.65	£55.95	£59.25	£62.55	£65.85	£69.15
<b>Leeds</b>	£6.71	£9.01	£11.31	£13.61	£15.91	£18.21	£20.51	£22.81	£25.11	£27.41	£29.72	£32.02	£34.32	£36.62	£38.92	£41.22	£43.52	£45.82	£48.12	£50.42
<b>Redcar &amp; Cleveland</b>	£4.00	£6.50	£9.00	£11.50	£14.00	£16.50	£19.00	£21.50	£24.00	£26.50	£29.00	£31.50	£34.00	£36.50	£39.00	£41.50	£44.00	£46.50	£49.00	£51.50
<b>York</b>	£6.66	£9.09	£11.52	£13.95	£16.38	£18.81	£21.25	£23.68	£26.11	£28.54	£30.97	£33.40	£35.83	£38.26	£40.69	£43.12	£45.55	£47.99	£50.42	£52.85



	1 mile	2 mile	3 mile	4 mile	5 mile	6 mile	7 mile	8 mile	9 mile	10 mile	11 mile	12 mile	13 mile	14 mile	15 mile	16 mile	17 mile	18 mile	19 mile	20 mile
<b>North Yorkshire</b>	£11.56	£15.77	£19.98	£24.19	£28.40	£32.61	£36.82	£41.03	£45.24	£49.45	£53.66	£57.87	£62.08	£66.29	£70.51	£74.72	£78.93	£83.14	£87.35	£91.56
<b>Bradford</b>	£5.85	£8.85	£11.85	£14.85	£17.85	£20.85	£23.85	£26.85	£29.85	£32.85	£35.85	£38.85	£41.85	£44.85	£47.85	£50.85	£53.85	£56.85	£59.85	£62.85
<b>Durham</b>	£8.80	£13.20	£17.60	£22.00	£26.40	£30.80	£35.20	£39.60	£44.00	£48.40	£52.80	£57.20	£61.60	£66.00	£70.40	£74.80	£79.20	£83.60	£88.00	£92.40
<b>East Riding</b>	£5.55	£8.48	£11.42	£14.35	£17.28	£20.22	£23.15	£26.08	£29.02	£31.95	£34.88	£37.82	£40.75	£43.68	£46.62	£49.55	£52.48	£55.42	£58.35	£61.28
<b>Lancaster</b>	£8.60	£13.00	£17.40	£21.80	£26.20	£30.60	£35.00	£39.40	£43.80	£48.20	£52.60	£57.00	£61.40	£65.80	£70.20	£74.60	£79.00	£83.40	£87.80	£92.20
<b>Leeds</b>	£10.83	£14.60	£18.37	£22.14	£25.91	£29.68	£33.45	£37.23	£41.00	£44.77	£48.54	£52.31	£56.08	£59.85	£63.63	£67.40	£71.17	£74.94	£78.71	£82.48
<b>Redcar &amp; Cleveland</b>	£4.00	£6.50	£9.00	£11.50	£14.00	£16.50	£19.00	£21.50	£24.00	£26.50	£29.00	£31.50	£34.00	£36.50	£39.00	£41.50	£44.00	£46.50	£49.00	£51.50
<b>York</b>	£8.30	£11.95	£15.59	£19.24	£22.88	£26.53	£30.18	£33.82	£37.47	£41.12	£44.76	£48.41	£52.06	£55.70	£59.35	£63.00	£66.64	£70.29	£73.93	£77.58

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## Initial requests for a review of hackney carriage fares

1. We are writing to you to request a tariff increase from 1 April 2024 onwards, we feel the flag fall is already sufficient in comparison with most other districts and do not wish to penalise those more vulnerable in society who use us for short distances. We therefore request that the flag fall remains as it is however we feel that as Harrogate did not get any increase on the measured mile at all last year and Richmondshire and Ryedale had a drop in the measured mile that in line with two years inflation and a rise of 10 percent last year on minimum wage and the 2024's rise of another 7 percent, that between 10 minimum and 15 percent maximum would be an appropriate rise on tariff one. We do not request any rise on tariff two, however we would like the option to use it from 2200 onwards in line with continental shift workers in order to attract those workers to the trade and pay night shift workers an extra premium as most trades do from 2200 onwards. We also feel that tariff 3 is adequate as it is however we would like you to look at the call out charge, to run a licensed vehicle before making a profit is approximately £1.24 per mile so with a call out of £1 per mile we are running at a loss on this, we would ask that you consider £2 per mile perhaps with a maximum cap of 15 miles. We would appreciate your feedback on this and also a request for you to put before committee or out for consultation as soon as possible so we can get this in place in plenty of time. This representation is on behalf of 44 licensed drivers.
2. After consultation with members of the trade, I would like to propose the following tariff increase to come into effect on 1 April 2024. No change on the flag fall 5% increase on the running mile and waiting time. Summoning charge up from £1 per mile to £2 per mile, as this has remained unchanged for many years and no longer reflects the price of fuel.

## Responses to preliminary consultation

1. As a representative of 70 drivers i have sent Mr Bentley a request for a 5% increase on the running mile, and waiting time, as well as an increase on the call out charge from £1 per mile to £2 per mile, as due to high fuel costs drivers at present are not prepared to travel distance to pick customers up, as they are losing money in doing so. My request is based on the fare formula previously used by Harrogate borough council, and also London taxis, it takes into account all increases in expenses that we are having to deal with and is an impartial body using current figures. We have also been informed that fees are about to be increased by 6% for drivers' licence and nearly 12% for vehicle licences, as well as the council now insisting, we take two courses before our badge is issued, at a cost of either £65 or £80 depending on which company you use. North Yorkshire council cannot insist on such high standards without allowing drivers a fair increase to keep up with these increases.
2. I think the daytime tariff should be 10p a mile more. the night tariff i wouldn't increase but would change to 10pm. i think we need a bus tariff day and night as adding it on at the end has cause no end of problem and confutation that isn't needed when the machine can do it and they can see what they are paying without a £12 jump at the end of the trip would save us no end of agro and been slandered on face book or been told dick turpin wore a mask.
3. Seeing as N.Y.C.'s own licensing fees to us are increasing due to inflation, etc then it's logical that we get a similar increase in fares as we're also subject to the same inflation.

4. The increase in the charge for a minibus from a car is totally inadequate and does not cover the extra costs e.g. fuel our minibuses do about 20/23 mpg our cars 40/55 mpg the longer the journey the less viable it becomes to a point where we have had drivers refusing to do a job. I think increasing the charge based on the number of people travelling is completely the wrong approach.
5. I believe the daytime fares are acceptable. As a company station taxis in Scarborough no longer works after 11pm or before 6 am as the fares are way too high. When it was an extra 20% it was ok but fare and a half is too much. My main issue is the £1 a mile to pick up, it just doesn't work. Example filey to Scarborough hospital...£8 in extras plus £21 to go from filey to hosp. Return journey £1 in extras plus £21 fare. Station to Cayton bay, pick up off rank, no extras £12 to Cayton .Return journey £3 in extras plus £12 fare. How can the above be explained to a customer? This should be abandoned completely and replaced with extras of 50p per person. £1.50 per person extra in multiseaters is ridiculous. Example.. 16 passengers are going to alpacere, 8 get in to two separate cars are charged £7 per car. So £14 total for those 8. The other 8 get in a cab which charges £19 , £12 in extras plus £7 fare. Totally legal but totally wrong.
6. I am a hackney carriage taxi driver in Skipton and I would like to express my concerns in regards to the meter prices we are charging customers. I know we can drop our prices and not charge the price to what it says on the meter, but it's putting a lot of the customers off from using our taxis due to the starting price of tariff 2. We have seen our trade drop since these new prices were introduced. We having to compete with other taxi drivers which are not part of north Yorkshire county council taxi licensing. These are uber, Steeton and silsden, and finally Aireside taxis. These just the few to mention. We are having to face the anger of the customers as well. Please I would appreciate if you can look into these prices again and drop the meter price of tariff 2.
7. Here's an idea to make sure that the public are not deterred from using Hackney carriages taxis and also private hire taxis...stop increasing fares and more importantly stop uber from operating illegally throughout North Yorkshire without an operating licence. We drivers fork out a small fortune for our plates and badges to operate around the area and you the council are just sitting back and doing absolutely nothing and allowing a multinational company to operate illegally.
8. my opinion would be to freeze any thoughts of increases, however, the £2 bus fares are what's killing us . . . nothing more to say just don't increase the tariff's for this financial year, review again prior to the following financial year and lets see how the state of the country is at that point. Customer always moan when an increase is applied, but I feel the rates at the moment are fair, if you want to go out late then you pay accordingly and the drivers who are out sacrificing their Homelife are recompensed. My opinion is a common one amongst our ranks so hopefully we keep things as they are?
9. In general, I'm happy with the current tariff rates but would like to suggest that the tariff two rate from 11pm to 6am reverts back to midnight and 7am, getting up early to do jobs for the standard rate is not fair on the drivers. And I would like to suggest again that tariff two is extended to cover all day on a Sunday i.e. from midnight (or 11pm) on Saturday night to 7am (or 6am) on Monday morning.

10. I would like to reiterate my feelings in the fares we really do not need a flagfall rise it us already far too high compared to literally everywhere and penalises the most vulnerable in society who use shorter journeys, we do however need a rise in the measured mile as this for ryedale went down from 2022 to 2023 this malnig longer journeys cheaper we need a minimum 10 percent on the measured mile increase
11. I think you have it totally wrong with your fares and i think your flagfall not only going up but shortening the distance has a massive impact on the most vulnerable in society that rely on a taxi to get them around the town. The flagfall should be half a mile minimum with the rise being put on the distance. Looking at the first mile on your charts we are around the same as York which is a massive tourist region. At the moment your price rises since last April have only impacted the wrong people and the wrong type of journeys and i think you need to seriously look at this and change the pricing structure
12. Looking at the charts and from experience the issue is for Whitby taxi rank is our customers seem to be really put off by the £6 starting price after eleven and bank holidays they seem to respect the price at the end of the journey but question the start price I personally feel it's fair to charge more after 11pm because Whitby is so quite after that time especially in the week any less and more drivers will just go home as it's not worth their time staying out late as since covid we have seen a massive drop in late night trade.
13. With regard to the T3 T3 Hackney meters, I am very confident that in Area G Selby, if you scrap or reduce the T2 and T3 tariffs, there will be no drivers after 2300 hours and certainly no one will put their business before their family during the festive season. I'll certainly won't be working and actually I would very much consider changing from Hackney to PH and then I would be able to charge my own rates. Having spoken to many other drivers in Selby area G I'm pretty confident that you won't get any other objections because asking for feedback via letter is not what we need. We need a formal meeting face to face to discuss the options that you have already decided to put in place.
14. I've been a taxi driver for just under a year although I expected this year to be exceptionally hard. What I didn't expect to be doing would be fighting to maintain a standard of living off a council that is intent on destroying the hackney carriage industry. my outgoing's alone for this year total just over 30,000 pounds my fuel bill on a monthly basis is approximately a £1200 pounds per month and rising, my insurance has risen by 400 pounds of a year to 2400, my licensing bills having increased by a few hundred pounds, my mechanical cost for my vehicle stands at 8,000 pounds. Based on the average fare of £6 I have to do 5000 journey per year before I can buy food and pay household bills. If tariff 2 and 3 are removed would over the course of a year say cost anyone who works these unsocial hours potentially thousands of pounds in takings. This will in my opinion cause any or all of
  - drivers moving away from the business
  - drivers moving to other areas
  - more unlicensed taxis
  - less public safety
  - less availability for the public
  - more drivers taking only private hire job that they can quote for ( a lot more variation in fares for customers )
  - the local pub / restaurant trade will also suffer a downturn in customers
  - the town centre shops will even see a knock on effect I as I'm sure most other drivers can't or at least don't want to see many of these things happen or to see a significant hit to our ability to earn a living.

It's not even like the council is trying to protect our livelihoods by stopping uber drivers coming into the town poaching our customers, not giving us protection on a night because I am sure that I will not be working after 11 o'clock at night for no enhancement to be swore at spit at assaulted and generally abused by drunken customers coming out for the reduced amount is not worth it

15. I believe that tariff three should be abolished altogether as during the Christmas and New Year it puts people off from using taxis. This in turn affects other businesses as customers stay away from coming to town. Instead tariff two should be used for this period. Tariff two should be 1.25% of tariff one. Currently this is 1.50% which is excessive therefore tariff 2 should be reduced. Tariff two should not be used for bank holidays. There is no need for this. This is confusing both for customers and drivers. Use of £1.50 per person extra should be stopped for minibuses. This is another confusing thing on the current tariff card. These minibuses are already taking away customers from other taxi drivers. These minibuses also do lucrative school runs. The licensing policy should make it less attractive to have larger minibuses which take a larger amount of space on taxi ranks. It should be a level playing field. Tariff one should be revised each year and it should be linked to inflation/minimum wage. As the minimum wage is going up in April 2024 so should the tariff 1 be. Taxi drivers also have homes and families. We don't have luxury of pension contributions, holiday pay, sick pay or any other work-related benefits. I would like a simplified system that is understandable to both customers and drivers. The tariff card should be set in miles rather than in yards. The meter should go up every 1/10 of a mile. This will be easier for everyone to understand. The tariff card should be displayed at the taxi rank on a similar style as bus timetables are displayed. There should be a list of prices for nearest 20 places from the taxi rank so that customers can check the price before they get in the taxi. These lists should also be displayed on the council's website. Please simplify the tariff card and licensing policy because the way things are going Uber will destroy hackney carriage business model in North Yorkshire as it has already done in cities around the country.
16. I know the fares have always been set by the council, but I do feel that it is time for change, you don't tell a market stall holder how much they can charge for an apple or any other business what they can charge their customers. We lost a considerable amount of money when the fuel prices increased and we were not able to pass those costs on, everything else was affected by this but not taxi fares, I am just using this as one example, the costs of running a car as a taxi have increased incredibly over the recent years, it is now cheaper to get home in a taxi for some people than it is to buy a pint of beer Uber change their prices according to how busy they are and what sort of car you prefer to be picked up in, what time of day it is etc, I believe it's time for change
17. we've had 2 enquiries today, Danby Castle to Glaisdale at 12.30am and Hinderwell to Liverton Mines at 10.30pm both journeys for today. The Danby one we've quoted £40 as per the current Policy and the second one £25, these are absurd prices for the time of the journeys, only being able to quote £1 per mile for lead miles, especially on the first journey which should be £3 per mile at that time and the latter one being at one of the busiest times on a Friday night, so with lead miles only being £1 per mile I've turned down both jobs. The policy of £1 per mile for lead miles is killing the rural customers, this isn't the first time this has happened and as such we refuse to be drawn into cheap far away fares, especially after 11pm, common sense says why travel somewhere out of the area when you can only get £1 per mile but if you stay in town you get £3 per mile? It's not rocket science and if the LA's are really trying to look after the entire communities in North Yorkshire, then simply apply lead miles at the rate of which they are if the customer was onboard, the vehicle is still

doing the miles for the journey and the fact we can't charge accordingly unless they're onboard is ridiculous and hence leaves the rural communities without any taxi coverage I believe Mr Chin thought this was a good idea!!! I know many of us are adopting this attitude, right or wrong but we are a business which has increased costs all over the place, my insurance on AD57 TAX for instance has gone up £500 this year! and don't get me started on fuel costs lol



**SECTION 65 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976  
TABLE OF MAXIMUM FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES**

<b>Tariff 1 (Between 7am and 10pm)</b>	
Flag fall for the first 440 yards or part thereof	£4.00
Drop at 440 yards and every 158.56 yards or part thereof:	£0.20
Waiting time for each period of 35.59 seconds or part thereof:	£0.20
<b>Tariff 2 (Between 10pm and 7am &amp; Public holidays*)</b>	
Flag fall for the first 440 yards or part thereof	£6.00
Drop at 440 yards and every 167.62 yards or part thereof:	£0.30
Waiting time for each period of 37.36 seconds or part thereof:	£0.30
*All public holidays other than those listed in tariff 3, tariff 2 applies throughout the 24-hour period.	
<b>Tariff 3 (Christmas and New Year**)</b>	
Flag fall for the first 440 yards or part thereof:	£8.00
Drop at 440 yards and every 167.62 or part thereof:	£0.40
Waiting time for each period of 37.36 seconds or part thereof:	£0.40
**From 6pm 24th December to 7am 27th December and 6pm 31st December to 7am 2nd January.	

<b>Fouling charge</b>	Maximum charge	£100.00
<b>Extra charges</b>	Extra charge per head which can be charged for ALL PASSENGERS when carrying 5 or more (only chargeable if agreed at the time of booking)	£2 per person
<b>Call out or summoning charge</b>	Maximum to be added to any journey where the vehicle has been called out or summoned from another location (only chargeable if agreed at the time of booking).	£1.50 per mile
<b>North Yorkshire Council contract surcharge</b>	Maximum surcharge for each hiring under the terms of a contract with North Yorkshire Council.	£50
	Maximum surcharge for the provision of each passenger assistant where applicable under the terms of a contract with North Yorkshire Council.	£50

### **Proposed variations explained**

It should be noted that drivers may agree to charge a lower amount than the maximum fares at their own discretion.

#### **Tariff 1**

The proposed increase to 158.56 yards (from 167.72 yards) on the running mile and to 35.59 seconds (from 37.36) on waiting times represents a 5% increase in accordance with several requests from the trade. The comparison with neighbouring authority daytime rates, along with the general view from the consultation responses, indicates that there is little need or demand for an increase on the initial £4 charge for the first 440 yards.

#### **Tariff 2**

The proposed table of fares makes no provision for an increase on the tariff 2 rates as the comparison charts indicate that night-time fares in North Yorkshire are already among the highest in the region and there was only limited appetite for an increase in this regard during the preliminary consultation. However, the example table of fares does make provision for a variation to the hours during which tariff 2 rates are in effect. Night-time rates take effect at different hours across the region but applying tariff 2 rates from 10pm to 7am (currently 11pm to 6am) is considered reasonable in light of the need to ensure that drivers are fairly rewarded for working during anti-social hours and to increase the availability of hackney carriage vehicles at times when other public transport services are often limited.

#### **Tariff 3**

The proposed table of fares makes no provision for an increase on the tariff 3 rates as the comparison charts indicate that Christmas and New Year fares in North Yorkshire are already among the highest in the region and there was no apparent appetite for an increase in this regard during the preliminary consultation.

#### **Extra charges**

The current maximum surcharge of £1.50 per person for the carriage of five or more passengers is not considered sufficient to cover the additional costs associated with operating larger vehicles. However, the preliminary consultation indicated that this charge may be applied both to the detriment and to the surprise of passengers. In order to ensure that passengers are given advance notice of the potential cost, it seems reasonable for the Council to require that such a surcharge may only be applied where it is agreed between the driver and the hirer prior to the commencement of the journey. An increase from a maximum of £1.50 per person to £2 per person seems reasonable provided such an agreement can be reached.

#### **Call out or summoning charges**

The current maximum call-out charge of £1 per mile is not considered sufficient to attract hackney carriage drivers to travel to some of the more rural areas of North Yorkshire on demand and therefore an increase to £1.50 per mile may be necessary to further encourage the provision of services. As this charge may only be applied where it is agreed between the driver and the hirer prior to the commencement of the journey, an increase would only impact on passengers who make such an agreement.

#### **North Yorkshire Council contract surcharge**

A new maximum surcharge of £50 (plus a further £50 per passenger assistant where applicable) relating to each hiring under the terms of a contract with North Yorkshire Council is considered necessary to ensure that the Council can deliver

its obligations to secure school and social care transport without undue restrictions. Licensed drivers and proprietors will often incur significantly higher costs to deliver a home-to-school or social care contract and therefore payments in excess of the table of fares are often necessary. The Council's tendering process will continue to ensure that value for money is achieved in this regard and therefore the proposed surcharge would not have any adverse effects on the public. A surcharge of this nature would not in any way place obligations on the Council's Integrated Passenger Transport Service to make the maximum payment but it would allow for all parties to engage in contractual arrangements with the necessary freedom in terms of costing.

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

### THE EXECUTIVE

7 May 2024

#### **PROPOSAL TO CEASE TO MAINTAIN ST HILDA'S AMPLEFORTH CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report details the outcomes of the public consultation carried out by the Council on the proposal to close St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School and asks the Executive to authorise the publication of proposals and statutory notices, and to schedule taking a final decision on the proposal on 16 July 2024.

### **2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Governing Board of St Hilda's Ampleforth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School on 17 January 2024 it was reluctantly resolved, following a full discussion about pupil numbers, financial prospects and future sources of leadership, to invite North Yorkshire Council to commence a consultation on closure of this school.
- 2.2 This report details the responses to this consultation and asks the Executive to authorise the publication of statutory proposals and notices, and to schedule taking a final decision on the proposal on 16 July 2024. If approved, the school would close on 31 August 2024.
- 2.3 The report is supported by a number of Appendices as listed below:

Appendix 1: Full draft Statutory Proposals and draft Statutory Notice

Appendix 2: Published Consultation Paper

Appendix 3: List of the Consultees

Appendix 4: Note of the Public Meeting

Appendix 5: Consultation Responses

Appendix 6: Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 7: Climate Change Impact Assessment

### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School is located in the rural village of Ampleforth. Ampleforth village lies partially within the North York Moors National

Park and partially in the Howardian Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The school is defined by the government as a rural school that serves a rural village. The Department for Education expects all decision makers to adopt a presumption against the closure of rural schools. However, in their statutory guidance they make it clear that this does not mean that a rural school will never close, but that the case for closure should be strong and clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area. The school was previously in a Federation with Hovingham CE VC Primary School from April 2015 until Hovingham's closure in March 2023.

- 3.2 In January 2024 Governors brought forward a proposal to consult on the closure due to low pupil numbers and an expected Reception intake of 0 (zero) pupils in September 2024 leading to a decline in the overall number on roll. This has led to financial pressures, meaning that the school will have an in-year deficit in 2024/25 and a cumulative deficit by 2025/26. The school's current leadership arrangement with leadership being provided by the Arete Learning Trust (formerly Ryedale Learning Trust) is only in place until the end of the summer term 2024. Governors have requested the consultation at this time as they have identified the importance of a decision on the school's future being made before the end of this academic year.

#### **4.0 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN AND ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES**

- 4.1 The decision to consult on the proposal was taken by the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills on the 20 February 2024.
- 4.2 A consultation paper setting out the proposal was sent to staff of the school as well as other interested parties and individuals. A copy of the consultation paper is attached as Appendix 2 together with a list of the consultees at Appendix 3.
- 4.3 The consultation period ran from 1 March to 19 April 2024. A public meeting was held on 18 March and was attended by officers of the Council, the Diocesan Director of Education, Governors, a number of parents, members of the local community and other local stakeholders. A record of that meeting is attached as Appendix 4.
- 4.4 By the closing date of the consultation, 80 consultation responses had been received to the proposals, three of the 80 respondents did not leave any comments, so their comments (supportive or otherwise) cannot be taken into account. Consultation responses are shown at Appendix 5.
- 4.5 The following section of the report summarises the main issues raised by individuals who completed the online response form or submitted a written response to the consultation. It also summarises the issues raised at the public meeting on 18 March 2024.

#### **5.0 ISSUES RAISED AND RESPONSES**

- 5.1 The majority of the responses to the consultation were not supportive of the proposal. A number of attendees expressed their views at the public meeting and saw the closure as a negative proposal. The comments against the proposal focused on number of issues for example that there was still a need for the school locally and this was very important to the local community. A number of respondents felt that the school met a particular need within the village that they did not think could be met by the local Catholic primary school. A number of responses saw the proposal as short sighted and that there will be enough pupils to make the school viable if it were left open. The school's parents' association *Friends of St Hilda's* (FOSH) submitted a document making their case against closure as part of the consultation. This document references a variety of issues and in particular focuses on the presumption against closure of rural schools and cites their reasons against the closure in the context of this presumption.
- 5.2 However, a few of the 80 respondents expressed the view that the school wasn't viable and that it should close.
- 5.3 Appendix 5 includes all responses to the consultation reproduced in full for consideration by Members. The key issues raised during the consultation process are listed below alongside relevant responses.
- 5.4. Additional Housing in the Local Area  
Several responses expressed the view that housing growth within Ampleforth would lead to further demand for primary school places locally and that this supported the need for St Hilda's CE VC Primary School to remain open. Some responses made reference to Ampleforth being designated as a 'Service Village' within the 2013-2027 Ryedale District Council Local Plan. Responses argued that this designation was linked to the services available in the village and in particular the presence of a primary school. One response highlighted the intention in the Ryedale Local Plan for 10% of houses to be delivered in service villages. Responses also highlighted that the potential need for additional primary provision in Ampleforth was referenced within the Local Plan.

#### Response

The Ryedale Local Plan was adopted in 2013 and in it Ampleforth was designated as a Service Village. This took account of the size of the village and the services available therein. The plan set out that up to 10% of housing allocations within the plan would be spread between the service villages. At this point references were made to the potential need for expansion in any service villages where housing could be directed. At this time there was some surplus capacity at St Hilda's CE VC Primary, though St Benedict's Catholic Primary was operating above their Net Capacity. At this time it was unknown how much housing may be allocated to Ampleforth. In June 2019 Ryedale District Council finalised their site allocations for the 2013-2027 Local Plan and no allocation was made for housing in Ampleforth. Since 2013, 41 new properties have been built within Ampleforth (excluding the National Park) and using expected pupil yield this could have been expected to bring the need for

up to 10 additional primary school places. However, across the period of 2012 to 2024 the combined roll of the two primary schools in the village has fallen from 128 to 87. As a new local plan for North Yorkshire is developed and education officers will work alongside colleagues in planning to ensure that developments are sustainable.

#### 5.5 Leadership

A number of responses commented that they believe that previous leadership of the school had been poor and that this had played a part in lower numbers at the school. Some responses argued that with good leadership there would be more confidence within the local area to send pupils to the school.

#### Response

Since 2011 there have been three Ofsted Inspections and each of them have judged Leadership and Management of the School to be 'Good'. The last Ofsted inspection was made in March 2020.

#### 5.6 Capacity in New Catchment Schools

A number of responses argued that the availability of places in the proposed catchment schools were insufficient to meet the needs of the community. Others argued that the quality of provision at the other schools were not as high as at St Hilda's CE VC Primary and therefore they did not think the alternative schools available were appropriate.

#### Response

There are currently 13 pupils at St Hilda's CE VC Primary and there are projected to be 10 pupils in need of an alternative school place for September 2024, if St Hilda's closes. The combined number of available spaces (against Net Capacity) at the three proposed catchment schools of Helmsley Community Primary School, Terrington CE VA Primary School and Husthwaite CE VC Primary School is 100, plus there are 31 places at St Benedict's which is also located in Ampleforth. There are places available in local schools all year groups, however some of the schools are operating as or above PAN in some year groups, as can be seen in the consultation appendix 2.<sup>1</sup> This information was accurate in January 2024, if the decision is made to proceed with the statutory notices and proposed closure, Council Officers will work with parents and families to identify spaces for their children. Helmsley Community Primary School, Terrington CE VA Primary School and St Benedict's Catholic Primary School have been inspected during this academic year and they are all judged to be 'Good' schools. While Husthwaite CE VC Primary School was inspected in 2022 and judged to 'Require Improvement', a monitoring inspection in November 2023 stated that 'Leaders have made progress to improve the school, but more work is necessary for the school to become good.'

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/your-council/consultations-and-engagement/current-consultations/proposal-close-st-hildas-ampleforth-church-england-voluntary-controlled-primary-school/proposal-close-st-hildas-ampleforth-consultation-appendix-2-indicative-table-primary-school-places>

### 5.7 Importance of the School to the Community

A number of responses referenced the importance of the school to the community. Some responses referenced that the school has been in the village since the Victorian era and others referenced generations of families attending the school. The loss of the asset itself and also the loss of focus that community members feel that the school provides were also mentioned.

#### Response

The responses received clearly demonstrate the strength of feeling from some members of the community about the importance of the school to the local area. In some villages the school itself may be the only building large enough to facilitate community gatherings however, in the case of Ampleforth there is a village hall and a church hall associated with the Catholic church, both of which are available for hire. In addition to St Hilda's CE VC Primary School there is, and in the event of closure, would remain another primary school within the village. There is currently no community use of the St Hilda's school site beyond the core educational use by the school. Whilst the school is clearly valued strongly by respondents to the consultation, of the 94 pupils living within the catchment area only 13 are attending St Hilda's CE VC Primary with parental preference for St Benedict's significantly outnumbering preference for St Hilda's in all year groups.

### 5.8 Consultation Meeting

Some responses felt that the presentations by North Yorkshire Council representatives at the consultation meeting suggested that the decision has already be predetermined, and that the panel should be making a case for keeping the school rather than just the closure.

#### Response

The presentation given at the consultation meeting set out the roles and responsibilities for the Governing Board, Council Officers and Members. The proposal to consult on the closure of the school was initiated when the Governing Board reluctantly resolved, following a full discussion about pupil numbers, financial prospects and future sources of leadership, to invite North Yorkshire Council to commence a consultation on closure of this school. This consultation was approved on 20 February 2024 by Cllr Annabel Wilkinson, the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills. Officers prepare the reports and make a recommendation based on the available information, but the Executive of North Yorkshire Council is then the decision maker. Cllr Wilkinson is a member of the Executive and attends the consultation meeting to listen to the views of the community.

### 5.9 Religious Character of Education Provision

The religious character of the two primary schools within Ampleforth was one of the most widely commented upon aspects of the closure proposal. There were a variety of different views on this within the comments and raised verbally at the consultation meeting. Some parents felt that attending St

Benedict's was not an appropriate option for their children. Some responses felt that the presence of two primary schools within the village was important to serve both perceived communities whilst others disagreed. Other responses felt that the faith element should be removed from education and that Ampleforth would be best served by a single non-faith school.

#### Response

The educational landscape of North Yorkshire and indeed the whole country includes a variety of types of educational settings and some of these have a religious character. Ampleforth has historically had two state-funded schools, one with a Church of England designation and one with a Roman Catholic designation. Since the Schools Standard and Frameworks Act 1998 parental preference has played an increasing role in the selection of school for children to attend. This is well illustrated by the current schools attended by pupils living within the catchment area of St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School of the 94 attending North Yorkshire Schools: 12 are attending St Hilda's CE, 55 St Benedict's Catholic Primary, 17 children attend other local schools with no religious character and 7 attend other local schools with a CE designation. Parents are likely to have expressed a preference for these schools for a wide variety of reasons. In selecting the proposed catchment areas of schools, should St Hilda's close, council officers have been mindful of the fact that it is not typical within North Yorkshire for Catholic primary schools to have a catchment area. For pupils living in the parishes of Gilling East, Grimstone, Cawton, Coulton, Byland with Wass and Ampleforth the proposal maintains the status quo of their catchment school being their nearest Church of England Primary school either Husthwaite CE or Terrington CE. For the parishes of Oswaldkirk and Stonegrave it was felt that the proximity of those parishes to Helmsley made Helmsley CP the natural choice for future catchment school.

#### 5.10 Effect on Local Wrap Around Provision

Some responses to the consultation commented on the close working relationships between the primary schools within the village and Daisy Daycare, a local provider of early years provision and wraparound care. This provision is clearly valued locally, and the responses expressed concern that if pupils did end up leaving Ampleforth for their education then this would have a detrimental effect on the wraparound provision.

#### Response

Whilst this concern is noted officers are aware that Daisy Daycare also provide wraparound provision for St Benedict's Catholic Primary School and so any future pupils whose parents chose St Benedict's over another local option would still be able to utilise Daisy Daycare. Other local schools do also offer some wraparound care which is discussed in greater detail below.

#### 5.11 Effect on pupils

Some responses referenced that closing the school would have a negative impact upon the current pupils of the school. One response commented that

their child had been moved to St Hilda's CE VC Primary School from another local school and that it would negatively affect them to move schools again. Some responses suggested that children at St Hilda's CE VC Primary are enjoying their education at the school and shouldn't be moved.

#### Response

It is acknowledged that if the proposal goes ahead there will be some disruption to pupils, although schools and the Council will work hard to minimise this. A preferencing exercise is underway so that parents can express a preference for where pupils would go in the event that the school closes. If the decision is taken to publish statutory notices for closure then the Council will support parents through the continuation of this process.

#### 5.12 Environmental Issues

Some responses argued that the close of St Hilda's CE VC Primary School would cause additional journeys to schools which would create additional CO2 emissions. The response from the Friends of St Hilda's School estimated that even one additional journey would cause ~0.8 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. The group argued that this is not compatible with NYC declaration of a climate emergency and plans statement that '*we continue to look for opportunities within our carbon reduction plan to meet our targets*'.

#### Response

It is challenging to ascertain the degree to which this proposal will cause an increase in journeys and mileage of those journeys. Some of the pupils that have attended St Hilda's CE VC Primary historically will have travelled by car and this is particularly true for pupils attending from outside the catchment area. The nature of parental preference and the choice of method to get to school including taking account of any lift sharing is also difficult to account for. If the 10 pupils currently projected to be on roll at September 2024 at St Hilda's CE VC Primary went to the nearest school to their home following the closure then 8 of them would likely be within the statutory walking distance to that school. If all parents chose to send their children to schools further afield then this would likely increase emissions from transport associated with this cohort. However, it must also be acknowledged that maintaining a school itself has an impact on energy and resource usage and therefore carbon usage, emissions and climate change. At present the school is operating and being heated and powered for 13 statutory school age pupils when the building itself could accommodate more pupils. This is not an efficient use of energy. Whichever schools the pupils subsequently attend would likely have a negligible increase in energy usage associated with the pupils joining compared to the significant reduction in energy usage from the school ceasing to operate. A Climate Change Impact Assessment forms Appendix 7 of this report and addresses the issue in further detail.

#### 5.13 Future of Site

Responses raised some queries and concerns about the future of the site. A view was expressed that if the school site closes it would likely be converted to

a housing site which would cause an increase in the need for school places. Another response suggested that if the school does shut then St Benedict's Catholic Primary School should occupy both their current site and the St Hilda's CE Primary site to make use of the facilities.

#### Response

This feedback is noted and the future use of the site would be a decision to be taken following the closure if the closure proceeds. Future use of the site is not a factor in the decision over whether the school closes. The site is partly owned by North Yorkshire Council and partly by the Diocese of York.

#### 5.14 Educational Standards

A large number of responses shared a view that the school is a very good school and that the education it provides both academically and pastorally is well valued. Attendees at the consultation meeting described with passion the high regard in which the school is held and the successes that its current and former pupils had. The teachers at the school were complimented for their hard work and dedication to providing a good standard of education.

#### Response

The reason for this closure proposal being brought forward are predominantly due to low pupil numbers and the financial issues that this creates for the school going forward, and not the standard of education being provided by the school. However, it has been noted by Council officers that as pupil numbers fall very low it becomes increasingly difficult to provide certain aspects of the curriculum.

#### 5.15 Inclusivity of School

A number of responses and attendees at the public meeting referenced that St Hilda's CE VC Primary School is well regarded for the education that it provides for pupils with Special Education Needs. Many responses felt that pupils with SEN were particularly well supported at the school, and it was reflected that smaller group sizes were a benefit in this regard. Parents provided views that their children with SEN had had good outcomes at the school and a view was expressed that they may not have had those outcomes if the school wasn't available.

#### Response

It is acknowledged that the school is held in high regard for the support it provides to pupils with Special Educational Needs. If the school does close then the Council will support parents to ensure the best possible outcomes for their children. All schools have a responsibility to ensure that children with special educational needs through SEN Support or via an Education Health and Care plans receive the education that they require.

#### 5.16 Need for Places

One of the most common views expressed in consultation responses and at the meeting was that there is a need for the school places which St Hilda's CE VC Primary provides. Respondents argued that the current low numbers are a small blip in the requirement for places in the local area. A particular view expressed was that the Council had not taken adequate account of future increases in pupil numbers. Some responses felt that COVID had contributed to this downturn in numbers and that the Council was being short sighted in closing the school.

### Response

The response regarding the capacity of other local schools demonstrates that from the perspective of needing to maintain a sufficiency of school places St Hilda's CE VC Primary School is not required. There is a surplus of places both within the village and across the wider area even if the capacity of St Hilda's is removed.

Whilst it is true that the number of births in the former Ryedale district fell from 460 in 2019 to 412 in both 2020 and 2021, it is not considered that the effect of COVID 19 has been a significant factor in the school becoming unviable. The underlying birth rate has not been as significant a factor as the pattern of parental preference over a number of years. As an example, the current Reception cohort was born prior to the pandemic and of 10 pupils of that age group only 1 is currently attending St Hilda's CE VC Primary School. Across the school only 13% of pupils living within the St Hilda's catchment area and attending a North Yorkshire school are attending St Hilda's CE VC Primary School.

Some responses made reference to numbers at the school previously being higher and that numbers may rise again in future. Using the most recent peak in numbers during the 2018/19 academic year as an example there were at that point 36 pupils on roll of statutory school age at St Hilda's. At the same time, in addition to the 13 surplus places at St Hilda's CE VC Primary, there were 46 surplus places at St Benedict's Catholic Primary School and a further 126 surplus places in the surrounding proposed catchment schools. This highlights again the impact that parental preference plays in the rise and fall of numbers on roll. Even when there have been higher numbers of pupils on roll at St Hilda's CE VC Primary School it has largely been dictated by changes in preference locally rather than an underlying demographic change.

#### 5.17 Projected Pupil Numbers

Some responses argued that the projections of pupils used in budget forecasting at the school were wrong or misleading. It has been argued by some responses that applications for places for the next two rounds of applications for Reception places (for pupils to start in September 2025 and September 2026) will be higher and they report testimonies from local parents to that effect. The view expressed is that the numbers used by the Governors and the Council cause the outlook to look unfavourable in terms of viability and

finances compared to the numbers which the respondents feel the school will have.

#### Response

The numbers used for financial planning by Governors were based upon existing numbers, previous intakes and the expectation by the Governing Board that the intake for September 2024 could be very low. On this basis governors used an estimate of 1 additional pupil joining in 2024 and 2 each year thereafter. At allocation day 16 April 2024 the school was allocated 1 pupil and therefore the Governing Board's projection has proved accurate. Beyond the current year of admission it is difficult to project demand for places at the school. Parental preference shifts year on year and parents who may want their child to attend a school in the future may, for a wide variety of reasons, change this preference at any point before the time comes for them to submit applications.

According to available data there are currently 18 children living in the St Hilda's catchment area of the age group which would apply for places for Reception in September 2025. If 6 of these pupils were to attend St Hilda's CE VC Primary School that would be 33% of the overall group. This is far higher than the percentage of comparable cohorts in the area that are currently attending the school. In two year groups there are 14 and 16 children of the same age and 0 pupils are attending St Hilda's CE VC Primary School. In two other year groups there are cohorts of 25 and 24 and only 5 pupils are attending St Hilda's out of that total of 49.

#### 5.18 Lack of Support for School

Some responses stated that there had been a lack of support for the school provided by the Council and that this was a factor in the closure proposal.

#### Response

The council's officers would not agree that there has been a lack of support shown to the school. The council values all of its schools and provides support for them on a basis commensurate to their situation at any particular time. There have been periods where extensive support has been provided to St Hilda's CE VC Primary School. An example would be the routine support provided by the School Improvement Service to ensure standards have been maintained in the school, the most recent Ofsted Inspection in 2020 made reference to the expertise provided by this team. Other examples would be the support provided in specific situations, as when the school required new leadership support at short notice the Council brokered support from another local maintained CE primary school and this was well received. When numbers were previously low at the school the Council supported the school through the process to federate with another local school.

#### 5.19 Not Viable

Whilst a clear majority of responses did not support the closure of the school a small number expressed the view that the school was no longer viable due to

the small number of pupils currently in attendance. One response stated that resources needed to be prioritised to other schools with more pupils. Another response noted that it was sad that they felt that the school was unviable.

#### Response

The low number of pupils attending the school and the related financial difficulty is ultimately the reason for the proposal.

#### 5.20 Other Options

Some responses and attendees at the meeting felt that not enough consideration had been given to other options other than closure. A number of respondents felt that particular proposals should be considered and the most often referenced option was for the school to become part of the Ryedale Learning Trust who have provided interim leadership support for the school. Another option which was suggested was that the school should work in partnership with St Benedict's Catholic Primary School as part of one school or shared working arrangement.

#### Response

When the Governing Board asked the Council to commence the consultation they did so having fully considered pupil numbers, financial prospects and future sources of leadership. The projected budget deficit was based upon the current leadership costs continuing and it is likely that the leadership costs would significantly increase if the school were to appoint a substantive headteacher (either full time or a part-time executive leadership with another school or schools) which would result in a further deterioration of the budget position.

With particular regard to the proposal for the school to join an academy trust, the pupil numbers have not grown sufficiently to ensure that the funding available will be sufficient for the school to be viable going forward. Consequently, while the Diocese previously had positive dialogue about the required steps for the school to join the Ryedale Learning Trust in the past and the trust discussed academy conversion with the Department for Education at that time, an application did not reach the Department for Education's advisory board due to the low and falling numbers and questions over the viability of the school. It should be noted that Ryedale Learning Trust no longer exists and any discussions with DfE about academy conversion have ceased.

With regards to the St Hilda CE VC Primary School working in partnership with the local Catholic primary school this would be challenging. St Benedict's Catholic Primary School is an academy which is part of the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust and so any arrangements between the two schools would need to be proposed by the trust and supported by the relevant dioceses.

With the currently financial outlook for the school and as no school or trust has come forward with a solution during the consultation, no option for working with other schools is considered possible at this time.

#### 5.21 Presumption Against Closure of a Rural School

A high number of responses referenced the rurality of the area and the fact that the school is designated as a rural school. In particular the response from *Friends of St Hilda's School* references the guidance related the closure of rural schools in detail and argues that, when looking at the issues which need to be considered under that legislation, the school should not be closed.

##### Response

The statutory guidance for Opening and Closing Maintained Schools makes it clear that when closing Rural Schools, a number of factors must be taken into consideration. Although some of these factors have already been considered in the responses to some of the other issues raised above, this section will explicitly address each of the required considerations.

A) *the likely effect of the discontinuance of the school on the local community;*

##### Response

See information provided in 5.7 above for further detail, to summarise, there are other venues that the local community can utilise, and they do not currently use St Hilda's for community events.

B) *the availability, and likely cost to the local authority, of transport to other schools;*

##### Response

Home to school travel assistance would be provided for entitled pupils in accordance with the Council's home to school transport policy. Costs will depend on the individual choices of schools by parents, and may also depend on the circumstances of individual pupils.

C) *any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase.*

##### Response

See information provided in 5.12 above. It is difficult to assess the impact given it is based upon parental preferences, a climate impact assessment has been completed.

D) *any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school. Proposers, for all rural closures, in addition to the above, should also provide evidence to show they have carefully considered alternatives to closure including conversion to academy status and joining a multi-academy trust, Federation with another local school and the scope for an extended school to provide local community services and facilities (e.g. childcare facilities, family and adult learning, healthcare, community internet access)*

Response

See information provided in 5.20 above, other options have been considered by the governing board and the Council.

*E) whether the proposal will result in unreasonably long journey times*

Response

Attendance at any of the schools proposed as catchment schools for the current St Hilda's catchment area or the other local school at St Benedict's Catholic Primary School could be achieved without causing unreasonably long journey times.

*F) the size of the school and whether it puts the children at an educational disadvantage e.g. in terms of breadth of curriculum or resources available*

Response

The council highly values the provision of education by small schools and North Yorkshire currently comprises of approximately 120 schools with fewer than 100 pupils on roll and approximately 50 of these schools with fewer than 50 pupils on roll. Although there is no straightforward correlation between the number of pupils on roll at a school and its standards, it is considered that when pupil numbers get extremely low, as in this instance, it is increasingly challenging to deliver the full breadth of curriculum and enable the social and emotional opportunities required for pupils in similar age peer groups.

*G) the proportion of pupils attending the school from within the local community i.e. whether the school is being used by the local community.*

Response

As stated in further detail above only 13% of pupils living within the St Hilda's catchment area are currently attending St Hilda's CE VC Primary School.

*H) the overall and long term impact on local people and the community of the closure of the school and of the loss of the building as a community facility.*

Response

Information provided in 5.7 above, whilst the closure of the school will have an impact on any village, there are no community groups that utilise the school and there are alternative venues within the village.

*I) educational standards at the school and the likely effect on standards at neighbouring schools.*

Response

This issue has been considered but the standards at St Hilda's CE VC Primary School have not been a key factor in bringing forward this proposal nor are the

displaced pupils expected to have any effect on the standards of neighbouring schools.

- J) *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).*

Response

This issue is discussed in detail in a number of sections above. It is considered that there is not a need to retain the school to meet the Council's sufficiency duty. The level of demand for places at the school is low and this has been a key factor in the closure proposal being brought forward.

- K) *wider school organisation and capacity of good schools in the area to accommodate displaced pupils*

Response

This is addressed in section 5.6 above, there are a range of good schools in the area with capacity.

- L) *When proposing to close a school which includes early years provision, proposers should set out whether the alternative early years provision will integrate preschool education with childcare services and/or with other services for young children and their families*

Response

All of the proposed catchment schools have early years provision and there is also nursery provision in Ampleforth provided by Daisy Daycare and at St Benedict's Catholic Primary School.

5.22 Speed of Decision

A number of responses expressed that they thought the closure process had been rushed and that further time to consider other options was needed.

Response

The closure process for a Council maintained school is set out in statutory guidance and this proposal has been developed in line with that guidance. The initial decision to request the consultation which was taken by the Governing Board took account of the fact that Governors wanted to be able to provide clarity for parents by the end of this academic year about the future of the school.

5.23 Wrap around care

Some responses expressed great concern that a lack of wraparound care which is currently provided in Ampleforth could greatly disadvantage parents and pupils if St Hilda's CE VC Primary were to close. The wraparound care in the village is currently provided by a private provider and this provision also responded to the proposal expressing concern about the closure both for their business and the parents that they serve.

### Response

It has been confirmed by all of the proposed catchment schools that there is a wraparound care offer at their schools. Schools are required to publish information online about their wraparound offer. From September 2024 it is expected that provision will be available between 8am and 6pm on Monday to Friday. This may be achieved through a mix of school-led and private provision available locally for parents of children attending primary schools.

### Travel times and transport costs

- 5.24 At the public meeting and in written responses views were expressed that the distance to the proposed catchment schools were too far for primary aged children to travel and were therefore not appropriate alternative options. It was also stated that the proposals would increase transport costs.

### Response

The government's maximum recommended travel time for primary age pupils is 45 minutes each way and the proposed catchment schools are considerably closer than that to the relevant settlements within the current St Hilda's catchment area. For example Gilling East is 13 minutes by car from Terrington CE VA Primary School and Ampleforth is 14 minutes by car from Husthwaite CE VC Primary School.

As set out in para 7.2 below, there may be an additional cost to the Council's home to school transport budget, but this will depend on parental preference and their eligibility under the policy at the time of application.

- 5.25 Secondary School catchment areas

It was noted that the proposal for part of the current St Hilda's School catchment area to become part of the catchment area for Husthwaite School, would place children within a school in a different secondary school catchment area feeding into Outwood Academy Easingwold whereas Ampleforth is in the catchment area of Ryedale School, splitting friendship groups.

### Response

There are no plans to alter the secondary school catchment areas as part of this proposal; children living within the current St Hilda's School catchment area would continue to be within the secondary school catchment area of Ryedale School regardless of which primary school they attended.

## **6.0 PROPOSAL**

- 6.1 The proposal is to cease to maintain St Hilda's Ampleforth Church of England VC Primary School from 31 August 2024. The proposals include that, in the event of closure, the catchment area currently served by St Hilda's Church of

England VC School will be split between Terrington CE VA Primary School, Helmsley Community Primary School and Husthwaite CE. The parishes of Gilling East, Grimstone, Cawton and Coulton would become part of the catchment area for Terrington Church of England. The parishes of Oswaldkirk and Stonegrave would become part of the catchment area for Helmsley Community Primary School. The parishes of Byland with Wass and Ampleforth would become part of the catchment area for Husthwaite Church of England.

The full statutory proposal is set out in Appendix 1, Section A. This includes details about pupil numbers, alternative schools, impact on the community and travel implications.

## 6.2 The proposed timetable would be:

22 May 2024	Publication of Statutory Proposals
19 June 2024	Closing date for representations (4 weeks as prescribed in regulations and cannot be shortened or lengthened)
16 July 2024	Final decision by Executive
31 August 2024	Proposed closure date

## 7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

### 7.1 School revenue funding

Any annual savings to the Dedicated Schools Grant arising from the closure, if approved, would remain within the ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant as part of the funding for all schools. Any surplus revenue or capital balances would be made available to the receiving school(s) in line with the Closing School Accounting Policy.

### 7.2 Transport costs

If the school closed, there could be a potential additional cost to the Council in providing transport to other schools. Home to school travel assistance would be provided for eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School transport policy. Costs will depend on the individual choices of schools by parents, and may also depend on the circumstances of individual pupils.

## 8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The School Organisation regulations and guidance<sup>2</sup> cover the processes involved in school closures. Careful regard has been paid to these provisions.

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<sup>2</sup> School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 and Department for Education Opening and closing maintained schools. Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers (January 2023).

8.2 As St Hilda's Church of England VC Primary School is designated as a rural school there are some particular considerations for the proposers of any closure. There is a presumption against the closure of rural schools. This does not mean rural schools should not close. It means that the 'case for closure should be strong and the proposal must be clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area'. Proposers must demonstrate that they have considered the following:

- Educational standards at the school and the effect on standards at other schools
- Alternatives to closure such as federation or academy status
- The availability and cost of transport to other schools
- Any potential increase to car use
- The impact on the community

These factors are considered in the draft statutory proposal, attached as Appendix 1, and in paragraphs 5.21 above.

## **9.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **10.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken in respect of this proposal and is attached (Appendix 6). 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 the proposal to close St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School needs to be considered. Whilst it is recognised that there may be adverse impact upon those with protected characteristics of age and religion/belief, there are more positive impacts that will result if these proposals are implemented. As these proposals develop any adverse impacts will be carefully monitored, and all reasonable mitigations will be taken.

## **11.0 NEXT STEPS**

11.1 It is proposed to publish proposals and statutory notices on 22 May 2024. The proposals would be published on the Council's website and the statutory notice would be published in a local newspaper and displayed at the main entrances to the school. These would provide four weeks for representations to be made to the Council, by 19 June 2024.

11.2 The Executive agreed a model for decision-making on school organisation proposals on 25 September 2007. If approval is given to publish statutory proposals and notices, it is proposed that a final decision is taken by the Executive on 16 July 2024.

## **12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

## 12.1

- i) Statutory proposals and notices be published on 22 May 2024 proposing to cease to maintain St Hilda's Church of England VC Primary School with effect from 31 August 2024.
- ii) The proposals include that, in the event of closure, the catchment area currently served by St Hilda's Church of England VC School will be split between Terrington CE VA Primary School, Helmsley Community Primary School and Husthwaite CE. The parishes of Gilling East, Grimstone, Cawton and Coulton would become part of the catchment area for Terrington Church of England. The parishes of Oswaldkirk and Stonegrave would become part of the catchment area for Helmsley Community Primary School. The parishes of Byland with Wass and Ampleforth would become part of the catchment area for Husthwaite Church of England
- iii) The Executive schedule taking a final decision on these proposals on 16 July 2024.

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

Report prepared by Matt George, Strategic Planning Team

### List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Full draft statutory proposals and draft statutory notice  
Appendix 2: Consultation Paper  
Appendix 3: List of the Consultees  
Appendix 4: Notes of the Public Meeting  
Appendix 5: Consultation Responses  
Appendix 6: Equality Impact Assessment  
Appendix 7: Climate Change Impact Assessment

## **Appendix 1a**

# **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 Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, to discontinue:

St Hilda's Ampleforth Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, Station Road, Ampleforth, York, North Yorkshire, YO62 4DG on 31 August 2024.

St Hilda's Ampleforth 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 2024.

## **Reason for closure**

St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School, is located in the rural village of Ampleforth. Ampleforth village lies partially within the North York Moors National Park and partially in the Howardian Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The school is defined by the government as a rural school that serves a rural village. The Department for Education expects all decision makers to adopt a presumption against the closure of rural schools. However, in their statutory guidance they make it clear that this does not mean that a rural school will never close, but that the case for closure should be strong and clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area. The school was previously in a Federation with Hovingham CE VC Primary School from April 2015 until Hovingham's closure in March 2023.

Governors asked the Council to consult on the closure due to low pupil numbers and an expected Reception intake of 0 pupils in September 2024 leading to a decline in the overall number on roll. This has led to financial pressures, meaning that the school would have an in-year deficit in 2024/25 and a cumulative deficit by 2025/6. The school's current leadership arrangement with leadership being provided by the Arete Learning Trust (formerly Ryedale Learning Trust) is only in place until the end of the summer term 2024.. Governors requested the consultation at this time as they have identified the importance of a decision on the school's future being made before the end of the academic year.

## **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 13 pupils on roll at the school of compulsory school age, plus 2 in nursery. Five of the 13 pupils are female, and eight pupils are male.

	Pupil numbers	PAN
Reception	1	7
Year 1	4	7
Year 2	0	7
Year 3	0	7
Year 4	3	7
Year 5	1	7
Year 6	4	7
Totals	13	

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 around 49 pupils.

## Displaced pupils

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

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

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

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

- a) No interim arrangements have been necessary

The nearest school to St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School is St Benedict's Catholic Primary School also located in Ampleforth and under 0.1 miles from the St Hilda's CE VC Primary School site. St Benedict's Catholic Primary School has places available in most year groups and the capacity to take additional pupils as a result of the proposed closure.

It is proposed that the current St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School catchment area would be split between Husthwaite CE VC Primary School, Helmsley Community Primary School and Terrington CE VA Primary School.

This would mean the parishes of Gilling East, Grimstone, Cawton and Coulton would become part of the catchment area for Terrington CE. The parishes of Oswaldkirk and Stonegrave would become part of the catchment area for Helmsley Community Primary School. The parishes of Byland with Wass and Ampleforth would become part of the catchment area for Husthwaite CE. This would mean that the majority of the St Hilda's catchment area would continue to have a Church of England school nearby as their catchment school, with the exception of Oswaldkirk and Stonegrave which would be in catchment for the school which is nearest to them by road.

As is currently the case, parents of pupils from any part of the existing St Hilda's catchment area and beyond could choose to apply for places at St Benedict's and would be entitled to places where available in line with St Benedict's Catholic Primary School admissions policy. As part of the consultation process we are asking for views on the future catchment area.

Free home to school transport would be provided for eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.

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 and Academy schools, the local governing body decide the conditions for admission to their particular school. Where a child attends a school which is not their normal school or nearest school, parents are normally responsible for making transport arrangements.

- b) This is a mainstream primary, and therefore, not a school that is reserved for providing to pupils with special educational needs
- c) This is a mainstream school, and therefore, not a special school that is reserved for providing to pupils with special educational needs

## **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.

In some villages the school itself may be the only building large enough to facilitate community gatherings however, in the case of Ampleforth there is a village hall and a church hall associated with the Catholic church, both of which are available for hire. In addition to St Hilda's CE VC Primary School there is, and in the event of closure, would remain another primary school within the village. There is currently no community use of the St Hilda's school site beyond the core educational use by the school.

The St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary school buildings and playground are owned by the Diocese of York and the school playing field is owned by the Council. Any decisions about the future of the site and buildings would be taken separately from the decision on whether to close the school.

The village of Ampleforth has two other educational settings. The first is St Benedict's Catholic Primary School and the second is the Ampleforth College a Catholic Independent School for 11 to 19 year olds.

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.

St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC 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 discontinuance of the school on the local community;
- the availability, and likely cost to the local authority, of transport to other schools;
- any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- any alternatives to the discontinuance 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**

As of October 2023 there were 94 Primary aged children who were living in the catchment area of St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School and attending a North Yorkshire School. Of those, 13 were attending St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC and 81 were attending elsewhere.

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

Home to school travel assistance would be provided for entitled pupils in accordance with the Council's home to school transport policy. Costs will depend on the individual choices of schools by parents, and may also depend on the circumstances of individual pupils.

### **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)**

It is considered that there is not a need to retain the school to meet the Council's sufficiency duty. The level of demand for places at the school is low and this has been a key factor in the closure proposal being brought forward.

### **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 challenging to ascertain the degree to which this proposal will cause an increase in journeys and mileage of those journeys. Some of the pupils that have attended St Hilda's CE VC Primary historically will have travelled by car and this is particularly true for pupils attending from outside the catchment area. The nature of parental preference and the choice of method to get to school including taking account of any lift sharing is also difficult to account for. If the 10 pupils currently projected to be on roll at September 2024 at St Hilda's CE VC Primary went to the nearest school to their home following the closure then 8 of them would likely be within the statutory walking distance to that school. If all parents chose to send their children to schools further afield then this would likely increase emissions from transport associated with this cohort. However, it must also be acknowledged that maintaining a school itself has an impact on energy and resource usage and therefore carbon usage, emissions and climate change. At present the school is operating and being heated and powered for 13 statutory school age pupils when the building itself could accommodate more pupils. This is not an efficient use of energy. Whichever schools the pupils subsequently attend would likely have a negligible increase in energy usage associated with the pupils joining compared to the significant reduction in energy usage from the school ceasing to operate. A Climate Change Impact Assessment forms Appendix 7 and addresses the issue in further detail.

### **Any alternatives to the closure of the school**

When the Governing Board asked the Council to commence the consultation they did so having fully considered pupil numbers, financial prospects and future sources of leadership. The projected budget deficit was based upon the current leadership costs continuing and it is likely that the leadership costs would significantly increase if the school were to appoint a substantive headteacher (either full time or a part-time

executive leadership with another school or schools) which would result in a further deterioration of the budget position.

With particular regard to the proposal for the school to join an academy trust, the pupil numbers have not grown sufficiently to ensure that the funding available will be sufficient for the school to be viable going forward. Consequently, while the Diocese previously had positive dialogue about the required steps for the school to join the Ryedale Learning Trust in the past and the trust discussed academy conversion with the Department for Education at that time, an application did not reach the Department for Education's advisory board due to the low and falling numbers and questions over the viability of the school. It should be noted that Ryedale Learning Trust no longer exists and any discussions with DfE about academy conversion have ceased.

With regards to the St Hilda CE VC Primary School working in partnership with the local Catholic primary school this would be challenging. St Benedict's Catholic Primary School is an academy which is part of the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust and so any arrangements between the two schools would need to be proposed by the trust and supported by the relevant dioceses.

With the currently financial outlook for the school and as no school or trust has come forward with a solution during the consultation, no option for working with other schools is considered possible at this time.

## **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.

St Hilda's Ampleforth 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 alternative Church of England School is Husthwaite CE VC Primary School which is situated 6.4 miles from St Hilda's CE VC Primary School.

The Diocese is supporting the LA with the consultation and 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 St Hilda's Ampleforth 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 Council's home to school transport policy and procedures based on each child's home address and individual circumstances.

Parents were, and will be, reminded of the Council's home to school transport policy when considering alternative schools. Eligibility is assessed on an individual basis taking into account the child's home address.

North Yorkshire 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 times for children living within the current St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School catchment area to other nearby primary schools would be well within these guidelines. The nearest schools are:

- St Benedict's Catholic Primary School which is situated 0.3 miles from St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School.
- Helmsley Community Primary School is the next closest school and is located 4.9 miles from St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School.
- Hustwaite CE VC Primary School is the nearest alternative Church of England Primary School, which is situated 6.4 miles from St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School.

Pupils would be eligible for travel arrangements from NYC 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 Strategic Planning - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, or by email to [schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk) by 14 June 2024.

### **Consultation**

The decision to consult on closure was taken by the Executive Member for Schools on 20 February 2024 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 as Appendices 2 and 3 respectively. The consultation period ran from 1 March 2024 to 19 April 2024. A public meeting was held on 18 March 2024, notes of the meeting are attached as Appendix 4. Consultation responses are set out in Appendix 5.

## **Appendices**

**Appendix 1b: Statutory Notice**

**Appendix 2: Consultation Paper**

**Appendix 3: List of the Consultees**

**Appendix 4: Notes of the Public Meeting**

**Appendix 5: Consultation Responses**

**Appendix 6: Equality Impact Assessment**

**Appendix 7: Climate Change Impact Assessment**

## **Appendix 1B**

# **NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL Proposal to Cease to Maintain a School St Hilda's Ampleforth Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School**

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, intends to discontinue St Hilda's Ampleforth Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, Station Road, Ampleforth, York, North Yorkshire, YO62 4DG on 31 August 2024.

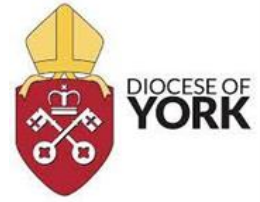
The proposal also includes revised school catchment area arrangements that would apply, in the event of closure, from 1 September 2024.

Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE and are available on the Council's website at [www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://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 Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 5pm on 14 June 2024.

Signed: B. Khan  
Assistant Chief Executive  
(Legal and Democratic  
Services)  
Publication Date: 22 May 2024

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# *Consultation Document*

Proposal to close  
St Hilda's Ampleforth Church of England Voluntary  
Controlled Primary School  
from 31 August 2024

## **Appendix 2**

### **St Hilda's Ampleforth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

March 2024

This paper sets out details of a proposal by North Yorkshire Council to close St Hilda's Ampleforth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School with effect from 31 August 2024. It gives the background to the proposal. There will be a public meeting at Ampleforth Village Hall, West End, Ampleforth, York, YO62 4DU on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm.

#### **Background**

At a meeting of the Governing Board of the St Hilda's Ampleforth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School on 17 January 2024 it was reluctantly resolved, following a full discussion about pupil numbers, financial prospects and future sources of leadership, to invite North Yorkshire Council to commence a consultation on closure of this school.

St Hilda's Ampleforth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, is located in the village of Ampleforth. The village lies partially within the North York Moors National Park and partially in the Howardian Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The school is defined by the government as a rural school that serves a rural village. The Department for Education expects all decision makers to adopt a presumption against the closure of rural schools. However, in their statutory guidance they make it clear that this does not mean that a rural school will never close, but that the case for closure should be strong and clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area. The school was previously in a Federation with Hovingham CE VC Primary School from April 2015 until Hovingham's closure in March 2023.

Governors have brought forward this proposal to consult on the closure due to low pupil numbers and an expected Reception intake of no pupils in September 2024 leading to a decline in the overall number on roll. This has led to financial pressures, meaning that the school would have an in-year deficit in 2024/25 and a cumulative deficit by 2025. The school's current leadership arrangement is only in place until the end of the summer term 2024. Governors have requested the consultation at this time as they have identified the importance of a decision on the school's future being made before the end of the academic year

#### **Factors Affecting the School's Viability**

##### **Pupil Numbers**

St Hilda's is a small rural 3-11 CE VC Primary School and currently has 13 children of statutory school age on roll. The School has operated with 36 pupils or less for the last 15 years. According to the October census each year there has been a downward trend in the number of pupils on roll since 2018/19:

2016/17 – 20 pupils

2017/18 – 27

2018/19 – 36

2019/20 – 35

## **Appendix 2**

2020/21 – 28

2021/22 – 29

2022/23 – 20

2023/24 – 13 (October 2023)

The current breakdown of the number of pupils of statutory school age at St Hilda's CE VC Primary School is as follows:

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Number on Roll</b>
Reception	1
Year 1	4
Year 2	0
Year 3	0
Year 4	3
Year 5	1
Year 6	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>

Therefore with 4 pupils in the current Year 6 and the school projected to have no new Reception pupils in September 2024 it likely that the number on roll will have dropped to 9 by Autumn Term 2024.

The school has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 7 pupils per year group. The school has capacity to accommodate up to 49 pupils if all spaces are in use, and therefore has the potential to contribute 49 places in the local area.

### **School Leadership, Standards and Curriculum**

There have been changes in leadership at the School in the recent past and the following paragraphs describe the position from the Governing Board's perspective.

In late August 2022 the Governing Board learned that the headteacher of the Federation would not be returning at the start of the autumn term. This left the Governing Board having to source alternative leadership at very short notice. Council officers provided guidance and assistance to secure Executive Leadership from another Federation, with a main focus on securing the education provision at St.Hilda's CE VC Primary School. At the start of autumn term 2022 there were no pupils on roll at Hovingham which would in turn affect the future financing of the school, so in October the then Federated Governing Board invited NYC to embark on a consultation on closure of Hovingham school. With intense efforts on exploring all options to help secure the future of both St Hilda's and Hovingham, the Governing Board contacted the Ryedale Learning Trust (RLT) to ascertain what leadership support they could offer the Federation Governing Board and schools in the short term. It was the view of Governors that the RLT had the vision and resources to provide inspirational leadership the schools required. In addition, the affirmative response to the question of whether the Trust was open to exploring the possibility of both CofE schools joining the Academy Trust in the medium term (or St Hilda's in the event of Hovingham being closed) was key to the decision. Following positive discussions and having reviewed all other options, the Federation Governors voted unanimously on 1 December 2022

## **Appendix 2**

to become Associate Members of the RLT from January 2023, with a view to one, or should it remain open, both schools joining the Trust in the future.

The statutory consultation process on the closure of Hovingham school between autumn 2022 and March 2023 had a significant impact on St. Hilda's as the other school in the Hovingham & St. Hilda's Federation, and Governors feel that the uncertainty may have impacted pupil numbers in the last academic year. It is the board's view that St Hilda's CE VC Primary School has benefitted significantly from the experienced executive leader provided by RLT since January 2023, and the school has been on a journey of transformation to being a vibrant local primary school providing high quality educational provision and delivering strong outcomes. Sadly, despite this improved educational provision and a lot of publicity and promotion of the school, pupil numbers have not grown sufficiently to ensure that the funding available will be sufficient going forward. Consequently, while the diocese had positive dialogue about the required steps for the school to join the trust and RLT discussed academy conversion with DfE although an application did not reach the DfE's advisory board due to the low and falling numbers and questions over the viability of the school. Governors have expressed that despite this, RLT have been very generous in agreeing to continue their support of the school to try and make it a viable and sustainable school for the community it serves.

RLT provided the support for the school free of charge for the spring and summer term in 2023 and is providing the executive leadership support for the school this academic year (2023-24) for a contribution of £5k, as they understand the financial pressures St Hilda's is facing and want to help. RLT has offered to continue to provide executive support for the school for the next academic year (2024-25) on the same basis if the school's circumstances changed and the Council determined not to proceed with the closure of the school.

The most recent full graded Ofsted inspection for St Hilda's was in March 2020. At that time there were 38 pupils on roll. Ofsted judged the school to be 'Good'. As numbers fall, it is increasingly difficult to provide the remaining pupils with access to the full range of experiences and the quality of education they require.

### **The Financial Position**

Pupil numbers are a significant factor in determining the school budget under the national funding formula, and the fall in pupil numbers has undermined the school's future financial position.

Based on the 2023/24 Revised Budget submitted in December 2023 the school had a budget surplus of £84.7k at the end of the 2022/23 financial year; the funding for the 2023/24 financial year was based on 27 pupils. The school is projecting an in year budget surplus of £10.4k giving a carry forward budget at the end of March 2024 of £95.1k.

However, the school is projecting in-year budget deficits of £66.8k in 2024/25 and £84.5k in 2025/26 and an overall cumulative budget deficit of £56.2k at March 2026. The budget projections are based on pupil number assumptions of 13 in 2024/25 and 11 in 2025/26, so the position will deteriorate further if pupil numbers fall below that level. It is understood that these current budget projections assume future leadership

## **Appendix 2**

costs continue at the same level as the current interim arrangements. However, it is likely that the leadership costs would significantly increase if the school were to appoint a substantive headteacher (either full time or part-time) which would result in a further deterioration of the budget position. Therefore, there appears to be no reasonable prospect of longer-term financial viability for the school.

In the event of St Hilda's closing on the 31 August 2024, any legacy costs associated with the operation of the school incurred in the 2024/25 financial year would need to continue to be charged to the school budget. Any final deficit on the school budget, after all costs have been accounted for, would need to be met from local authority funds. 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 allocated in line with the Closing School Accounting Policy.

### **Primary School places in the local area**

There are currently 13 pupils of statutory school age on roll at St Hilda's Ampleforth. The Council has a Statutory Duty to ensure the sufficiency of school places. This section will consider the availability of school places in the local area.

There are six neighbouring schools which are located within 10 miles of St Hilda's by road: St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, Helmsley Community Primary School, Hushwaite Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Terrington Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Slingsby Community Primary School and Crayke Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School. These schools along with their distances from St Hilda's are listed in the accompanying documents which are also available on the Council Website at the link below. This highlights which schools currently have spaces and in which year groups.

At the October 2023 school census there were 94 pupils living within the St Hilda's catchment area and attending North Yorkshire schools. Of those 13 were attending St Hilda's CE VC Primary School, 55 were attending St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, 10 were attending Helmsley Community Primary School and the remainder were attending a variety of local schools.

The accompanying information provides projected numbers based on forecast birth rates, with potential additional pupils from outstanding housing permissions and proposed housing allocations in the Ryedale District Local Plan, prepared and adopted by the former Ryedale District Council in 2013. The figures in the accompanying information illustrate that there is currently a surplus of school places across the local area and it is not necessary to maintain St Hilda's CE in order to ensure a sufficiency of school places.

### **The Proposal**

For the reasons above it is proposed that St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School should close with effect from 31 August 2024.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Admissions and Catchment Areas**

Officers, having consulted with Diocesan representatives, have identified a proposal to split the catchment area of St Hilda's between three other local schools. The current catchment and proposed catchments are shown on maps available on the Council website at the link below.

The current St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School catchment area would be split between Husthwaite CE VC Primary School, Helmsley Community Primary School and Terrington CE VA Primary School.

This would mean the parishes of Gilling East, Grimstone, Cawton and Coulton would become part of the catchment area for Terrington CE. The parishes of Oswaldkirk and Stonegrave would become part of the catchment area for Helmsley Community Primary School. The parishes of Byland with Wass and Ampleforth would become part of the catchment area for Husthwaite CE. This would mean that the majority of the St Hilda's catchment area would continue to have a Church of England school nearby as their catchment school, with the exception of Oswaldkirk and Stonegrave which would be in catchment for the school which is nearest to them by road.

As is currently the case, parents of pupils from any part of the existing St Hilda's catchment area and beyond could choose to apply for places at St Benedict's and would be entitled to places where available in line with St Benedict's Catholic Primary School admissions policy. As part of the consultation process we are asking for views on the future catchment area.

Free home to school transport would be provided for eligible pupils taking account of the revised catchment area arrangements in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.

### **Staff**

A separate staff consultation process, including a meeting for staff and their professional associations and unions, will run in parallel with this consultation on the closure proposal. Staff are also welcome to comment on the proposal as part of this consultation.

### **The School Site and Buildings**

The ownership of the school site is split between the Diocese of York and North Yorkshire Council. Decisions about the future of the school site would be separate to any closure decision itself and would follow at a later date.

### **Additional Information**

This consultation document should be read in conjunction with the following documents which can be found here [www.northyorks.gov.uk/your-council/consultations-and-engagement/current-consultations](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/your-council/consultations-and-engagement/current-consultations)

- Maps showing the current local catchment areas including the proposed catchment areas should St Hilda's Ampleforth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School close.

## **Appendix 2**

- Other schools – capacities and forecasts

### **What Happens Next?**

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

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

FREEPOST RTKE-RKAY-CUJS

St Hilda's Ampleforth

Strategic Planning

North Yorkshire Council

County Hall

NORTHALLERTON

DL7 8AE

Online responses may be submitted by following this link:

#####

Responses to the consultation will be published on the Council's website. Your personal details, and those of others you may refer to, will not be published.

### **The closing date for responses is 5pm on Friday 19 April 2024**

All responses to the consultation received by this date are scheduled to be considered by the Council's Executive on 7 May 2024.

If the Council's Executive decides to proceed with the closure proposal, then statutory notices would be published in the local press on 17 May 2024. These notices would provide a further four weeks for representations to be made. A final decision is then scheduled to be taken by North Yorkshire Council's Executive on 16 July 2024. If agreed, the school would close on 31 August 2024.

### **Anticipated Key Dates**

All dates are subject to approvals at each stage.

Consultation opens	1 March 2024
Public meeting	18 March at 6pm
Consultation closes	19 April 2024
Council's Executive considers consultation response	7 May 2024
Statutory Notices published (4 weeks for representations to be made)	17 May – 14 June 2024

## **Appendix 2**

Final decision by Council's Executive	16 July 2024
Proposed school closure date	31 August 2024

## **Appendix 2**

### **St Hilda's Ampleforth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School Consultation**

This is a consultation on proposals to close St Hilda's Ampleforth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School from 31 August 2024.

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.

Reading our Privacy Notice will help you understand how and why we process your personal data. [www.northyorks.gov.uk/privacy-notices](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/privacy-notices)

Do you have any comments about the closure proposal?  
(Please do not disclose any personal information in your answer)

## Appendix 2

Do you have any comments about catchment areas?  
(Please do not disclose any personal information in your answer)

What is your interest/status? Parent / Governor / Teacher / Community / Other

Other (please state)

Name of school:  
(if applicable)

To confirm your proximity to school and to prevent duplicate responses we are asking you to provide your name and address. This information will be removed from any analysis or reports.

Name:

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**

Please send this response sheet to the following "FREEPOST" address. You do not need to use a postage stamp.

FREEPOST RTKE-RKAY-CUJS  
St Hilda's Ampleforth  
Strategic Planning  
North Yorkshire Council  
County Hall  
NORTHALLERTON  
DL7 8AE

Or to submit your response online go to:

[#####](#)

To be received by no later than 19 April 2024

## Appendix 3

### Ampleforth St Hilda's CE Primary School – List of Consultees (February 2024)

Ampleforth St Hilda's CE Primary School	Parents
	Staff and governors
	Chair of Governors

Neighbouring Schools	St Benedict's Catholic Primary School - a Catholic voluntary academy
	Helmsley Community Primary School
	Hustwaite Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School
	Crayke Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School
	Slingsby Community Primary School
	Terrington Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Unions and Professional Associations: (as at September 2021)	NAHT
	NASUWT
	NEU (formerly NUT & ATL)
	VOICE
	ASCL
	UNISON

Diocesan Directors	York Diocese
	Middlesbrough Diocese

Neighbouring Local Authority	N/A
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Community Organisations	Library Service

Local MP	Kevin Hollinrake
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Regional Director for Yorkshire & Humber	
Secretary of State:	

Local Councillor/s	Helmsley & Sinnington
	Amotherby & Ampleforth
	Hillside & Raskelf

Local Parish /Town Councils (via clerks)	Byland with Wass and Oldstead
	Ampleforth

	Oswaldkirk
	Stonegrave
	Gilling East with Cawton, Coulton and Grimston
	Helmsley
	Hustwaite
	Terrington
	Carlton Hustwaite
	Oulston
	Thornton on the Hill
	Hovingham with Scackleton
	Hawnby
	Old Byland with Scawton
	Rievaulx
	Sproxton
	Beadlam
	Harome
	Pockley
	Coxwold
	Newburgh
	Cold Kirby
	Wilden Grange

Early Years Providers within 5 mile radius of Ampleforth CE VC Primary School	Daisy Day Care
	Little Years Nursery Ltd - Helmsley
	Sarah Coxon
	Helmsley Primary Academy - Gr Nursery
	St Benedicts Roman Catholic Primary Academy
	Hustwaite Ce Vc School

Internal distribution	Advisor
	Governor Support
	HR Advisor
	School Admissions
	Passenger Transport
	Catering/Building Cleaning
	Planning
	Strategic Planning
	Press Office
	FMS Officer
	Executive Members
Other parties suggested by the school	Ampleforth College

## Appendix 4

### **Record of Public Meeting concerning proposed closure of St Hilda’s Ampleforth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School at Ampleforth Village Hall**

**Public Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 6pm**

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**Present:** Cllr Annabel Wilkinson (Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills, NYC), Amanda Newbold, (Assistant Director Education and Skills NYC), Andrew Smith - Diocesan Director of Education, Church of England Diocese of York, Johanna Senior, (Chair of the St Hilda’s Ampleforth CE VC Primary School Governing Board), Lucy Wilshaw (Foundation Governor), Charles Raynard (LA Governor), Julie Pattison, (Principal Adviser NYC), Howard Emmett (Assistant Director Resources ), Matt George (Strategic Planning Officer, NYC) and Julia Temple (Strategic Planning Officer, NYC).

**Apologies:** Mark McCandless (Chief Executive Officer, Ryedale Learning Trust), Claire Lamb (Executive Headteacher St Hilda’s CE VC Primary School)

### AGENDA

• Meeting opens – brief welcome - Introduction to the Panel	Johanna Senior, Chair of St Hilda’s Ampleforth School Governing Board
Presentation	Matt George – Strategic Planning Manager NYC
Question and Answer Session	Chaired by Cllr Annabel Wilkinson, Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills
Meeting Close	Cllr Annabel Wilkinson

#### **1. Welcome**

##### **Johanna Senior (Chair of St Hilda’s Ampleforth CE VC School Governing Board)**

Joanna welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the panel. Unfortunately, the Executive Headteacher and Mark McCandless from the Ryedale Learning Trust had just received the call from Ofsted and was unable to attend the meeting in order to prepare for an upcoming inspection.

#### **2. Presentation from NYC**

Matt George, Strategic Planning Officer, NYC, explained that the meeting was being held to discuss the proposal to close St Hilda’s Ampleforth Church of England Primary School with effect from 31 August 2024.

**Matt explained the following roles and responsibilities as part of the process:**

**Officers of North Yorkshire Council** are conducting this consultation on behalf of the Council.

Officers are authors of the report to the Executive and will therefore take notes of the meeting today so that all views can be reflected in the report.

**Governing Board of St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School** is responsible for the strategic direction of the school, including how to optimise the use of resources and maximise value for money.

The Executive Headteacher and Leadership team are responsible for operational management of the school. The Headteacher and leaders are accountable to the Governing Board

Matt George provided a presentation which covered:

- o The proposal
- o Background to the proposal
- o Pupil numbers
- o Pupil numbers over time
- o Admissions context
- o Finances
- o School Leadership, Standards and Curriculum
- o Local Schools
- o Catchment area proposals
- o School staff
- o School site
- o What happens now
- o How can people comment

The slides explained the background to the closure proposal of falling rolls. In January 2024 the Governing Board approached the Council to seek consultation on the proposed closure of St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary. There were 13 pupils of statutory school age on the school roll at this time and the available information showed no sign of any significant growth in the roll.

This has led to financial pressures, meaning that the school would have an in-year deficit in 2024/25 and a cumulative deficit by 2025. The school's current leadership arrangement is only in place until the end of the summer term 2024. Governors have requested the consultation at this time as they have identified the importance of a decision on the school's future being made before the end of the academic year.

There has been a downward trend in the number of pupils on roll since 2018/19 when there were 36 pupils on roll, this dropped to 28 in 2020/21 and 20 in 2022/23.

Matt went on to explain that pupil numbers determine a school's budget. The revised budget was based upon 13 pupils who were on roll in October 2023 and a projection of 11 pupils on roll in October 2024. If the actual number falls below that then the financial position would worsen. This budget projection assumes future leadership costs continue at the same level as the current interim arrangements. However, it is

likely that the leadership costs would significantly increase if the school were to appoint a substantive headteacher (either full time or part-time) which would result in a further deterioration of the budget position. Therefore, there appears to be no reasonable prospect of longer-term financial viability for the school.

If school closure were to go ahead any legacy costs associated with the operation of the school incurred in the 2024/25 financial year would need to continue to be charged to the St Hilda's CE VC Primary School budget. The NYC Closing School Accounting Guidance applies to the treatment of the balances of a closing school (surplus or deficit)

There is a Leadership Team which is led by an Interim Executive Headteacher. The most recent full graded Ofsted inspection for St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary was in March 2020. At that time there were 38 pupils on roll. Ofsted judged the school, to be 'Good'. As numbers fall, it is increasingly difficult to provide the remaining pupils with access to the full range of experiences and the quality of education they require.

There are 6 neighbouring North Yorkshire schools within 10 miles of St Hilda's CE VC by road;

- St Benedict's Catholic Primary School
- Helmsley Community Primary School
- Hustwaite Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School
- Terrington Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School
- Slingsby Community Primary School
- Crayke Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Matt explained that should the decision be made to close the school then there would also need to be a decision around how the catchment area would be split between neighbouring schools. The proposal being put forward is to split the current catchment area between Hustwaite Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Helmsley Community Primary School and Terrington Church of England VA Primary School. Views are invited on the option presented, or any other option.

The ownership of the school site is split between the Council and the Diocese of York. Decisions about future use would be taken after determination of the closure proposal.

Matt stated that the consultation runs until 19 April 2024 and if approved then ten a further consultation would take place between 17 May and 24 June 2024. A final decision would then be taken on 16 July 2024.

### **3. Questions and Answers**

Matt then handed over to Cllr Wilkinson who chaired the questions and answer session.

A local resident asked where the slides are that shows the argument for keeping the school open? He went on to say that the background only shows the reasons for

closing the school and asked if the Council had considered why the school should remain open. He said that this looks very much like a decision that has already been taken and would like to know the reasons why the school should remain open.

Amanda Newbold explained the role of the school governors and part of that role is dealing with the school finances. She said the Governing Body have made a really difficult decision to come to the LA to request a closure consultation. All the reasons to keep a school open are already happening and North Yorkshire have over 200 schools open, but this is a consultation about a closure proposal.

A resident who has moved into the village fairly recently asked how can the LA be sure that the downward projection is not a result of the Covid pandemic?

Amanda Newbold replied that the information we have is based on the numbers of children living within the catchment area. She went on to explain that GP data and housing data is also used to predict the numbers of children in the area. She said the LA can only respond to the data we have and cannot speculate on the reasons why those numbers have fallen.

A parent has carried out their own research and although there aren't many children in area they do know of a number of parents who are looking to sign up to send their children to the school. They also felt that the closure would be a contradiction to the Ryedale Local Plan as a service village.

A resident asked whether any of the other local schools shown on the slides are going through a consultation for closure?

Amanda Newbold replied that there aren't but there are proposals for Academisation.

The owner of a local nursery said that they are finding they are getting more interest from younger children which will in turn push out the older children and asked whether we have considered where these children will go?

A grandparent stated that the number of children that go to St Benedict's has risen in recent years as the number of children that go to St Hilda's has fallen. He went on to say that years ago both schools had strong, positive proactive leadership, and that changes to leadership has unsettled parents. He has also heard that some parents have been put off sending their children to St Hilda's because of the rumours around potential closure.

A parent referred to St Hilda's being classed as a rural school and said that the LA is only looking at the short-term decline in numbers and asked about the longer term forecasted numbers.

Cllr Mason said Ampleforth is one of the key service villages in the area. He said that the surplus grant funding at NYC should be going towards supporting schools. We have a school here in a village that represents what North Yorkshire is about and he's going to hold the Executive to account, and they should stop thinking on a 12 month basis.

Howard Emmett responded to say that this was a one off grant from the Department of Education that can only be spent on schools which are currently in a deficit financial position and that funding has to be spent within this financial year.

A parent and journalist said that she had sent in a Freedom of Information request to the DfE who said that 26 rural schools have closed and wants to know how many of those were within North Yorkshire.

Amanda Newbold said she believed there have been 16 school closures within North Yorkshire over the last 7 years but would have to check on which of those were designated as rural schools.

A parent who resides within the catchment area for Helmsley Primary School felt that that school was too big for her daughter, and she didn't thrive there. She went on to say that since moving her to St Hilda's she has come on leaps and bounds. She also said that she would want her daughter to go to a Church of England school.

A parent said they had been told that this was a school that was closing and that would have put parents off attending St Hilda's. She went on to question how much is it going to cost to pick up the additional transport costs?

Amanda Newbold said that as a rural school one of the elements that would be taken into consideration is the impact around transport, however, at this stage there haven't been any discussions with parents about which school they would preference so the LA can't put a figure on those costs just yet. Amanda went on to explain about the Home to School transport consultation currently underway and explained about the distances at which children would be eligible for transport.

A resident said that all answers being given make her think that no one has actually given consideration to the actual costs if the school was to stay open and asked why the preference exercise hasn't already been undertaken.

Amanda Newbold explained that the cost of transport sits with the Council and doesn't come out of the school budget so that wouldn't change the school's financial position. Amanda said that coming to parents to ask which alternative school they would preference could have been seen as pre-determining the closure decision.

A parent stated that since their son has been going to St Hilda's he has been thriving.

The Chair of Governors for the Foston, Terrington and Stillington Federation pointed out that the information on the slides should show that Terrington is also federated with Stillington. She also wanted it to be made clear that the Home to School transport consultation will only provide transport to the nearest school.

Amanda Newbold said that this closure consultation started prior to the Home to School transport consultation.

A parent, and also a previous pupil at the school said they both work full time and currently make use of the school's wrap around care. They currently drop their children off at 7.30am and don't collect them until after they finish work. What are

they going to do if the school was to close? Would one of them have to give up work?

A resident said that the Council keep saying they will get transport to their child's nearest school but for most it will be St Benedict's. She also said that it isn't that they don't want to send their children to St Benedict's but that their admissions policy does not welcome their attendance due to being a different faith.

Cllr Wilkinson responded on the point about transport and said all those issues would be considered as part of that consultation process.

A parent said that all four of her children have had a positive experience at St Hilda's. She asked how many schools are already in a financial deficit within North Yorkshire? She went on to say that her eldest child started in 2011 and there was a mass exodus at that point and there were only 12 pupils at the school but it then recovered.

Howard Emmett responded with 31 schools in an accumulated deficit but each one is in a different position with most having a recovery plan.

A parent said they have a son who has an EHCP, he said this is a written agreement and should the school close this would be a breach of that agreement and he would take legal action. He said there will be other parents with children with EHCP's who have not been taken into account. His view is that this is a post Covid situation and people have lost their nerve.

Another parent of a child with an EHCP added that their child would really struggle at another school and it was only being at St Hilda's that he was able to get through his primary education.

A resident said that as we are making this decision based on a budget deficit, how much money would it actually take to keep the school open?

Howard Emmet replied that the number of pupils are used to project the finances going forward. Governors have looked and seen that with the reduced number of pupils the viability of the school is in question.

The resident then asked why some schools were allowed to go into a financial deficit?

Howard Emmett replied that some schools have only a temporary deficit but have a 3-year recovery plan.

A parent requested a further look at the slides showing the alternative schools. She said that St Benedict's was not a viable option, Helmsley in 2-3 years' time is expected to be at full capacity, Husthwaite has an RI Ofsted rating and has a falling pupil roll and the nursery should be rated good or equivalent to that which is closing, and Terrington is too far away. In her opinion there are no other viable options.

A former pupil and parent said that St Hilda's is a fabulous school with wraparound care and feels there is no other option of a school that meets what they currently

have. One of them would have to stop work in order to look after their children if there was no wraparound care at another school.

Amanda Newbold said she will make sure we understand what wraparound care the other schools currently offer and will make that information available to parents. She also went on to say that from September 2024 all schools will have to offer or at least sign post to wraparound care.

Cllr Wilkinson invited Julie Pattison to talk about the quality of education at the school. Julie said that one of the big challenges for a school of that size is being able to continue to offer a broad curriculum and therefore ensuring a quality of education. Having so few children in the school can also create social challenges.

A parent said we also need to consider nursery children amongst those numbers and went on to say how well all the children play together at all ages.

A resident stated that the deficit budget is around £60,000 and the Executive can change the policy to enable those schools that have projected deficits to also apply for some funding to plug the gap.

Charles Raynard said that from a Governors' perspective this has been a positive meeting. He said that what this school needs is some longevity and for parents to take that leap into sending their children to St Hilda's. He went on to explain that they have had to undertake this process as the projected pupil numbers don't look favourable. He said it would be helpful if everyone could send their comments and observations into the consultation so they can all be considered.

A resident queried who makes the decision to close the school and said that she felt the decision had already been taken.

Cllr Wilkinson replied that the decision is taken by the Executive which is a group of 10 people.

There was a query around the Home to School transport policy and how and when that is happening. Cllr Wilkinson said the consultation for that is currently underway.

A former parent said they can think of at least 10 names of children who have gone onto local employment. She added that her husband was the school caretaker and in winter that school never closed. She said he would look after the children until their parents were able to get to the school to pick them up.

A parent who's four children have attended the school asked how can a child be expected to walk 2 miles there and back to their school? She added that they would be too tired to learn.

Andrew Smith from the Diocese of York said that the quality of education at the school has been preserved due to the good members of staff, but the reality is that it is not just this school who are facing a reduction in pupil numbers. He went on to say that he has colleagues in London who are facing similar difficult decisions at schools who have as many as 140 pupils on roll. He said the school is not in this position due to performance, but Ofsted is only a snap shot at a certain time and retaining a

good quality of education will be challenging with such low numbers. He said a lot of time and effort has gone into looking to see what they can do to keep the school going. They have looked at both short term and long term issues to see what can be done. He went on to explain that currently leadership support has been provided at a cost to the Ryedale Learning Trust which cannot continue and explained that in order to become an Academy they would need the Department for Education's approval.

A question was then asked around what the Diocese had done to help the school join another school?

A parent then asked if colleagues within the SEN department would be consulted.

Amanda assured the parent they would be.

#### **4. CLOSING REMARKS**

Cllr Wilkinson drew the meeting to a close by thanking everyone for their questions and assured those present that all of their comments would be included in the minutes and considered in the final report.

The Meeting Closed at 7.45 pm

**Appendix 5**

**Consultation responses**

Ref No 1	Do you have any comments about the closure proposal?	Do you have any comments about the proposed catchment are...	What is your interest/status?	To help us assess whether we have provided clear informat...	Do you have any suggestions for future improvements of th...
1	This should not be happening, Hovingham has closed, where are all children supposed to go without a long commute		Parent – St Hilda’s Ampleforth CE VC Primary School	Yes, it was easy to understand	No
2	This is a short sighted knee jerk reaction. This would never be even up for discussion when we were in the Ryedale Council. Someone in an overt tower who has probably never even heard of Ampleforth has struck a red line through a much loved Church of England School. These children are our future and should be nurtured and educated in a safe and settled school not moved around like financial pawns in some cost cutting exercise by North Yorkshire County Council	No	Member of Local Community	No, it was not easy to understand	Don’t close schools
3	Blank Response	Blank Response	Blank Response	Blank Response	Blank Response
4	We think the closure of St Hilda’s School would be a huge pity for the following reasons: 1. The school has had a good reputation over a number of years. 2. The school at Hovingham has already closed, depriving the locality of a school with a long tradition. 3. The closure of St Hilda’s would take the heart out of the community. 4. The closure would greatly increase transport costs.	The splitting of the Ampleforth catchment area would separate current pupils for their future education and take them out of their community.	Member of Local Community	Yes, it was easy to understand	
5	The decision to close a Good Ofsted school, with excellent education values and happy children due to a drop in one year’s intake, is extraordinary. The other primary school in the village is a Catholic school with a strong religious ethos and unsuitable for many families. It also has connections with the college which has come under fire for serious safe guarding issues. How do you encourage new families into the village when the only primary school on offer is a faith-based school? Ampleforth is a large village with continuing housing development. The need for a village C of E primary school is paramount. St Hilda’s has been the main village education provider since 1890. It is deeply woven in the fabric of the village and it will be a massive rent if this school closes. Businesses like the local daycare rely on the school remaining open. The Friends of St Hilda’s group have shown that there are children registered to attend in 2025 and interest expressed for children to attend in 2026. The presumption against the closure of rural schools states that proposers should look in the medium and long term when considering. In the medium term, the school intake rises. To shut this school in a matter of months is discriminatory and devastating to the children there who love it, love their fellow pupils and wish to stay. The school is an example of how good primary education can be. Constantly rated Good by Ofsted, it has a genuine family feel. Children thrive in the small class sizes and look after each other. Each year that leaves to secondary school, is confident, caring and ready to move on to the next stage of their education. To uproot the children there, separate them and shut an excellent primary school because of a short term blip in numbers is utterly ridiculous. This is a short-sighted knee jerk reaction and the bigger picture must be considered. The most important, fundamental institution is primary education and for the sake of a few pounds of tax payers’ money, NYCC wants to shut one of the best schools in the county. St Hilda’s is inclusive of religion, background and ability. It teaches their children to be the same. Children with EHCPs have their needs met exceptionally well. This is a priceless accommodation. Not all schools can do it. Get the start right in a child’s life and think of the money that will be saved later on as that child grows up to be a functioning and capable member of society. Because that is what it all comes down to. A bit of money. A school that has been teaching for over a hundred years, is part of the fabric of the village, is part of the community, is loved by the children, is welcoming, inclusive and has a high quality of teaching is under threat of closure because of a bit of money. Councils waste money all the time. Here’s a chance to do some good. To save this school by giving it the support it truly deserves. For one year until the numbers pick up. A small thing to ask for a place that works so hard. Lockdown has had reaching effects. Many schools are reporting a drop in numbers for the September 2024 intake. St. Hilda’s is not alone in this regard and we need to keep our primary schools going. Especially those that excel in what they do. Failing schools with serious issues in teaching and safe guarding take longer to shut. They are also offered help and support. St Hilda’s, so far has been given none. When a new headteacher was needed after lockdown, why didn’t the governors appoint one? The school could have been saved from this position with decisive leadership. Proposers	St. Benedict’s is a faith based religious school. This is not an option for many. To remove the inclusive C of E village primary school from the catchment area is a big mistake. Hustwaite school is Ofsted requires improvement and St. Hilda’s is Good. Hustwaite and Helmsley are both a distance away from Ampleforth and will require transport provision. When the council is cutting down on home to transport provision, closing a local primary school goes against this. Parents may be forced to move or change jobs in order to get their child to another school. Wraparound care is also in place and not available at an alternative primary school.	Parent – St Hilda’s Ampleforth CE VC Primary School	Yes, it was easy to understand	Do a bit more before it gets to this stage. The governors did nothing. Councillors are doing nothing.

	<p>must regard the document Opening and Closing maintained schools. Apart from a drop in funding there is no reason to close this school. It is valid, it is needed, it will be detrimental to the village and have far reaching consequences. The way this has been presented to the parents it's as though the local fish and chip was closing - sorry, you have to go to Helmsley for your chips now. This is not just a shop shutting, it's a school where people's lives are wrapped in. NYCC must not underestimate or take lightly the stress, anxiety, upset and concern that this is causing the children and parents. The governors even put in the letter that was emailed that they would give the children a happy and fun-filled final two terms. There is no happiness here. This will be heart-breaking for everyone involved. I find it incomprehensible that a fight is needed to keep an excellent primary school open. We should not have to fight for this. Education councillors and the Department of Education should be bending over backwards with help and support. The swiftness of this proposal is troubling. The first we hear of an issue is January and the closure date is August. Baffling. Let's all just fall at the first hurdle. Give up. Great message to send the children. Another great message is, we know you love your school, you are happy and safe here. You are thriving. You love your teachers and your friends but you and your education are not worth our consideration or bother. You can go to another school, it doesn't matter the difficulties this may cause. We don't have the money.</p>				
6	<p>Yes it should close. The school is too small, not economically viable and offers a limited range of educational resources. Constrained budgets should be targeted at larger schools. Furthermore it is anachronistic that in a majority secular society religion should play a part in the administration of our children's education - all primary schools should be community ones.</p>	<p>Ampleforth should be included in the Helmsley catchment.</p>	<p>Other- Parent of 4 children who have all been educated in Ryedale</p>	<p>Yes, it was easy to understand</p>	
7	<p>Blank Response</p>	<p>Blank Response</p>	<p>Blank Response</p>	<p>Blank Response</p>	<p>Blank Response</p>
8	<p>St Hildas is a vital part of the community and to lose it would be a great shame for future generations. There should always be a place for children who would not thrive in a large school. In recent years quite a few families moved their children to St Benedict's RC school. This was mainly due to the bad leadership of the previous head. Most of the families that stayed did so because they knew that a large school would not be suitable for their children and families should still be able to have that choice. With children having more and more complex needs, St Hildas is a perfect school for these children.</p>	<p>With some of the children at St Hildas having some degree of special needs, it would not be suitable or safe to put them on buses or taxis to transport to the other schools in the proposed catchment area. Also Ampleforth is in the catchment for Ryedale School which is where most Ampleforth children move onto. Hustwaite school is in a different catchment feeding into Easingwold school. Therefore if children went to Hustwaite they would then separate from many of their friends when it comes to secondary school.</p>	<p>Member of Local Community</p>	<p>Yes, it was easy to understand</p>	<p>No</p>
9	<p>This school has been allowed to struggle, it should never have been in a competition with St Bens for students. The ideal solution would be to have one non faith school servicing Ampleforth. A new school without a religious influence could easily service the area, both schools could be restructured and merged under new trust arrangements. There could then be an Ampleforth school which could serve the whole community. I suspect that the Council would not want to take in the might and influence of the RC church to make this possible. The council should never have let this small community have two faith schools. Historically this could have been prevented, there is still an opportunity to manage this situation for the benefit of all children of primary school age in Ampleforth.</p>	<p>Yes, there needs to be a range of options which would meet children's needs and parental choice</p>	<p>Member of Local Community</p>	<p>Yes, it was easy to understand</p>	<p>You do not have sufficient categories to cover interest. Eg Extended family, grandparents who are part of the school community</p>
10	<p>This seems a short sighted proposal as the numbers of children are likely to increase over the next couple of years. If the school closes I imagine the land will likely be sold for housing, ironically bringing more families into the village.</p>	<p>No. As long as it meets children's needs and parental choice and keeps travel to a minimum.</p>	<p>Member of Local Community</p>	<p>Yes, it was easy to understand</p>	<p>Consultation needs to involve the whole community and those affected by it.</p>
11	<p>I think it will be wrong to close this school as it has good teachers with a very good ethos for children at a very important time in their lives. I have seen the work done by and with the children and teachers and cannot recommend them highly enough. The low numbers appear to be likely to recover and I support giving the school the time to recover from the pandemic after effects. It is not a good idea to transport the children to schools unnecessarily adding to their long day and looking at the safety aspect with busy roads. There are younger children who would come to this school in the future. I also noticed the Ofsted reported the school as good which is a big consideration when choosing a school.</p>		<p>Grandparent- St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School</p>	<p>Yes, it was easy to understand</p>	
12	<p>The school is in a position to provide a quality educational experience for pupils on a very individual basis. It provides the foundations for strengthening the local community and pupils benefit from getting to know children and families locally. If the school were to close I believe children and their families are at risk of becoming socially isolated which will impact the children's future outcomes.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Other- Former Teach at St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School</p>		
13	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Other- Past Staff</p>	<p>Yes, it was easy to understand</p>	<p>No</p>

14	I think it would be short-sighted to close St Hilda's school based on the current pupil level. The school has a full intake ready for September 2025 and many of those children have younger siblings who will also attend St Hilda's. The current low pupil level is a blip - as the figures show there have been much higher numbers in previous years. There are plenty of families in the village with pre-school age children who will be left having to get in the car twice a day to drive their children to nearby schools. Which school these children will attend is a concern as Helmsley primary school is currently over subscribed, Slingsby school is almost at capacity and St Benedicts in Ampleforth is also close to capacity. The latter also has an admissions policy that would mean many village children would not be prioritised for a place if the school does hit capacity. That leaves Husthwaite Primary School which was classed as "in need of improvement" in its most recent Ofsted inspection. To close a school ranked as Good and send the children to a worse school would be an appalling decision. On top of that it is a 15-20 minute drive away on rural roads that can become very difficult to drive on in bad weather. There would undoubtedly be several days every winter when the children simply wouldn't be able to get to Husthwaite to attend school. The closure consultation of St Hilda's has awoken much of the village - and families in surrounding areas - to the importance of keeping our school open. After losing Hovingham school just 12 months ago to lose another rural school would be a serious blow to the local area. We don't want to have to get in the car every day to take our children to school. One of the reasons we moved to Ampleforth two years ago was the attraction of having a good local school a short walk away. We would consider moving away from the village if St Hilda's was to close and I think it would have an affect on the village's ability to attract other young families to move here. There is already a problem with an aging population in villages in the area. Closing schools in Hovingham and Ampleforth will only add to that problem. Why struggle to pay the high house prices for family homes if you are only going to have to drive miles to get your children to school? For this reason closing St Hilda's School would have a detrimental affect on the whole village and could cause other local services to struggle and close. Yes there is another primary school in the village but St Benedict's is a Catholic school with a strongly Catholic syllabus. It also has a strict admissions policy that would prevent some children in the village from attending. Also, if you follow a different religion you may not want to send your child to a Catholic school. 26 rural primary schools have closed across the country in the past five years, according to figures from The Department of Education. If you close Ampleforth that will mean almost 10% of primary school closures across the country have happened in two neighbouring villages in North Yorkshire. I've asked the DofE for more information on how many of those rural schools have closed in North Yorkshire for fear we are seeing a pattern of closure within our local authority.	I think the proposed new catchment areas are absurd. Husthwaite Primary School is a 15-20 minute drive away along rural roads that can easily become difficult to pass in wintery conditions. This would mean, undoubtedly, that there would be several days each winter where children from Ampleforth and Wass would not be able to get to school. Also, in its latest Ofset report from 2022 Husthwaite School was deemed to be 'in need of improvement'. The quality of the education, the leadership and management and the early years provision were all found to be below par. It is also not an isolated issue - the school was found to be 'in need of improvement' at its 2019 Ofsted inspection too and things had not improved by 2022. This is not a school that I want to send my children to. Expanding the catchment areas of Helmsley Primary School is a bizarre decision given that the school is currently over capacity. This change in the catchment area could leave parents in Stonegrave and Oswaldkirk struggling to get their children a primary school place. In the long-term I believe the 49 potential primary school places offered by St Hilda's school will be invaluable as building works in Hovingham and Ampleforth expand the local community and bring more families with young children to the area. You only have to look at the bustling playgroups in the area to see that there are plenty of pre-school children who will be in need of primary school places in the 2025/6 school year and beyond.	Parent- St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School	Yes, it was easy to understand	
15	I think the school should remain open because there are children wanting to attend in future years . If these children are unable to go to st hildas they will be to transport to an other school at a cost to the council and environment. St hildas has been a large part of the community for as long as i can remember and is part of the character of the village.		Member of Local Community	Yes, it was easy to understand	No
16	It's a lovely school but just not viable anymore. There are more schools that can give a better education than what st hildas are giving.	Helmsley school is an amazing school and your children would be lucky to attend there.	Parent of Former St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Pupil	Yes, it was easy to understand	
17	Very hasty decision to close. There are future generations coming up to school age starting 2025. Also children starting nursery as soon as Easter 2024. School needed as unacceptable to expect children to travel further afield to a school ( Husthwaite proposed) which is in need of improvement. Should not take away a school of over 100 years history within Ampleforth. Making children travel tover 6 miles to school will affect the children. Will put more of a carbon footprint on our area. And will be a big financial increase for the council. For the sake of a years funding until the school numbers increase again.	Unacceptable! Poorer school at Husthwaite. Helmsley, crayke over subscribed. Bigger classrooms.	Parent- St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School	Yes, it was easy to understand	
18	St. Hilda's is a vital part of Ampleforth. While facing challenges with current student numbers, it has the potential to grow. More young families are likely to move to the area as housing developments like Hovingham's become available. However, there are even stronger reasons to keep the school open. The school plays a huge role in our community. Shutting it down would be devastating to the village, especially the students and families who rely on it. Even the Department for Education says rural schools are important, and closure should be an absolute last resort. Things have gotten a lot better under the new leadership. St. Hilda's is now offering "high quality education" and getting great results. With some extra support and by working together with the community, I know we can get more students enrolled at St. Hilda's. We should be promoting the school's strengths and exploring options like becoming an academy before even thinking about closing it. We can also step up our efforts to attract new students by really getting the word out about all the great things happening at St. Hilda's. Even looking into converting to an academy with Ryedale Learning Trust could be an option. St. Hilda's is too important to our community. It deserves a chance to succeed, and I'm going to fight to keep it open.	There are significant challenges to consider regarding sending children from Ampleforth to Husthwaite School. Firstly, the narrow country lanes between the villages become impassable during severe snow, potentially leading to missed school days. Secondly, Husthwaite's limited size might cause significant parking difficulties, particularly during pick-up and drop-off times.	Parent- St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School	Yes, it was easy to understand	

19	The closure of the school should not happen. It is an excellent school that many families rely on	If st hildas closes i would have to leave my job. I will not have my children be forced to go to a Catholic school ( st benedicts). The other options are Husthwaite and helmsley. Neither have appropriate wraparound care and holiday clubs so as a single parent i would have to leave my job, as i have no alternative childcare as my children attend daisy daycare in ampleforth before and after school. St benedicts is not an option for us due to religious reasons. Husthwaite is not an option as they cannot get there from there before school club and get back to their after school club from that school. The same applies for helmsley school. I know i am not the only parent in this situation. Are we just expected to stop going to work? I work 10kg days for the NHS and cutting down my hours is not an option at the moment, and as a single parent i cannot afford to work less hours. There are no other suitable schools in the area my children could attend that would allow me to continue to go to work. Not to mention the fact that the decision will be made right before the summer holidays leaving us only a few weeks to find alternative arrangements , which is completely unacceptable. Also seems extremely unfair to close a school that OFSTED rated as good, to expect parents to then send their children to Husthwaite, rated 'NEEDS IMPROVEMENT '	Parent- St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School	Yes, it was easy to understand	Think about families instead of prioritising money. If money is short then cut the obscene cllr wages instead of taking resources away from children.
20	Comments made, and questions asked at the Consultation meeting in Ampleforth on 18.3.24 suggest that local knowledge indicates more prospective pupils than are shown in the consultation document. The prospect of transporting very young children to a school currently rated as requiring improvement, with projected falling numbers over the next few years, does not seem reasonable. I believe St Hilda's should be supported and guaranteed to remain open for five years in order to allow the pupil numbers to grow. Assurances that it will remain open would give future parents the confidence to commit to this very good, caring and successful school. The threat of closure is a self-fulfilling prophecy in the eyes of prospective parents looking for an uninterrupted education for their children.	No	Member of Local Community	Yes, it was easy to understand	No
21	I am very concerned about the closure of St Hilda's School. We moved to the village two years ago as we were attracted by the amenities available including the primary school. We wanted to be able to walk our children too and from school each day as it is better for the environment and means we have a longer working day as we wouldn't have to factor in driving time to when we could start and finish work (I am self-employed). If the school closes we will have to drive for around an hour a day to get our children to and from another school. While there is another primary school in the village our children are not welcome there. St Benedict's is a Catholic school and its admissions policy prioritises children who believe in Jesus Christ - as a Jewish family we would be bottom of the priority list. We would not want our children to attend a school that has stipulated in its admissions policy that it thinks our children are lesser than others. For decades Ampleforth has successfully supported two primary schools. The recent fall in numbers at St Hilda's is due to a number of temporary factors including the departure of a divisive headteacher, the uncertainty around the school and the covid-related birth rate drop. We have two children aged 2 and one who would both attend St Hilda's in the coming years. If the school was to close we would then have to consider moving away from Ampleforth to be nearer to another good primary school that we wouldn't have to face a lengthy drive to reach. Another issue that was raised at the meeting was how the quality of education and socialisation falls if pupil numbers drop below 10. But the figure you are using for this does not include the children in nursery who bolster numbers into the mid-teens. The teaching at St Hilda's is excellent and I have every faith that the teachers are more than capable of maintaining education standards for the one year when numbers would drop. There is already a full reception class who plan to list St Hilda's as their first preference for starting in September 2025 - my son would be one of that number.	The new catchment areas cause me great concern. We would fall into the catchment for Husthwaite School. While St Hilda's has an Ofsted rating of Good, Husthwaite is "In Need of Improvement". It also has declining pupil numbers so I would be concerned the pattern of school closures that started in Hovingham, may continue in Ampleforth could then move onto Husthwaite. I am also concerned about transporting our children to and from Husthwaite. It wasn't made clear in the meeting whether they would get free school transport as, although Husthwaite is more than two miles away, would the existence of St Benedict's school in the village mean we wouldn't qualify for free school transport as it is our nearest school? Our children our bottom of the list for admissions at St Ben's as its policy states anyone of the Christian faith gets priority - we are Jewish. So would be we forced to transport our children ourselves to and from Husthwaite as we couldn't attend the nearest school?	Parent- St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School	Yes, it was easy to understand	
22	It would be a huge shame if St Hilda's school was to close. My daughter and son-in-law moved to the village from Cardiff three years ago. They were house-hunting around the birth of their son. When their house came on the market their son was in NICU so they couldn't view it. I viewed the property and told them all about the lovely primary school at the end of the road. I thought St Hilda's would be the ideal	To close a school that has a Good ofsted rating then force my grandchildren and the other children in Ampleforth to attend a primary school that is "in need of improvement" should be criminal. That does not	Grandparent- St Hilda's Ampleforth CE	Yes, it was easy to understand	

	school for my now two grandchildren. A short walk from home with wide green spaces and a Good ofsted rating it has a lot to offer. To close it due to a temporary blip in pupil numbers seems incredibly short-sighted. Especially when you consider that my daughter moved to the new build development in the village. More homes are due to be built in Slingsby, Helmsley and Hovingham in the coming years and land in Ampleforth is also marked for development. These houses will, hopefully, attract more families who will need school places. St Benedict's is not a viable alternative for my daughter and her family as it is a Catholic school and they are Jewish. You would be forcing them to drive in all weathers throughout the year on narrow rural lanes to Husthwaite, a school that is "In need of improvement" according to Ofsted.	suggest you have the children's education at the forefront of your minds when you made the decision to close. Also, the narrow country lanes between Ampleforth and Husthwaite are treacherous in wintery conditions. It simply isn't safe to expect people to transport small children 12 miles on those roads every day year round.	VC Primary School		
23	I feel very strongly that this school and nursery should be saved. I am one of the owners of a Nursery (Daisy Day Care) and we are already experiencing an increase in demand for more places for babies and 2 year olds due to the new government funding. This will soon have a knock on effect to the amount of 3 and 4 year olds we can take, the school Nursery needs to be saved so that these children will be able to benefit from a Nursery education locally.	The proposed closure of St Hildas would in effect force parents of Church of England faith to send their children to a Catholic school. This is not acceptable. You are saying about home to school transport that will be available but I personally would not of put my children on a bus or taxi at primary school age to travel to school. These roads are dangerous especially in winter. The other proposed schools do not offer a wrap around service, which is what we provide have provided for St Hildas since 2009. We currently deliver and collect 8 of st Hildas children to school daily. The children all walk to school and this is better for them and the environment. Walking buses are being promoted by all schools, yet you are wanting more cars on the already busy rural roads.	Member of Local Community	Yes, it was easy to understand	St Hildas has suffered in recent years due to the bad leadership of a previous headmaster. He did nothing to keep convince parents to stay at the school when they lost confidence in his leadership. The school is suffering because of that and is now a great school again, it just needs a chance to build up confidence in the community again and once the rumours about closure stop numbers will build up again. Please just give it a chance. Don't give up on us .
24	The church school would be an enormous loss to the village. It would affect the private nursery we have here if pupils had to be transported.	If the pupils had to go out of the village to say Husthwaite which is not rated it would be terrible. Mothers would not be happy children travelling at such a young age.	Member of Local Community	Yes, it was easy to understand	
25	It seems rather drastic to be closing a school that has been open since 1890 ie for 134 years on the basis of a few years low pupil numbers. More research needs to be done to ascertain prospective future pupil numbers.	Will incur additional transport costs.	Member of Local Community	Yes, it was easy to understand	No
26	The Parish Council of Gilling East, with Cawton, Coulton and Grimston we object to the closure	We think distance to travel is to great	Parish Council	Yes, it was easy to understand	Population is changing in the local villages and we need to keep schools local as part of the local community. We have already had the closure of Hovingham school, it encourages social cohesion which we need to help keep the children safe and healthy.
27	The projected numbers for future pupil numbers seems deeply flawed. Hovingham and St Hilda's shared a head who struggled for whatever reason and unhappy children removed their children not because of the location of the school. Forecasts by the council seem to work off demographic data and do not include the effect of having new management. Furthermore there is no allowance in those projections for changes in government policy. As the polls stand the Labour Party are forecast to have a large majority and have restated their commitment to charging VAT on school fees. This will close some private schools and many families will withdraw children from other schools too in all catchment areas. So there is an expected rise in the number of council schools throughout the catchment area leading to a probable lack of places in the area - so just when some spare capacity is required the council has closed Hovingham and proposes to close St Hilda's. Furthermore I feel that the central government presumption that a rural school should remain open is not being followed by the Education department in Ryedale - rather the whole approach has been to deliberately run down Hovingham and St Hildas to a point where it isn't viable so there is an excuse to close them. Surely the job of the council education department is to work to educate our children and keep our village a thriving community not tear it apart.	See my comments above. I am concerned that if the closure goes ahead - parents would be entitled to transport to the nearest school - which would be St Benedict's Roman Catholic School in the village - thus their only option may be the one they sought to avoid in the first place and that choosing to go to one of the other CoE schools in the catchment will be unaffordable.	Member of Local Community	No, it was not easy to understand	I was disconcerted to learn only from my own councillor that the chair of the meeting was in fact the Councillor in charge of the Education Committee who gave the distinct impression she was for closing the school before we even started.

28	<p>Following on from the consultation meeting on the 18th March, I would like to make note that the chair of the meeting seemed to have no interest in listening to feedback and demonstrated an attitude that indicated a bias towards the closure of St Hildas, this is in direct conflict with the Department for Education's bias to presume against the closure of rural schools. This bias against closure should, in my opinion, extend beyond funding and student numbers. I would also like to add the following comments: * My partner and I moved to the village within the last few years. The presence of St. Hildas was a key factor in our decision to move here * The move to close the school is pre-emptive based on unconfirmed predictions and does not give the school enough time to show an ability to increase pupil numbers * The school has historically shown that, with good leadership, it can draw in higher pupil numbers. A strong leader will encourage parents to send their children to the school * The proposal is looking purely at student numbers/funding and not considering any transport costs, village impact, parental impact or planning. It seems to be focused on the short term demands rather than the medium/long term * Closure would not benefit educational provisions in the area * The lack of the school as an option will strongly influence our decision to stay in the village &amp; could cost the village multiple young families * The village currently has housing plans. In order to draw younger, family orientated people to the village, the school is a key part of this * We're currently impacted by COVID birth rates so projections based on current data are not representative of the future * The school is not currently in a deficit which is restricting its access to funding. The criteria for funding should be amended so schools, like St Hildas, who are have a projected deficit are eligible. Alternatively, the school should be allowed to continue till it's in a deficit and would then be eligible for funding * The alternative schools suggested do not offer wrap around of nursery care * The breaking apart of catchments can cause severe mental distress to children who have to leave their friends and teachers * All the suggested schools do not meet government guidelines for free school transport. There are no guarantees that the transport change will be approved and could result in a significant cost &amp; time impact to parents and effect ability to work * St Benedict's has entry requirements and our future children will be bottom of the eligibility list. It's also a Catholic school so its offerings are not comparable to St Hildas and would not be an option for us * Hustwaite CE VC Primary School is 6.4 miles (14 minutes) away. Class sizes lack the level of attention that St Hildas offers * Helmsley Community Primary school is 4.9 miles (10 minutes) away. Large classes that lack the individual attention that St Hildas offers * Terrington CE VC Primary School is 9.8 miles (20 minutes) away. Bad Ofsted grading * The school has a strong sense of community and is a key part of the village. The loss of St Hildas would cause irreparable damage I would also like to reiterate that I believe the downward trend of St Hildas has largely been caused by historical poor leadership which should be addressed instead of closing the school. As has been shown in the past this would drive an increase in trust from parents and correspond with an increase in head count</p>	As mentioned above I believe the split into the existing catchments is potentially damaging to the kids mental health as they will likely be split up from their friends. I also believe that their educations will be damaged if any students end up being forced from an Ofsted good to a lower rated school or schools with a significantly higher headcount	Member of Local Community-Parent	No, it was not easy to understand	I believe the consultation would have been significantly easier if there was actual communication or responses given to the comments. It very much felt like they were telling us their decision and not taking on board anything that was said. Despite in the introduction presentation saying that they will bias towards remaining open. The session was cut short and did not give everyone, or even the majority, to present their points. No data was presented to show what improvements or advantages there would be for the village, students or anyone by closing the school.
29	Blank Response	Blank Response	Blank Response	Blank Response	Blank Response
30	It' seems to me that the existence and continued support of numerous faith schools, mainly CoE and RC across North Yorkshire only exacerbates the problem and challenges of school numbers. If there were a single, non faith school in Ampleforth there would be sufficient children to justify a single small village school for all the children in the area. Insteaed, parents who don't want a RC school, or any faith school are forced to send their children, by car or bus to schools some miles away from their home. I would like to suggest that NYC take a more strategic view of population numbers and school places and work with faith groups to agree how schools can first and foremost be focused on serving the places in which they exist rather than the faith of people who have every opportunity to practice their faith in many other ways.		Other	Yes, it was easy to understand	Ask the wider population what their priority is for schools, especially regarding locality versus faith.
31	With a 4.99% increase in council tax this financial year, it is simply untenable to continue funding small schools like this as "educational peculiars." Sad though it is that a much-loved village school might disappear, emotional considerations must not be permitted to override economic concerns, especially where good quality alternative arrangements are available for children locally.		Member of Local Community	Yes, it was easy to understand	
32	Not a good idea for the local community	Too wide for a rural area	Member of Local Community	Yes, it was easy to understand	
33	Consultation to keep the school open. It is a good rated, rural family school which does not have a deficit and the children love coming to the school shown by their high percentage of attendance. There is currently 17 children on roll. Ryedale Trust wanted to bring St Hilda's into their umbrella to give the school access to more resources and educational experiences. We would ask for your support to write to the Dept of Education who blocked this alliance. Your support to push this alliance forward is welcome. The special needs children at the school thrive and make excellent progress. The teachers are all very experienced and the teaching assistants are also qualified teachers with a wide range of experience and expertise. The school does not have a deficit like other schools in NYCC. The teachers have been blocked from spending any money to improve the facilities and education provision for the children.	Currently the children attend a good school which they do not have to travel to. There is a private nursery in walking distance of the school which provides much valued wrap around care so that parents can work and live in Ampleforth. There is close liaison with the staff of the nursery and the school staff. The children move on to Ryedale school with which it has strong links and liaisons with activities. The children have strong links to Ryedale	Teacher- St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School	Yes, it was easy to understand	It needs to be a consultation on how to keep a school open and what support and funding you have access to so you can support us in doing this. The meeting and the way it is conducted comes

	Parents and teachers are extremely proud of the school and would willing volunteer to improve the school playground provision and paint the buildings but have been blocked from doing this. St Hilda's has the potential to be an outstanding primary school serving working families in the heart of the Ampleforth community and beyond. Will you help us to do this and keep teachers in the profession. Is there a shortage of teachers? Is there a shortage of SEN places for KS1 children? Thanks for reading, will you help us and the wonderful village Ampleforth?	school and existing friendships from their siblings and classmates from the previous year. This makes for a positive and easy transition to the school for year 6 who leave St Hilda's knowing some of the teachers at Ryedale as well as having a friendship group. To change this would negatively effect the social and emotional progress of the children still dealing with and reeling from the aftermath of two years of covid.			across as a formality prior to closure.
34	I recently attended the consultation in Ampleforth, along with my daughter who has a five year old at St Hilda's, the thing that seemed evident to me was the negativity of both the Board of Governor's, the same Board of Governor's I understand were responsible for the nearby Hovingham CofE school, and also the representative of the local diocese, they both seem resigned to the closure of St Hilda's as the only option based entirely on forward financial projection's that do not take into account future pupil number's. This negative attitude will only serve to put potential parent's off sending their children to St Hilda's making the financial situation worse. What is needed is for the council to get behind the school and support it financially through the next two years after which number's will pick up again. The school has obviously been well run in the past, running with a financial surplus up until the current year, there is clearly something wrong with recruitment as your own figure's show 91 children within the catchment area, my grand daughter comes from outside the catchment area, as previously stated the negativity of the governor's makes this worse because that impact's on the staff and makes it more difficult for them to recruit more pupil's. The consensus in the meeting from parent's both past, present and future was of an excellent school with excellent staff and happy pupil's. From a personal point of view regarding my own granddaughter, who attended Helmsley Primary for a year, it became quite clear that Helmsley was failing her, she was not learning as she was capable of because of the large class size which meant she didn't receive the time needed to teach her essential skills, this led to her becoming frustrated at not been taught how to progress so her learning became slow and disruptive influence's in the large class led her to become disruptive herself, finally her mum had had enough so looked for another school which was St Hilda's, within three day's of starting at St Hilda's she became a different child, she was back to her old self, her reading and numeracy have improved at a massive pace compared to Helmsley, this is down to the staff at St Hilda's. If St Hilda's closes at the end of summer this will have a massive negative impact on her, she will have had three school's in three year's. There is no way she will go back to Helmsley, which by your own forecast's will be full to capacity by 2026, so this will mean travelling even further to school, by the way St Hilda's is closer to our home than Helmsley. Large schools are not appropriate for some children as my granddaughter's experience proves. I therefore urge the council to support St Hilda's financially over the next two year's to help them through this short term decrease in pupil numbers. Ampleforth is a growing village and need's this school to remain open to attract new people, especially young families, into the area it will only do this with a thriving St Hilda's school.		Grandparent- St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School	Yes, it was easy to understand	
35	The closure of the school will have a devastating effect on the village. Young families will no longer move to the village if there isn't a school for their children to attend.		Member of Local Community	Yes, it was easy to understand	
36	At the heart of village life since its foundation in 1890, St Hilda's CE Primary School ("St Hilda's") has consistently been rated "Good" by Ofsted, with pupils, parents & teachers stating that "it feels like a family." Due to a temporary, short term drop in pupil numbers - partially due to Covid-19 & partly due to lack of parental confidence in the previous head & in the future of the school (reinforced by this very consultation!) it is clear from what we heard at the 'Consultation' meeting that NYC want to close St Hilda's in order to 'save money.' This flies in the face of all the statutory guidance on the closure of rural schools (St Hilda's is not being amalgamated with or replaced by another school; it is not inadequate - far from it! - & there is evidence of demand for places in the medium to long term - 9 more pupils in September 2025; the only institution I can see that deems St Hilda's "unviable" is NYC, on the basis of one year's projected lack of intake - at a time when St Hilda's budget is in surplus anyway!). The proposal to close mitigates directly against the DfE's "presumption against the closure of rural schools," which states that the "case must be strong and clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area," (which closing St Hilda's clearly IS NOT) and that the closure proposers MUST have regard to "the likely effect of discontinuance ... on the local community" (which NYC has not considered AT ALL - especially regarding the effect on Daisy Day Care & the wraparound care provision with St Hilda's); "the likely cost ... of transport to other schools," (this would be significant to all alternative schools except for St Benedict's RC Ampleforth - 'St Ben's'); "any increase in the use of motor vehicles.." (which even in the case of St Ben's would have serious effects - the road outside St Ben's - 'Back Lane' - is 'unadopted' and in disrepair; at pick up and drop off times it is highly congested and causes severe disruption for residents on Back Lane - not to mention for the GP Surgery that is also situated there. Transport to Husthwaite, Helmsley or	All schools in the proposed new catchment areas - Helmsley, Husthwaite and Terrington - are too far away from Ampleforth, and will be too dangerous to get to in the winter. St Hilda's Ampleforth must be kept open!	Parent- St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School	No, it was not easy to understand	The NYC place-holding time-servers should consider the positive educational benefits of schools they're looking to close, as well as pounds, shillings and pence.

	<p>Terrington schools - as proposed by NYC - may look appropriate on a map to NYC planners, but it would either cost NYC a lot in transport costs or cost parents a great deal in fuel, risk - in winter - and employment opportunities). Finally, closure proposers "must have regard to any alternatives to discontinuance of the school," which obviously NYC has not. Further, the proposers for closure of a school offering early years provision (as St Hilda's does) should set out plans to develop alternative early years provision clearly demonstrating that it will be at least equal in quantity to the provision provided by the nursery school with no loss of expertise and specialism; &amp; how replacement provision is more accessible and more convenient for local parents. Such plans have not been provided by NYC. From the above arguments, it can be seen that the ONLY argument for closing St Hilda's is a spurious, short-termist, thatcherite argument that having no projected new pupil intake in September 2024 means that St Hilda's has to close, permanently. I was astounded to hear one of the NYC time-servers on the 'committee' at the 'community consultation' arguing that schools are "competing with each other for pupils." The notion that schools are competing with each other for pupils is preposterous; you might as well say that GP Surgeries are competing with each other for patients! Education - like healthcare - is a service and a right; it CANNOT be treated as though it is a factory producing bricks. There appears to be another fallacy rife among NYC time-servers, and that is that large class sizes are good. This again is taking a thatcherite view of efficiency - that the more pupils a teacher can teach is 'better' because 'good' is defined as reducing the number of teachers in a school to 'reduce costs per pupil.' Small class sizes - as at St Hilda's - produce a wonderful education for children; one which is tailored to their individual needs. This benefits all the children who experience it, but is particularly valuable - and indispensable - for children with Special Educational Needs &amp; Disabilities (SEND), as has been demonstrated - and is still being demonstrated - by staff at St Hilda's. To consider the 'possibility' of St Ben's (the closest 'alternative' primary school) for a moment - and taking a jesuitical approach (and why not?) to analysis of the published proclamations of St Ben's itself and it's Academy Trust (the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust, or 'NPCAT'), the NPCAT's Mission Statement states (in part) "we envisage learning taking place in communities inspired by the Spirit of Christ, ... All our schools are inclusive, and are respectful of, &amp; engage with, people of all beliefs." (The words 'or none' could so easily have been inserted here after the word 'beliefs' - but they weren't. So - as written - the implication here is that only believers are worthy of respect). Similarly, St Ben's Admissions page states "Where we have young people of other faiths or no faith, we * include and welcome them in all our activities." (* the word 'respect' could so easily have been inserted here - the implication is that St Ben's doesn't respect children of other faiths or no faith). Not every family desires a Roman Catholic education for their children - and I have heard hearsay evidence that even one or more parent(s) who took their children out of St Hilda's recently to join St Ben's have said that they didn't want their children to have to do a Catholic curriculum - which just goes to show how unsettled parents were thanks to the previous headmaster and the uncertainty over whether St Hilda's would remain open. Not everyone wants a Catholic education for their children - even some of those who already felt coerced into making the change, for whatever reason. There really is no excuse for closing St Hilda's VC CE Primary School (and pre-school early years education provider), except for a rigid adherence to an outdated, simplistic, thatcherite 'free market' ideology that has been shown to apply to only the most basic industrial processes, and which has been shown to be of benefit to only the most well-off in society. To close St Hilda's because of a one-year projected shortage of pupil numbers is utterly short-sighted, totally unacceptable and plain wrong. Please read and inwardly digest all the points made in the "FOSH St Hilda's, Ampleforth Supporting Statement" which I hope and trust has been submitted - and will be afforded due consideration - as part of this consultation. Thank you</p>				
37	I think that the uncertainty surrounding the school's future has impacted the current numbers. I believe that the school is an excellent and safe place to study and grow for all children and should remain open.		Grandparent- St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School	Yes, it was easy to understand	
38	The parish council believe that the consultation is taking a short term view and ignoring future years. No safe route to the alternative school in the village. Ampleforth is a service village and schools are a key element of this. Ampleforth is designated to expand, for which there will be no primary school provision. The school is a long standing part of the community. There is a very strong feeling within the village to keep the school open as it is an essential part of the thriving community.	No	Ampleforth Parish Council	Yes, it was easy to understand	No
39	Response to Consultation To Close St Hilda's C of E Primary School Ampleforth. We are parents of two children at St Hilda's school. Our children have both attended St Hilda's since starting pre-school at three years old. The school has provided nothing but the most excellent education and care since then. St Hilda's is an OFSTED rated 'Good' school. It seems ludicrous to close a good school, with excellent results and even more ludicrous for one of the suggested alternative schools to 'Require Improvement' – why should we be forced to send our children to a sub-par alternative with a falling roll when they already		Parent- St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School	Yes, it was easy to understand	

	<p>attend a perfectly 'Good' school? Our eldest child has significant SEND and has required a specialist and individualised programme of learning. The school has worked tirelessly to seek advice and support for him, including his gaining his EHCP. This has resulted in him progressing and thriving at Key Stage Two. We are in no doubt that if St Hilda's was to close, that our son's social, emotional and academic needs would be dramatically affected. We are hugely concerned that in a larger school he would become lost and struggle to cope, almost certainly resulting in a move to specialist provision. Indeed, we strongly believe that he is only able to remain in mainstream school due to the excellent provision, small classes and nurturing ethos at St Hilda's. We are working parents – both working full time, long days involving a commute from the village. We rely heavily on the excellent service provided by Daisy Daycare for our wrap around care. We are deeply concerned that if St Hilda's were to close, none of the suggested alternative schools have anything close to full wrap around care. Helmsley has a breakfast club but no after school, Husthwaite has some, on some days but neither opens early enough or closes late enough for us to work our full day. No one has so far been able to reassure us that our children will be provided with transport to an alternative school. This could potentially be fifteen children – does NYCC provide a chaperone for our very youngest children, ensuring safe and appropriate behaviour on their journey? Is it appropriate for five year olds to be on a bus without their parents? Who will ensure they make it into school safely? Our fear is that one of us will be forced to dramatically reduce our working hours to take our children to school. This would obviously result in a significant loss of earnings, perhaps endangering our jobs and therefore ability to pay our mortgage etc. If this is repeated across the wider school community, it could have a huge impact – resulting in families leaving the area or hard-earned job positions and valuable careers. One of the best features of St Hilda's school, is its nurturing, family-like feel. Our children have grown up together, in and out of school, socialising and learning across year groups and class boundaries. In a larger school, Year Six children may never come into contact with the younger children, never mind play with and care for them so directly. We are devastated to think that this fabulous community could be ripped apart and 'redistributed' amongst three or four other schools. Our children will be robbed of their opportunity to attend their village school, in their community within walking distance of their home. Some of their peers have become like family, providing a close-knit support network for those of us without family nearby. Attending a school in a different town or village would not allow for this kind of friendship, their new peers could conceivably live at opposite ends of Helmsley's ever increasing catchment area, meaning even more car transport to maintain new friendships, adding further vehicle emissions to Ryedale's environment. Ironically, as the pupil numbers have decreased, the school community has pulled closer together. We have a passionate, willing and able PTA (FOSH) who have created many successful events for the wider village community. If the school were to close, what will happen to the site? If it is sold for housing, where will the children of those families go to school? If there is no village school – how will we (as an official service village) attract families to the village? We do not want Ampleforth to become another ghost village of retirement houses and Air B and Bs. Families keep villages thriving – we use the pubs, shops, doctors and local trades people – these services will also die off as families stop choosing Ampleforth. Therefore, the school closing will have a long-lasting and enormous knock on effect on the wider village community.</p>				
40	<p>Whe I was at St Hilda's as an employee in 1990s we had 80+ children from a certain point in the early 2000s they had two very Bad Head's You could see from the figures published the number went down form 76--- to 36ish. This is when the rot set in. Why these staff roll around like this is beyond me.</p> <p>Moving on, I recommend that if the school closed then the buildings should be use as two reception classes for St Benedicts and this will keep all children within the village without having to bus them about. Please note at this point St Bens had a very poor OFSTED Report only a couple of years ago. By doing the above you could retain two of their excellent teachers at this schools which has a GOOD OFSTED Rating (Do not loose sigh of this).</p> <p>I don't wish to see any further extension of St Benedicts school as its very congested at the East end of (Back Road) and a waste of Capital. Two classes at St Hilda's would allow our (excellent Vicar) to keep in touch with his flock.</p> <p>Financially this would allow the surplus held at this school to be available to all Reception children without prejudice re:- catholic or C of E.</p>	<p>Having 100+ children in this village it would be wise to retain that (See my comments) IN the first section.</p> <p>One flake of snow here in Ampleforth and nobody goes anywhere. The options of Helmsley/Husthwaite etc are to far to go for working parents. Our child care in this village run by DAISY CARE are excellent and parents like the current set up.</p>	Former Member of Staff	Yes	
41	<p>We are now in a time of Radical Change and rethinking. We seem to be approaching these changes with Panic! At a time when we can adapt, rethink and embrace what we have, nothing seems affordable at this current time, as a family we have lived in Ampleforth over 40 years. Our daughter was Educated at St Hildas from 4-11 years form those roots of education and childhood she has flourished into a Professional status. Allow her childhood, in a safe environment with staff committed to their roll of teaching, a service</p>	<p>As a past parent we were involved in the Private minibus that would take the children out of the village to a secondary school of their choice. It was successful! However I recall County providing transport to take a child waiting in a 'bye lane' sadley</p>	Former Member of Staff and Parents		

	village. St Hildas also provided Local Employment. Caretaking, Cook, Supervisors, Special Needs, Administrators and with a Church of England Pastoral Approach. If the issues above could be embraced perhaps current problems could be rethought, managed effectively and slowly reversed.	it didn't turn up leaving that child stranded- In this area one only need's heavy snowfall and coaches cannot travel in or out of the village due to elevation on every Aspect!			
42	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There has been less than 20 children in a year previously and the school grew again. It's likely, if the myth that has been around for this school closing goes, it may result in increased numbers.</li> <li>2. Parents will have to travel to the nearest school if this closes and the roads get waterlogged and icy depending on the season.</li> <li>3. Allow a choice of a non-catholic school to be in a child's community important to bring children together and develop relationships.</li> <li>4. As a small village school it supports children that are sensitive to large groups, npose or cannot access large schools. North Yorkshire council have an identified need for small mainstream school that can adapt and support children with special education needs/disabilities who can access national curriculum but with the adjustments many larger schools can't offer. St Hilda's School is ideal to offer. Especially as the travel distance for primary school children is up to 45 minutes and therefore children from Northallerton, Thirsk and other larger places can attend to meet need of their Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) or SEN support potentially.</li> <li>5. Closing St Hilda's is likely to cost the council more as some of these children will most likely need special school, not all but enough to make St Hilda's financially viable to remain and support North Yorkshire.</li> </ol>	Yes children need to grow up and be able to grow, play and develop in their community to promote relationships and give a sense of ownership (responsibility for their locality)	Member of Local Community	Yes	
43	<p>I am fully involved in the life of the village and my interests stretch as far as Zimbabwe, where I took the opportunity to support an HIV/AIDS Centre and an Orphanage in Harare, by working there as a "dog's body" for part of each year, from 2000 -2014. The people of this village and the area have supported my efforts and continue so to do. I continue to be interested in the Education of young people. Hence the willingness to attend the Consultation Meeting. As a former School Governor, I have experience of how schools are organised.</p> <p>The notion of 2 primary schools, in Ampleforth was a surprise, when we visited and eventually moved here, in 1984.</p> <p>As was mentioned, towards the end of the meeting, that was 'a historical development.' My current interest, is more to do with the FUTURE of the Education of Primary school children, in Ampleforth village. I attended the meeting to listen to the views of families who have children of Nursery and Primary age.Both schools are Church foundations. Parents are provided with a choice. What are the underpinning reasons for decisions they make? I heard voices Saying "St Ben's is a good School but I do not want Catholic Education for my children' .It would be interesting to assess whether 'Underpinning Ethos or Particular Expression of Christian practice is the root of that opinion. Reference was made to the Admissions policy for Parents who do not claim to be Catholics. It appears that tolerance of sympathy towards the tenets of Christian teaching is expected. However one parent was able to suggest 'that she felt her family would not be welcome because they were Jewish. ' I was shocked to hear this comment. I have been prompted to seek further information, from a throughly reliable source, who has reassured me this would not be the case. This information can be shared with others.</p> <p>My considered view point in March 2024.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. .We have 2 geographical sites and buildings designed for age range 4-11 yers. Both offer opportunities for Education of this age group for children on 1:1 and group basis within the village and further afield. North Yorkshire has Authority and areas of Responsibility in Both schools.</li> <li>2. Both schools have an association to a particular Christian Expression of a shared Faith. Both the Anglican Diocese of York and the Catholic Diocese of Middlesbrough have Authority and Responsibility in Both schools. It should be possible to initiate discussions, at the every level, to find a positive way forward.</li> <li>3. Both groups contribute to the positive Social Cohesion of a village Community.</li> </ol>		Member of Local Community	Yes	

	<p>Proposal.</p> <p>Both Schools should given TIME to allow discussion of the ideas offered to resolve the present dilemma . Surely those in positions of Responsibility and Authority, as well as the present staff in both schools, will have the best Educational interests of their students at heart.</p> <p>We are in a TIME of change Politically, Economically and Socially. It would be sad if Creative opportunities were missed, which could benef it all children and their families in the FUTURE because of temporary Financial constraints or a desire to resolve the dilemma 'at speed'</p>				
44	<p>To close the school would be short sighted to say the least. CofE Children are also being descriminated against! (Surely llegal). Why transport small children across the county to other (improving in the case of Husthwaite) When there is a wonderful school here in Ampleforth.</p> <p>How do you know that in 5 years time we don't have loads more families here. Effect a five year plan for goodness sake. If there still not enough pupils then so be it. Get a grip and get some stability. The strength of feeling against closure and the harm it will do to our community is immeasurable.</p>	Yes they are too far for small children. Stick to Ampleforth so parents can use Nursery too which they can't with your hairbrained scheme.	Member of Local Community.		
45	<p>The arguments made by the community in respect of the closure of the school at Hovingham are equally applicable here but all the more so after the closure of that school. The support from the Community demonstrated at the consultation meeting demonstrated that (a) there is appetite for the school to remain and indeed current parents have identified several potential pupils; (b) that several families have moved into the catchment area for the school because of its existence and excellent reputation; (c) the school has been continuously improving under the stewardship of the Ryedale learning Trust; parens need to have the confidence that the school will remain open as evidenced by a number of potential applicants who have gone round the school but who, quite fairly, can not be expected to commit their child's welfare and educational future to a school that is unable to commit to a long term existence - however caring and effective the current staff and provision may be. Finally, the school provides an option for those children who will not thrive at a larger alternative and it is capable of addressing the needs of certain SEND students for whom alternative provision is understood to be less suitable for the relevant children and their families in addition to being more expensive for the education authority to provide. The school has suffered from the uncertainty created by the closure of the school at Hovingham from which it will not recover unless a lomng term commitment is made. It is analogous to those businesses who struggled through Covid incurring a greater burden of debt which proved to be impossible to quite rectify once the pandemic was over. Given a clear commitment to its future by the Authority; retention of the current staff and RLT support - which we understand is forthcoming should a long term commitment be made- the school will have the opportunity to prove its feasibility; attractiveness and ability to deliver high quality results. This will create virtuous circle as opposed to the inherited vicious circle - not of its own making - that it currently occupies.</p>	No	Governor of St Hilda's CE VC Primary School	Yes, it was easy to understand	
46	<p>Funding: Figures were provided at the consultation meeting held at Ampleforth Village Hall on 18th April 2024 (but not available on the NYC web site) showing the projected operational and cumulative deficits in future years. However, no attempt was made to project beyond the first year when a cumulative deficit is predicted. This therefore ignores the projected new pupil intake for the following year. It is contended that the funding deficit is temporary, and that the school should be given the opportunity to continue for at least one more year so that the projected figures can be formalised. Alternative schools: Whilst another primary school is present in the village it is apparent that this is not open to all pupils. As stated at the consultation meeting, whilst parents of non-Christian faiths are happy to send their children to St Hilda's school (with a Christian ethos) this is not the case with St. Benedict's (with a Catholic doctrine). St Benedict's school's policy on Collective Worship does not acknowledge the legal right of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship unlike that of St. Hilda's. The wording of St Benedict's admissions policy implicitly emphasises the preference for those of a Catholic faith. St. Ben's is not a suitable alternative as there is no safe route because of a lack of footpaths or stepping off points. The road is unadopted and the surface in poor condition and because of parking and congestion sightlines are poor. Parents attending the school can attest to the dangers of using the only access route available. Current wrap around care: St Hilda's school in conjunction with Daisy Day Care in Ampleforth village provide wrap-around care for primary age children from before school to the early evening. This provision enables working parents to ensure their children are suitably cared for during the whole of the working day. Without this provision parents would either have to change or give up employment entirely. Husthwaite and Helmsley schools do not have this provision over the time periods that are currently available in Ampleforth. Future housing provision: Ryedale Local Plan Policy SP1, Ampleforth was identified as a Service Village, which by definition</p>	None	Member of Local Community	Yes, it was easy to understand	Information presented at the consultation meeting (Powerpoint slides) should have been made available after the meeting via the web site.

	<p>included a primary school, and for which the approach/ambition was 'Protecting and enhancing local community facilities'. In the absence of a North Yorkshire Council Local Plan the Ryedale Plan is a material consideration and therefore closing the school would go against the current policy. Service Villages are identified as a tertiary focus for growth – but if new housing were built, for example on the site of St. Hilda's school, where would any children go to school? The absence of the school would also make it less attractive for parents to move to the village, undermining the sustainability of the community as a whole. Climate Change: NYC Council Executive declared a Climate Emergency at the Executive meeting 5th July 2022 NYC Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030, Appendix A, Section 10e North Yorkshire Council – Net Zero by 2030 Collaborative Area, with regard to Schools and educational establishments, states it will: • Improve school travel (to and from school), also linked to obesity and air quality strategies and 'bikeability' schemes It goes on to state that, 'As a Council we will:' • Embed climate change into every service and into policy and decision-making process so that taking climate responsible actions becomes 'business as usual'. Clearly, closing St. Hilda's school goes against this, as additional road transport resulting in greater emissions will be an inevitable consequence. Education and Inspections Act 2006: Has due regard been taken by the governing body pertaining to Section 15 (proposals for discontinuance of schools maintained by the local authority) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 been taken? Section 15 part 4 states: The matters to which the relevant body must have regard in formulating any proposals under this section in relation to a rural primary school include— (a) the likely effect of the discontinuance of the school on the local community, (b) the availability, and likely cost to the local authority, of transport to other schools, (c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase, and (d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school; If due regard has been taken, it was not stated in the initial letter from the governors to interested parties; has not been stated in the consultation documents available on the NYC web site; and was not mentioned at the consultation meeting. Having spoken to two governors they have confirmed that whilst there was some discussion of the potential impact the four issues were not discussed or documented formally. Despite questions being raised at the meeting regarding potential transport costs, the environmental impact and consideration of ways to avoid closure of the school, the councilors present appeared to suggest these were not relevant to the statutory consultation process. This is clearly not the case, and they should have been fully considered. If due regard has not been taken by the governing body and/or local authority, then I suggest the proposal for closure and the consultation is in contravention of the act and should cease immediately.</p>				
47	It would be an extremely poor decision to close this school, it is one of a kind with its up to date policy's that are child led with relational approaches		Member of Local Community	Yes, it was easy to understand	
48	Compared to other school closures I've read about, the process for St Hilda's seems accelerated, particularly considering how long it took Hovingham primary school to close down, and they had even fewer students. It also seems that, while the school numbers are very low, that there is enough interest in new students starting in the 2025/26 academic year to suggest that this might just be a rare low point rather than a prediction for the future. More importantly to me though is that I feel that the school's financial position has been severely misrepresented in some way. At the meeting with the Council at the village hall there was a slide that showed the predicted figures for this and the next couple of years. It showed that this current year was fine and had a surplus. It then showed that for the upcoming academic year there would be a significant shortfall on the budget, HOWEVER that there would still be a (admittedly much reduced) surplus available to the school. So if it's the case that there will still be (some) money left in the coffers by the end of 2024/25 why is the school potentially being shut down at this point, rather than at the end of the 2024/25 academic year, when funds would be almost exhausted? As far as I can see, regardless of future school numbers, there would still be enough money to run the school until July 2025 anyway.		Parent- St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School	Yes, it was easy to understand	
49	I have been a governor of St. Hilda's school for around eight years, firstly while the school was in Federation with Hovingham primary school, then after that school's closure, a governor in the newly formed governing body for the single school. The summary as written in the Consultation Document of what led to the present crisis is correct. The cost of RLT support for the school has proved to be considerably less than that charged by the other Federation and RLT have committed to continuing their support for another year at a similar level should the school remain open. A senior teacher has been appointed as Head of School, working closely with the executive head. There has been no consideration of appointing a substantive headteacher. RLT has also been keen to expand opportunities for the children by involving them in activities and events at other Trust schools, which would also continue. I believe there is a case for retaining small schools – some children are better suited to developing in smaller classes. Good support for children with extra learning needs has also been a strong feature of St. Hilda's school where they can thrive in a less pressured environment. The 'family feel' of a smaller school where older	I don't think Terrington sits well in the proposed 'orange' catchment - it is too far away and federated with schools even further away. Could the 'pink' proposed catchment be expanded to include Crayke - as one of the alternative schools mentioned.	Governor of St Hilda's CE VC Primary School	Yes, it was easy to understand	I found it very difficult to review what I had written with only one line to view. Also, text appeared to run continuously - paragraph breaks which make for clearer reading were deleted.

	<p>children routinely look out for the younger ones is very evident at St. Hilda's. Ampleforth benefits from the presence of the Daisy Day Care Nursery. The majority of St. Hilda's parents use the nursery for pre- or after- school hours or both. If the school closes and children go to other schools at a distance from Ampleforth, parents will be greatly disadvantaged by losing the support of the nursery. The nursery has also been a feeder for children living in the community around St. Hilda's. The alternative schools identified are not attractive to parents. St. Benedict's – a Catholic school, not a choice for some. Helmsley – a school reaching capacity. Husthwaite – has capacity but is currently in RI. Crayke – nearing capacity and out of proposed catchment Slingsby – oversubscribed and out of proposed catchment Terrington – has capacity but a long drive without transport being provided. As yet, NYC's future transport policy for schoolchildren is not clear. I think it is premature to close St. Hilda's school. It has come through a bad period where the uncertainty of even a few parents has caused children to be moved elsewhere. The new leadership is breaking through the uncertainty with positivity and we can be reasonably certain numbers will return in the next couple of years. I ask NYC to find a way to support this very special small school and ensure its future for the community.</p>				
50	<p>Why is there this movement to close small rural schools and make these larger schools in areas? Looking at North Yorkshire, small rural schools after school are being closed, it's in the top 10% of school closure. It seems NYCC and the Church of England are looking only at financial gains, not the future of our children.. Why aren't the local governments helping preserve schools instead of closing them. St Hildas has always had peaks and troughs with intake numbers. If St Hilda's closes there will be more pressure on other schools and it is already showing that some schools i.e Helmsley are getting to capacity for certain years. When is the realisation that schools getting bigger will have a detrimental effect on children's mental health and their education? I fear we will have a future generation with many issues. The consultation meeting which was hugely attended showed the need of St Hildas, there were families there who have children who are set to attend the school. There were also couples who moved to ampleforth to start a family. And importantly there were past pupils and families who spoke of the impact the school had and has on their families. Nyc seems to be trying to rush the consultation process through. Such a small space of time to close a school which has been there for over 100 years. A decision seems to have been made before all facts were provided, and the thoughts and opinions of parents of students, teaching staff, potential parents and wider community. The projection for future pupils shows that there is a need to keep St Hildas open. When NYCC stated the 3 year projection of financial losses, they had not taken into account the financial figures of the children starting in 2025 and onwards. It is short sighted to close a school due to lack of intake in 2024 when it is known covid had an effect on birth rates nationwide. Surely it's obvious we will have less intake, but this will increase in the future. St Hildas has had multiple parents enquiring about the school but are put off due to the rumours of closure that have shrouded the school in the last couple of years. The figures don't take into account the nursery children that will start in 2024. The fact that these children don't count towards the figures is appalling. Yet they are set to continue into the school once turning school age. Also the number of siblings of these children set to join the school in the future will increase attendance numbers. The school is only set to be in a deficit for a short amount of time. Yet the school is set to shut before it goes into a financial deficit. This also leaves the school unable to apply for a grant that would financially stabilise them until they have the intake. If the school was allowed to stay open until the 2025 intake, the future of the school would be more secure and attract more potential students. Has a comparison of keeping the school funded and paying travel costs to alternative schools been made? Also due to the increasing numbers at neighbouring schools will eventually mean costly building work and expansion of schools in the area. The changes in free nursery places set to come in allowing from 9 months old to have free hours placement will affect the local nursery Daisy's. This will see a large increase in uptake in nursery care needed. St Hildas is a perfect environment for the older nursery children. Taking this service away will be detrimental to the local community. The other issue of concern is wrap-around care. St Hildas has many parents who use Daisy daycares wrap-around services. They are essential for the parents who are working full time and work hours do not coincide with school drop off and pick up. If St Hildas was to close it is obvious from similar schools closing throughout North Yorkshire the land would be sold off for housing. If this is the case the impact on the potential of families coming to ampleforth would be affected. Ampleforth is a service village but yet slowly but surely it would become a retirement village. St Benedicts is based in Ampleforth but this isn't far from capacity, this would leave existing and any future families having to travel further afield for school. The closure of the school comes down to finances, yet NYCC doesn't seem to see the future impact of a number of areas. The increase of patients using the NHS in the local doctors surgery. The infrastructure being updated, it is known that when field view was built opposite there was opposition from Yorkshire Water. The sewerage system in ampleforth isn't able to deal with other new builds. There are also issues with the water plane and flooding and waterlogging of land in this area. All gardens down the right hand side and top of field view have issues with this most of the year. How would this affect NYCC, cost wise and man power?! It is</p>	stated in above statement	Grandparent- St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School	Yes, it was easy to understand	

	<p>also a great concern that one of the schools being offered is in need of improvement and another is full in certain years and cannot take on any more children for these years, potentially splitting siblings into separate schools. The fact the closet school is 5 miles away is a great concern. This causes issues for parents who cannot drive as it is known another consultation is underway that could see the end of school travel funding. Another concern is the social aspect. The schools are 5 - 6 miles away from the children's homes and this will have a knock on effect of when and how they see the friends they socialise with. The caring and nurturing culture at school is amazing. The children help each other. You can see the children of all ages helping each other in the playground, older and younger playing together. If someone is hurt ie having fallen over in the playground you will often see the older children helping the younger students. The struggles the children faced after covid integrating back into school/starting school for the first time were life changing events in the children's lives. Now the children are set to be upheaved again and split up and sent to other schools. What's concerning is the impact on the children's mental health. What future implications will this have on their education and ability to settle again in a school environment. These children have an environment in which they can have their different personalities and express themselves. A fear is they will be put into a larger school where they are made to conform due to lack of exploration of their own personalities due to class sizes being too big. St Hildas has not had a chance to recover from the never ending changes it has been through. Covid affected the school, then issues with Hovingham primary closing. This saw all attention going to Hovingham when the parents of St Hildas were crying out for support and raising concerns about the Headmaster at the time. Many issues stemmed from the headmaster at this time, issues were not resolved and taken seriously. The headmaster did not deal well with this and this saw a mass exodus of students. Since then this has fuelled closure rumours and put off potential new students. St Hildas has been an integral part of village life for over a 100 years. It accommodates such a variety of students with varying needs, whose needs are then met. There are Children with special learning needs who receive an excellent education and the attention needed from teaching staff and fellow students. They will only get this in a small classroom. Children from all different religious backgrounds. There are families who are wanting to attend St Hildas who are of Jewish faith and do not see the other local school as a suitable alternative. I have a grandson that attends St Hildas and his progress with his education has been amazing. The work that the teaching staff have put into the children's education and emotional needs, especially through covid and dealing with the aftermath. I disagree with the opinions of NYCC stating that education will begin to suffer with the lack of children attending St Hildas. This is simply untrue. The teaching staff are excellent educators and they have always had varying class sizes. St Hildas has always been relatively small in comparison to neighbouring schools. Some of the schools which have been put forward as an alternative to St Hildas if closure goes ahead are unsuitable. They have large class sizes and some years are full. Helmsley primary school being one of these. St Hildas is a lovely small rural school. It has heart and soul and has taught generation after generation of the same families. My Daughter moved back to Ampleforth with her husband and son for the sole purpose of him attending St Hildas. She came from Scarborough so my grandson could attend the same school she did and his grandfather before her. The class sizes in Scarborough were large and she wanted a smaller surrounding for my Grandson to learn in. He has attended St Hildas since he was 3 years old, starting in Nursery. He is settled in the school and like the others I fear the moving of him to another school will affect his mental health and cause some anxieties. I fear he will not receive the small standard of education. There were also families who had to move their children from St Hilda's due to the cost of travelling to Ampleforth but they have come to the realisation that St Hildas is a much superior school and their children were happier and they wish to return their children to the school. But due to threats of closure they have not done so.</p>				
51	<p>I am a co-opted Governor for St Hilda's CE (VC) Primary School joining in 2020 when the school was federated with Hovingham. It was with a heavy heart that the board of Governors reluctantly, following a full discussion about pupil numbers, financial prospects and future sources of leadership, had no alternative but to invite NYC to commence a consultation on closure of the school. However, the potential closing of St Hilda's school is going to be devastating for so many families and village life. Many parents have stated that St. Bens is not likely to be a viable alternative due to it being a Catholic school. Many are not happy with the alternative schools on offer within the current catchment area, due to location, size and reputation. The transport cost for NYC, which would be ongoing, have to be offset against the potential closure of St. Hilda's. St. Hilda's has been rated 'Good' by Ofsted in its last three inspections. Pupils thrive in the nurturing and loving environment that the school offers, despite the turbulence of leadership in the recent past, which drove down pupil numbers. Children with special educational needs are included and have their needs met by dedicated teachers and assisting staff. The school also offers provision for pre-school education for children aged 3 plus, currently there are no other local settings offering such early years provision. It is assumed, that following closure North Yorkshire Council would have to develop alternative early years provision, that would be of 'at least equal in quantity with no loss of expertise and</p>		Governor	Yes, it was easy to understand	

	specialism'? Currently there are no local settings that could provide more accessible or more convenient Early Years Provision for local parents. The Ryedale Learning Trust are actively supporting St. Hilda's and are still keen to federate the school should the Department for Education accept the proposal. RLT have given assurance to the board that should St. Hilda's remain open they will continue to support with leadership. They understand the needs of a small rural school and believe that St Hilda's is a thriving school and will continue to thrive with increasing pupil numbers going forward, maintaining an intricate part of the heart of the community. Daisy Day Care is another important stakeholder in the community who will be affected by the potential closure of St. Hilda's. They have provided wrap around care for many of the families attending St. Hilda's since April 2009. Losing the potential children attending St. Hilda's will seriously impact their business. Parents and members of the community have been active in supporting the school both individually and as part of the 'Friends of St Hilda's' (FoSH) PTA group, they have mobilised against the proposed school closure. The present issues with lower than usual pupil numbers are considered to be temporary and short term. There is a predicted pipeline to date of at least six to seven additional pupils entering the school in 2025. An interim grant/bridging loan from North Yorkshire Council would allow St. Hilda's to remain open and once the projected numbers are reached in 2025, St Hilda's would be in a position to join The Ryedale Learning Trust preventing the loss of a village institution that has served generations of children and seeing a restoration in the confidence of prospective parents in the future.				
52	Yes		Other	Yes, it was easy to understand	
53	Pessimism often seems like the wise "intellectual" choice. But building communities like Ampleforth require optimism and faith that the community we work for now will benefit our children and future generations. It seems premature and short sighted to close a thriving school like St Hilda's because of a short term projection of a relatively small deficit. The Department of Educations statutory guidance on opening and closure of maintained schools state that the proposers should presume against the closure of rural schools and that "the case for closure should be strong and clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area". I have serious concerns about the speed and fairness of the consultation process. If the claim is that the school is not financially viable because of a forecast spending deficit, but the school is not yet in deficit, meaning it does not have access to deficit funding; then one can only conclude that the school has been maneuvered into an inextricable position where closure is the only option. This suggests that the consultation is not in good faith and is in direct contradiction to the stated policy of North York Council and the Department of Educations presumption against the closure of rural schools. I also have concerns that the specific demographic impacts of COVID have not been taken into account during the consultation process. We are currently 4 years past the first incident of COVID in the UK and I do not think that it is a coincidence that the dip in year one pupil numbers for 2025-26 coincides with possible conception dates in the early months of COVID. The birth rate for England and Wales was 1.65, one of the lowest ever recorded. Anecdotally I know many young people who decided not to try to conceive when health services were severely stressed and the future was uncertain. Therefore it is possible and I would argue likely that the projected dip in pupil numbers is not a long term trend but a short term response to global events. This demographic event has not been adequately assessed during the consultation process, no mention of it was made during the consultation meeting and I cannot find anywhere the council has acknowledged the possible impact of this profound global event. The failure to acknowledge the demographic impact of COVID draws into question the accuracy of the projection of any long term trends as without acknowledging anomalous data one cannot conclude a robust trend. Further to this, COVID has had more wide ranging and difficult to define demographic impacts, such as the rise of remote work and the impact, and opportunities for rural communities this presents. This again does not seem to have been acknowledged by the council in their consultation process. Ampleforth is uniquely able to attract young remote workers because of the excellent infrastructure and provision of services it currently offers. St Hilda's is a vital part of what Ampleforth has to offer to young families, from diverse backgrounds who may choose to move to village with their children or start a family here. Ampleforth is a thriving village, with infrastructure that most rural communities dream of, we have a post office, doctors surgery with a dispensing pharmacy, bus route into York, two pubs a cafe and currently, two schools. There is huge potential for Ampleforth to grow and thrive. It seems incredibly short sighted to choose to close an important part of village infrastructure on shaky and pessimistic financial projections. In conclusion North York Council has not adequately demonstrated that the argument for closure is strong and in the best educational interests of the area.	I am personally someone without any ties to the village who chose to move here three years ago because of the excellent opportunities Ampleforth provides to a young family. The ability to send my children to a village school in walking distance fits both my circumstances, in my inability to drive, and environmental concerns about limiting my carbon footprint. Keeping St Hilda's open is a more environmentally sustainable option than transporting children to other schools, and it is likely a cheaper option for the council in the long run too. Because the transport consultation had not occurred yet at the time of the consultation meeting on St Hilda's no figures were available to demonstrate the projected cost of school transport. However, one can reasonably conclude that providing transport will be expensive, especially when SEND children and wrap around care provision is taken into account. Therefore the projected deficit does not provide an accurate view of the true cost of maintaining St Hilda's to the council. Because my husband is Jewish our children would be the lowest priority for acceptance to St Benedict's (classed as "other children" in their acceptance policies) and I have serious concerns about sending my children to a school with such a strong clash of cultures with our family. St Benedict's is not an option for many families such as those from different religions and those with same sex parents and by closing St Hilda's Ampleforth loses the ability to provide for and attract families from diverse backgrounds. Personally myself and my husband would have to re-evaluate our future in the village if there is not school provision.	Community	No, it was not easy to understand	Longer or multiple consultation meetings would give people more time to ask questions, 1 and a half hours was allotted for the meeting, during which time the NYC presented their PowerPoint and various other authorities gave their perspective. This left very little time for attendees to ask questions and receive detailed responses.
54	As a local business we at Daisy Day Care have provided wrap around care for St Hildas since 2009! The closure of this school would greatly impact our business. From our experiences and interaction with the previous head (Mr Pym) we feel that he was the main reason parents chose to take their children out of st Hildas which obviously resulted in the reduced numbers now. We feel that with the new headship in place	St Benedict school is not a suitable alternative for most parents at st Hildas due to a different faith. The roads around ampleforth to the other proposed schools are too dangerous. Especially in winter.	Community	Yes, it was easy to understand	N/A

	<p>this school will soon thrive again. It just needs yourselves to have faith and support the school over the next year. We know from children at our Nursery that there are parents wishing to send their children to St Hildas in 2025 and beyond. This year is just a blip caused by mt Pam!!!</p>				
55	<p>As a successful Federation of three small rural schools in the local area (currently formally collaborating with a fourth) we are deeply saddened to learn of the proposed closure of St Hilda's School. We believe, wherever possible, rural North Yorkshire needs local primary schools providing sustainable and good quality education so their communities can continue to thrive. Our federation, at very short notice, provided temporary leadership for Hovingham and St Hilda's Federation during the Autumn term 2022 at the request of their Governing Board, with a view to them joining our Federation once the future of Hovingham school was decided. This approach was supported by the Local Authority. The focus during that period was necessarily on securing the quality of education for the children at St Hilda's and ensuring its longer-term sustainability, with or without Hovingham School. Throughout that term there were 28 children on roll at St Hilda's. Neither the consultation document, nor the public meeting detailed any steps taken by the Governing Board / Leadership of the school to engage with existing parents, or the wider community, to retain their trust in the future of the school in order to maintain the number on roll; or to re-examine possible options for partnerships which could have placed the future of St Hilda's on a more sustainable footing, either when Hovingham closed (and a new Governing Body was constituted), or when numbers dropped to a point whereby the Regional Director was unlikely to consider St Hilda's viable for academy conversion. There were no Senior leaders from the MAT at the meeting. Although St Hilda's currently has 13 children, the LA pupil data shows that in-catchment children do exist in sufficient numbers to sustain St Hilda's in the future. In order to ensure that every alternative to closure has been explored, (as it must be for a small rural school); with the positive forecast budget position for 2024/25; and the offer to extend the current leadership arrangement, I would imagine that the Governing Board / Leadership of the school would appreciate a pause in the consultation process to allow them time, in partnership with the LA and Diocese, to reach out and properly explore if a formal partnership with a local school (or schools), could be an option to place education at St Hilda's on a more secure footing. Additionally, given that the NYC Home to School Travel Consultation period has been extended, a pause in the St Hilda's closure consultation would ensure that Councillors could consider any implications of the decisions made which may affect their judgements on either the consultation on closure, or the allocation of catchment areas if St Hilda's were to close.</p>		Other	Yes, it was easy to understand	
56	<p>Shortsighted. One years shortfall on a commuter village (designated by the NYCC). Numbers at St H can vary but the village and wider community need this school. Our daughter started as the only child in the year one and left as a group of five.</p>	<p>Difficult to manage, dangerous in winter and for children in before school and after school care very confusing. Children living in the same village will be mixing with children that could be going to one of four secondary school, or being sent to primary in one area to be told that their secondary is another area. This children will get no consistency.</p>	Other	Yes, it was easy to understand	
57	<p>St Hilda's is an essential part of the local community providing a high quality education in an inclusive caring manner for students in Ampleforth and the surrounding villages. We chose the school for all four of our children and have always been very confident in the level of educational provision they have received there, particularly the additional provision given to our daughter with SEND needs. The school is very much a family and although it has suffered from falling numbers over the last couple of years, this has happened in the past and the school has recovered and thrived. There is very much a 'heard' mentality in Ampleforth where if one family decides to move their child to a different school, the 'sheep' will follow for no justifiable reason, this happened about 12 years ago but the school bounced back! This drop in numbers is very much temporary - research by the friends of group shows that the intake figures for the following academic year 25/26 are very healthy. It seems to me very short sighted to make a closure decision on a one year slump, particularly given that the school budget is still in credit and the school is not in a deficit situation, unlike many schools in the area who are now being helped out of their deficit by a cash injection by NYC - why can't some of these funds be diverted to St. Hilda's to see it through the slump year and shore up it's budget until the new intake makes it 'viable' again in the eyes of NYC? The DFE make it clear in their documentation that the presumption should be NOT to close rural schools, yet this seems to be being ignored by both NYC and the DFE, who have blocked the application by the Ryedale Learning Trust to take the school into the trust to allow it to remain open. The lack of any research (Which was questioned at the consultation meeting and no plausible reasoning could be given by NYC) into numbers beyond 2024/25 bears witness to this. It would seem that all decisions being made follow an economic agenda and no thought has been given to the much wider context of the school. St. Hilda's has served the community of Ampleforth and the surrounding areas for generations and offers a local, inclusive primary provision for local children. Unlike St. Benedicts it does not discriminate on the basis of faith. One of the reasons why all 4 of our children attended the school. It's smaller size allows it to</p>	<p>I fail to understand the logic of farming out the young people of Ampleforth to schools which are either at capacity, are in RI under OFSTED or are Catholic Schools where non-catholics are discriminated against in the selection process - where will the Jewish communities in our village go to if St Benedicts won't take them - will NYC pay for the transport? Will NYC cover transport costs to families who do not want their children in St Benedicts?</p>	Parent	Yes, it was easy to understand	Yes - stop persecuting small schools so such consultations are unnecessary - Education is about so much more than the finances!

	cater much more effectively for the individual needs of students, many of whom would be anonymous and 'lost' in classes of 30 and above. The school has consistently maintained a 'Good' OFSTEAD rating and consequently produced good SATS results, equipping its students with the necessary skills to take their next steps in learning confidently and successfully. Aside from the results, one of the best things is the fact that St Hilda's is a family, the children are not only educated, but they are also nurtured and cared for, and that formed the basis of our decision making process when we chose to enrol all four of our children there. Unfortunately our youngest leaves for Ryedale School this summer and it saddens me to think that this wonderful school that provides so much for ALL of its students, not matter what their background our ability is being written off so easily and that the wonderful group of students are to be farmed out to schools they don't want to be in because NYC and the DFE have so little care and respect for them. Why should any young person of primary age be forced to take ridiculously long bus journeys when a wonderful school could remain on their doorstep?				
58	I honestly don't think this survey will be taken into serious consideration or even read to be quite frank. I'm only completing it on the off chance that it will be saved and hidden away only for the attention of auditors, if ever required. Lost and forgotten from memory when all this sorry process comes to an inevitable end. If anyone in the future is reading this information out of interest, or by happy accident, you might be able to answer my questions that the current 'management' won't answer. To begin with, 'Where did the budget for the headteacher's wage for the coming academic year that they didn't deliver?' I know a person came in for one (1) term to cover the gap left by the previous headteacher but that wouldn't have constituted nearly, I imagine, £60 000 surely. Can we see where that money has gone? It doesn't seem to have been factored into the numbers and statistics that have been constantly presented to us as reason for closure. The figures have been made to appear concise so where is the information detailing breakdown of expenditure? Tax money. I'd like to see where the saving in leadership/headteacher provision was made. I think I already know the answer to that one. Could this be the reason why suitable, desperately needed, leadership was not permanently appointed after the previous headteacher's exit? That after one (1) term due to inept management and poor financial decisions the budget for leadership, which is the crux of this whole situation, had been wasted and lost? If a good headteacher had been appointed or supported into the role we wouldn't be talking about low numbers. Confidence would have continued throughout the parent base Post Covid. Instead, poor management from the governors upwards has left us in this sorry and utterly avoidable situation where the stress is now placed upon the community and parents. The children have been let down by poor decision makers and the subsequent opportunistic juggernaut of bureaucracy that was triggered from their incompetent actions. The church and the council DON'T want St Hilda's open. They never have. Since St Hilda's has arrived on their financial radar their plan has always been to shut the school to fit in with their organisation's agendas. So here we are in 2024, shutting an excellent local school, loved by the community, because of lazy, incompetent and unfit for purpose school governors. If leadership had been appointed permanently and the governors had been pro-active and effective then I truly believe St Hilda's wouldn't have been drawn into this post Covid mire of poor management and damage limitation. This has then triggered a cynical and condescending process of by the church and council to shut the school thereby re-directing our tax payer's money to waste on something far less crucial than our children's positive start in life. I'll just repeat that, TAX PAYER'S MONEY. Well done to those that have brought us to this point in time. Give yourselves a big, self-righteous pat on the back for a job well done. I'll remember all of your names and your role in this sorry saga. It's a lesson I'm waiting to teach my children. Children of the village you've so very kindly let down. I haven't even talked about the impact that the closure will have for the community on a whole. Families having to move away from the area (yes, really), jobs lost and the stress and complication that brings. Never mind the ongoing uncertainty and poor treatment towards them from the governors, the church and the council. Utterly appalling treatment from beginning to the inevitable end. You're successfully shutting a good school and leaving uncertainty and division within the community. Well, the part of the community you don't appear to care about anyway.	I think some people have arrogantly presumed that closing St Hilda's will just be an exercise in moving children from the Church of England St Hilda's, to the Catholic St Benedict's. I find this insulting to both parties. Why should a Catholic school accommodate Church of England children who don't or won't follow their doctrine? They shouldn't. A rather patronising and ignorant directive to begin with. Would a Muslim child be made to follow the Catholic faith? Of course not. So that leaves the child out of a chunk of the school day dedicated to the Catholic faith and scripture etc. Not very inclusive. So not a good 'choice' for those not of the Catholic faith. Hustwaite needs improvement. 'Good' to 'Needs improvement'? No. Too far for parents as well. Parents who use the 'original' village school St Hilda's. Not the Catholic school, St Benedicts, that was actually set up to provide education for the staff's children from Ampleforth College. Ampleforth College that has a history of appalling safeguarding. That's all I'll say. Helmsley. Nearly at capacity. Which begs the question 'What are the council going to do when they build more houses as directed by this government and families with children arrive needing places in schools can't accommodate them?'. Because in their wisdom they shut schools. North Yorkshire Council are good at shutting schools. Just look at the statistics. Their new catchment area ideas are not thought through properly. They lack empathy, understanding and forward thinking. No liaison with parents. 'Back of the cigarette packet planning'. Again, patronising and condescending towards families of the Ampleforth community and outlying areas.	Parent	No, it was not easy to understand	Present ALL the facts and statistics. Transparency. I'm left very despondent and without trust in the Church of England and North Yorkshire Council. As a community we all feel incredibly let down by the very people who are supposed to champion our children's future. Governors, church and council management have done nothing to save the school. Nothing. Therefore the outcome was already decided upon before commencement of this legal process. A process that suits the few. Not the wider community. We need change.
59	The two primary schools in Ampleforth have existed successfully for a number of years until parents lost confidence in the St Hildas due to the leadership of the school ultimately under the responsibility of North Yorkshire council which was also replicated at Hovingham school which is now closed It is not the responsibility of the of the Catholic church to provide school provision in the village and there is no guarantee it will continue long term It is unfair to expect families to send their children to a Catholic school and which would make children feel excluded when they are not included in the catholic teachings/practices The access to St Bens is dangerous at times due to the lack of footpaths and quantity of vehicles accessing the school & GP surgery Ampleforth was designated as a service village in the local plan and as such further development is expected and therefore an increase in the number of children is inevitable however St Bens is nearly full to capacity If parents are forced or choose to send their children	The change in catchment area will increase travel for children to access school provision and therefore have a negative impact on the environment	Community	Yes, it was easy to understand	Reduce the unnecessary excessive attendance of NY officers at the consultation who did not contribute to the discussion. Subsidize the venue costs for holding the consultation meeting

	to alternative schools outside Ampleforth this will incur unnecessary travel which will have a direct impact on the environment and roads			
60	<p>Response to proposed closure of St. Hilda's School Ampleforth Why would anyone want to close a well-established, successful small rural school? We make the following comments on the basis that both our son and daughter enjoyed a well-rounded, caring education at St. Hilda's' Ampleforth which provided a sound foundation for their future. Two of our grandchildren are benefitting and thriving through the educational ministrations of this fine school. Currently, only financial reasons are offered for the proposed closure of St. Hilda's school in Ampleforth. Not a single argument has been proposed based on educational or social factors. According Roulston and Cook (2019) , pupils in rural schools in NI appeared to perform significantly better in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2016 than pupils in urban schools. They also identified a range of potential advantages of small rural schools, including improved pedagogical engagement due to smaller staff teams and better school-community relations. And that There are also implications of closing rural schools for finance, transportation and the community. Indeed, young people living in remote areas with no local school often miss out in education. For instance, they are unable to reach school when there is ice and snow in winter. They can also be more socially isolated. For example, they might not be able to access after-school activities, as there is no bus to leave them home (afterwards.) In 2021, O'Kane stated that (he is) Looking forward to engaging in discussion and debate around the plight of the rural school and what the future may hold for many rural schools with falling enrolment. Clear need for forward thinking, investment and some effective strategic planning by those who are decision makers. Rural schools are currently falling victim to an attitude which sees them simply as 'natural wastage'. The following quotes are from Hansard. Small and Village School Funding debated in the House of Commons on Wednesday 17 July 2019 . They are but a small sample of the comments in support of small, mainly rural, schools. Sarah Newton( Con) • ( Cornwall" has many village schools.) They make sure that our villages survive, because by having the school there, a younger generation of people come into the village, renewing its life. Without those schools, there is a real risk that those villages could become dormitory towns for second homes or for people who have retired." Andrew Percy (Con) • "North Lincolnshire Council, made a policy decision not to close any small schools," Tim Farron (LD) • "If a school with a decent-sized population to serve has a bad Ofsted report or a difficult period of leadership, or if there is a dip in the birth rate, that does not kill it, but if a small village school that is absolutely vital experiences any one of those things, that could be the end of it, and the damage to the community is immense." • ... those small schools play a vital role in the community." Derek Thomas (Con) • I do not like to say it, but they Small rural schools) are victims of their own success. They do a great job—I visit them, and they are great fun to be at—but the funding to properly support each child to get the very best start in life is just not there. As Conservatives, we want our children to have all the opportunities available. I know that the Minister understands that, but we need to win the argument with the Treasury and the Chancellor, whoever that may be in a week or two. St. Hildas's school has recently suffered falling role numbers. The reasons for this are clear to Ampleforth families with young children of rising school age. Rumours that the school would close circulated quickly around the Ampleforth community. As a consequence, several families, who had expressed their intention to have their children educated at St. Hilda's, alarmed at the prospect of discontinuity, begrudgingly chose St. Benedict's Catholic School as the only viable alternative; a number of changes in questionable leadership compounded growing lack of confidence in St. Hilda's' The prospect of travelling to any of the nominated alternatives is simply not viable. Ryedale Learning Trust brought an effective, pro-active and well-respected school leader to the school. A visit to St. Hilda's' clearly demonstrates a revitalised school and thriving pupils. This is well recognised within the community, but understandably, parents of existing primary aged pupils, do not wish their children to suffer the disruption of school change at this vital stage of their education. This despite several parents expressing concern at young learners' immersion in the Catholic ethos. This fall in role numbers is temporary. Local discussions and research show that applicants will rise in 2025 as long as confidence in St. Hilda's is maintained. There is no doubt that the village will grow in the near future along with the potential pupil numbers. OFSTED judged the school as Good. The very thought of pupils being transferred to a school "requiring improvement "is insulting and offensive. Employment within the village of Ampleforth is very limited; The majority of working parents have to travel to their jobs. Public transport is just not available and therefore, not an option. Commuting is entirely by private vehicle, opportunities for car sharing are limited due to the scattered nature of employment opportunities. For most, the start and finish of the working day is inflexible which, again, rules out public transport. In many families, parents' work takes them in opposite directions and by diverse routes that may change regularly. Ampleforth is home to significant number of trade people, especially in the construction and agricultural sectors. The specific location of their working day frequently changes on a daily basis. In the current climate, families have no option other than for both parents to work. There are many parents in Ampleforth who are extremely concerned at the prospect of having to transport their</p>	It is completely inappropriate	Other	Yes, it was easy to understand

	<p>children to and from school within the confines of their own commitments. Currently, Daisy Daycare Nursery, in the heart of the village provides the wrap around care that enables parents to go about their daily lives, secure in the knowledge that their children are well provided for and cared for. The closure of St. Hilda's school would almost inevitably lead to Daisy Day Care becoming unviable, thus denying the village an essential service and further reducing local employment opportunities. Ampleforth is designated a "Key Village" and will undoubtedly grow. For the sake of relatively short-term investment, it would be a tragedy to disband a school that has played a vital role in the evolution of the village. St. Hilda's school has recently done admirable work on behalf of pupils with a variety of complex learning needs. Those children have been encouraged to grow in confidence within a small supportive unit. They have successfully integrated into the community of their own peers thus perpetuating the community of the village. The children with the greatest need will suffer the worst effects of an upheaval to their lives at the stage when they are beginning to grow in confidence and respond to school and learning in a positive way. To the majority of the Ampleforth community it is a nonsense to have two primary schools in the village. A young cohort establishes friendship groups during their time at Daisey Day Care. Immediately they attain school age, the alliances are immediately broken as they are segregated on religious grounds. Socially, educationally, communally and with an eye to the future the very notion is ludicrous; the two schools need to amalgamate. There seems to be no stomach to even explore the clear educational sense of combining the two schools. There is no doubt that the task would present a stony road but in the interests of all primary school pupils, their education, social cohesion and integration it is a road that needs to be navigated. For forty-six years, we have heard the whole gamut of the "it will never happen" excuses for lethargy, lack of courage disinterest. This despite a widely held view that integration would be in the interests of all and that the issue urgently needs to be addressed. Complacency and the reluctance to tackle challenging issues are not acceptable when the well-being and education of a community are at stake. The decision about "which school?" is unnecessary and confusing for families relocating to Ampleforth. The village would undoubtedly offer a more attractive, interconnected and welcoming front if the decision was not necessary. All Christians have right of access to a school which meets the need of their faith. The current situation in Ampleforth denies that right to the majority of the community. We deplore and oppose the suggestion that St. Hilda's school, Ampleforth should close. There is no need for it to do so. Lesley and Roger Beck, Ampleforth.</p>				
61	<p>I object to the closure of St Hildas village school. It would have a negative impact on the children of Ampleforth, their families and the wider village community. The school is rated as Good by Ofsted and i can see no reason why it should be closed . The alternative primary school in the village is a Catholic School and as such is neither willing to accept all pupils nor is it suitable for non-Catholic pupils. It is also nearing pupil capacity. There is no option for it to expand in future either (road infrastructure) to accommodate an increase in pupil numbers which is likely given that Ampleforth is a designated Service Village with an expanding population (for designated areas for future residential development see Local Plan) also considering the real possibility that after the forthcoming general election and the likely election of a Labour government (that plans to impose 20pc VAT on private schools and end business rates relief in England) there will be an even more immediate need for 'Good' local primary education. Alternative schools such as Helmsley, Husthwaite and Easingwold would greatly increase transport required for both primary and preschool children (from Daisy Daycare) and their families and would make trying to coordinate children of different ages logistically very difficult. Surely this is also a step in the wrong direction for efforts to reduce the impact of road transport in the 'Climate Emergency ' we find ourselves in and that North Yorkshire Council has promised to alleviate through carbon reduction. Take into this also that Husthwaite and Easingwold schools are not in Ryedale Secondary School's catchment area and the detriment to family life, seperation of friends from their community and excessive road traffic would definitely be a detriment to the village. I also understand that siblings would be seperated if this school closes as pressure on the alternative schools to accomodate growing families. These are just a few of the many reasons that i think the considration of closing St Hilda's would be a bad decision.</p>	See above	Community	Yes, it was easy to understand	
62	<p>The school is a fundamental part of our community. The children who attend the school are happy. I believe the school is only undersubscribed thid current school year. The village is highly populated with family homes and these homes are dependent on local schooling.</p>	<p>If children need to travel further afield for there primary education it would have an adverse effect on the after school facilities in the village. The drop of and pick facilities for working parents would be affected and would have a negative impact on the local businesses in the village.</p>	Community	Yes, it was easy to understand	
63	<p>I am extremely unhappy about the proposal to close St Hilda's school from August this year. The Friends of St Hilda's have done a huge amount of work (which should have been done by the governors and/or the Council) to identify families with children who want to send them to St Hilda's in September 2024 and September 2025, and these new entrants have not been factored into the Council's short term financial calculations that seem to be the only reason for closing what is a wonderful school. All the statutory</p>	<p>The proposed catchment areas are unsuitable for primary school pupils from St Hilda's Ampleforth.</p>	Parent	No, it was not easy to understand	Yes - don't waste people's time and energy on inappropriate proposals to close wonderful schools!

	<p>guidance regarding the closure of rural schools has been ignored (by the governors and the Council) and the entire case for closing the school depends on the short term financial calculations which are based on false information. It is not just St Hilda's school that is affected by its potential closure - Daisy Day Care - a nursery provider in the village - will also be badly affected if St Hilda's closes. Another factor to consider in keeping St Hilda's open is the potential alternatives for primary school aged children in Ampleforth, which are St Benedict's (which some parents are unhappy to send their children to for religious reasons, and which is nearing capacity and located in a very inconvenient place to get to); Helmsley (which has class sizes that are far too big for some children - it is not true to say that a greater number of children per teacher is somehow "more efficient;" education is not a business, it's a service); Husthwaite (which OFSTED states "Requires Improvement" - and is difficult for parents to get to); and Terrington (which is miles away from Ampleforth). St Hilda's Ampleforth has wonderfully skilled teachers and a wonderful location with which to assist SEND children with their special needs, and has been an integral part of village life for 109 years. It would be the height of injustice, the epitome of dereliction of duty and a complete travesty for the school to be closed.</p>				
64	<p>The loss of St Hilda's School would be a crime against education. This school provides a wonderful, safe, learning environment for pupils. It has not yet been operating in a financial deficit, this is only set to be the case in the 2024/25 school year but if it remains open there will be more pupils attending in the future and therefore it should be given a chance to build numbers again, you can see from the data that numbers have fluctuated previously and this is often the case at many schools. It has just had a difficult time with the loss of its co-federation school Hovingham and should be given the opportunity to regain pupil numbers. Data has been collected that shows that there will be 1 (possibly 2) children for reception this year, 6 for reception intake in 2025 and 2 for 2026, this is without people moving into the area. There is also the possible change to the transport provision that would also mean that more families in outlying villages would have transport access to the school and this could boost numbers. The school provides a high level of education and is rated Good. The Catholic school in the village is not inclusive as it is Catholic, Husthwaite school is not an equivalent option as it is rated Requires Improvement and is also in the secondary catchment for Easingwold School not Ryedale. Helmsley School is near capacity and is not a great school anyway. The loss of a CofE school is breaching human rights for the access of CofE families to be able to obtain an education close by, it is also inclusive of other faiths. The cost of transport to the council will increase whilst it will also increase emissions from vehicles due to travelling. These factors should be outweighed against the cost of keeping the school open, there would also be the cost of redundancies and an empty building to be considered. The school offers work experience placements to village residents who can walk to these placements and also it offers Ampleforth College students work experience for citizenship. If the school was lost this alone would have a detrimental impact on the village. It could be explored to utilise the school more for the community. The nursery is a wonderful community space that offers spaces in addition to Daisy Daycare in the village and with the introduction of funding for nursery places from 9 months this could mean that space becomes limited in the village. Ampleforth is a service village that has been earmarked in the Ryedale Local Plan as requiring more primary school places, so shutting a school goes against this. The school's closure would also have a wider impact on the village including the shop, cafe, Daisy Daycare and on house prices as the village will become less appealing to potential residents without the offering of an inclusive village school. The land will likely be sold for building so I suspect then it will impact widely on the village. The offering of the other schools is also not feasible due to the wraparound care required by many parents, which they currently get in their own village. Larger schools do not always offer the quality of learning or a suitable environment for many children to learn in, where they can get lost in numbers so it is vital that these smaller village schools remain open to serve the needs of the community. Has it been explored that the school could temporarily be reduced to one class size whilst it regains pupil numbers? As well as it being offered a bridging loan by the council. If this was any other business having a temporary downturn you would go to the bank for a loan whilst business picked up again, not just close at the first hurdle. The school provides a safe space for many SEN students as well who have EHCPs, could a special SEN class be incorporated into the school with another teacher so that the space of the school is utilised more efficiently by the council in providing more broader spectrum learning for the residents in North Yorkshire? Ampleforth is a reasonable sized village that needs to provide enough school places to residents. The school has experienced some mismanagement in recent times which has led to this situation but going forward the Arete Learning Trust (formerly Ryedale Learning Trust) is willing to still support the school which will help it drive itself further forward and get back on track. It needs to be given a chance and St Hilda's needs to stay open.</p>	<p>Husthwaite is not feasible as it requires improvement, is not an equal offering and is in the secondary catchment for Easingwold. Helmsley School is near capacity, is not a faith school and large classes do not suit all children. Terrington is way too far for us to get to.</p>	Parent	Yes, it was easy to understand	Larger areas for typing the responses.
65	<p>St Hilda's school offers a brilliant learning environment in a small scale which suits certain children much better than a large school. Closing all smaller schools just can't carry on as it takes away this special close-knit family feel environment. Although attendance numbers have a trend downwards these can be accounted for due to previous poor leadership. The current leaders need to be given a chance to overturn</p>	<p>Husthwaite school is rated as requires improvement and is in the Easingwold secondary catchment. Terrington is far away. Helmsley is a non-faith school and nearly to capacity, offering only large class sizes.</p>	Parent	Yes, it was easy to understand	

	<p>this trend which by projected future numbers they are on course to do with 8 pupils already wanting to attend over the next 2 intake years. There seems to be no evidence from yourselves on future numbers? The financial implications of closing the school need to be looked at against keeping it open. There will be increased transport costs, redundancies, maintenance of a disused building and emissions to look at. The wellbeing of the children also needs to be taken into account. St Hilda's is a safe, family environment that has a Good Ofsted rating and provides a high level of education and care to the children. The SEN children are well catered for and due to the small numbers the children form good friendships and learn to mix with all ages. The closure of the school would have an impact on the wider village, including house prices. St Hilda's is the village school offering a welcoming environment to all faiths, its loss would have a detrimental effect on the appeal of the village. Daisy Daycare would also be impacted as it would not have the same amount of wraparound care to provide. The shop would probably see a drop in footfall as would the cafe and pub as parents will not be in the village as much. The loss of another CofE school so soon after the closure of Hovingham would be appalling and is an oppression on the CofE faith. There is the need for the primary school places in the village, other plots of land in the village have been earmarked for building which would see an increase in the village population and likely more families moving into the area as it is a functioning village. As Arete Learning Trust has offered to support the school for another year, surely NYC should be taking them up on the offer as this will give a more determined view on the future pupil numbers and give the school the chance to thrive again and attract more pupils going forward.</p>				
66	<p>It would be a sad thing to lose another village school. It is part of the community &amp; village life.</p>		Community	Yes, it was easy to understand	
67	<p>Statutory guidance states a presumption against closure of rural schools. With regard to St Hilda's there is strong evidence that it does not meet the criteria for closure. The drop in pupil numbers is, as proven, a temporary one year situation, with numbers increasing for September 2025. Many schools under the local authority have been supported financially, which has ensured that the high quality of provision has been maintained and that the community it serves has benefited. A C of E school within the village allows for parental choice and keeps the village vibrant and supports the excellent Early years facilities in the village. It is not everyone's choice to send their children to a Catholic Faith school, or to send them 10 miles on a school bus. A key factor OFSTED consider when evaluating the performance of a school is quality of education, continuity of care and positive interactions of pupils with staff and peers. St Hilda's provides all of this.</p>	<p>The current catchment area is limited in places and although includes both faith and community schools, they do not all provide equal provision. Many are at or near capacity, which would limit sibling attendance at the same school. Some of the proposed catchment primary schools are not within the Ryedale Secondary School catchment area, thereby causing further disruption to childrens continuity in friendship groups.</p>	Other	Yes, it was easy to understand	<p>Why is this consultation being rushed through? Other school closures have had a far greater consultation period, lasting two years, not two terms.</p>
68	<p>St Hilda's is classified as a rural school, closing this school will take away any guarantee of a reliable primary school in the area. The school supports the local community in many ways: The offers places for nursery children, facilitating community functions such as jumble sales and xmas craft sales, and supports local businesses such as hearts and daisy's day care. Future student numbers are increasing at ST Hilda's with 2025 intake predicted to be a full year, this should be considered as the school is classified as a rural school. The proposed schools in the area are not viable with the closest catchment school approximately 10 miles away. We should be supporting the local community instead of sending children out of the village to learn. I have had people tell me that they have moved to Ampleforth because it has ST Hilda's and they wish their child to go to the school. There has been one parent recently asking if the school if the school closure has been finalised because they come to the village in the hope to use the school. Furthermore Ampleforth is classified in the local plan as a service village and in that it states that Ampleforth needs more primary school provisions closing the school goes against this very criteria. Although the council do not wish to consider what would happen to the land if the school were to close, it is very obvious that the government intension would be to build on the land. This would either bring the possibility of new families that would have no local authority primary provisions and so ST Hilda's would be missed or it would bring more holiday/ second homes that are slowly killing the village that is increasing relying on seasonal income. . I believe that the governors of the school has let the school and the local community down. The school has come through a troubling time with bad management and the closure of Hovingham primary has had an impact on the school and its student numbers. But, the school is back on the rise with numbers projected to go up and with a new head teacher I cant fault. The school is an asset to the loacal community and should not close.</p>	<p>As Helmsley primary school is full in some years, they could be moved to Ampleforth supporting its surrounding community. A community that supports Helmsley though the use of business and council ran facility's.</p>	Parent	Yes, it was easy to understand	<p>stop closing facility's in rural community's, we are hard working people that supports the national agenda with jobs that cannot be done in the urban environment.</p>
69	<p>We are the parents of children at St Hilda's Primary School in Ampleforth and have been actively involved in supporting the school for over five years. We are devastated at the prospect that an institution which lies at the heart of village life, and has done since the 19th century, could be lost forever due to a temporary and reversible reduction in pupil numbers and short-sighted financial projections. We moved to Ampleforth from York in 2018, and one of the main factors in choosing the village was St Hilda's. Initially, this was due to its 'Good' Ofsted rating, but this is just one measure of the school's success and its high standards. We have since been consistently amazed at the levels of care, dedication and personal investment that the present management and teaching staff provide. Both of our children have achieved beyond their age expectations and have thrived in the supportive, family environment that the school</p>		Parent	Yes, it was easy to understand	

	<p>provides. If St Hilda's was to be closed, there would be no Church of England schools within the surrounding area rated above 'inadequate' by Ofsted, leaving us and other parents with a choice of sending our children to an 'inadequate' school at some distance from Ampleforth, or be forced to send them to St Benedict's School, a self-stated 'missionary Catholic school' at which the '...Catholic ethos is the most important aspect of our school life.'. St Benedict's was established to serve the families of staff members at the nearby Ampleforth College, and was never intended to be the village school, and its strong religious focus is not consistent with our secular beliefs, or the varying values of many other parents, who do not wish to have a single belief system forced upon their children at a young age. The current temporary reduction in pupil numbers at St Hilda's has been in large part caused by uncertainty over the school's future following the sudden departure of the former headteacher nearly two years ago, and the closure of Hovingham Primary School. This led some parents to believe St Hilda's would certainly close, and therefore to pre-emptively move their children, which, in itself, reduced confidence in parents of prospective pupils. However, the remaining parents have been strong and vocal in support of the school, re-invigorating the PTA, 'Friends of St Hilda's', with frequent community and charity events, and supporting school open days in which parents of prospective pupils have been overwhelmingly impressed by the school. Numerous parents have expressed their wish to send their children to nursery and reception during 2025/26, some of whom have moved to the village specifically with the intention of sending their children to St Hilda's. The lower numbers in pupils over the current year, which has caused the present situation, must therefore be seen very much as a temporary dip, and be looked at in the much wider context of the school's continuing academic success and its historic place at the heart of the village community. Financially, the school will be in surplus when the 2024/24 school year begins, and the temporary fall in student numbers can be overcome over the next 12 months, especially if confidence is restored in the school by the explicit removal of the threat of closure from the North Yorkshire Council. Only a limited amount of temporary additional financial support from NYC would be required to see St Hilda's come through its present issues, at a cost which would otherwise be spent by NYC on the need to pay for transport to surrounding schools for pupils should the school be closed. By allowing parents of future pupils to have the reassurance of stability for their children, in knowing that the school will not be closed, St Hilda's can move forwards to continue to be a financially viable school, positioned at the heart of the community, and providing an outstanding level of education to the children of Ampleforth.</p>				
70	<p>I would like to make the following points regarding the proposed decision to close St Hilda's Primary School</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The reason for falling numbers is purely due to no strong Headteacher presence and the closure of Hovingham Primary School.</li> <li>2. Although there is no uptake for 2024 there is uptake for 2025 and we believe if the school is allowed to stay open this will significantly increase the uptake 2025.</li> <li>3. As the sustainable school for the community it provides good support for the village children particularly if they have special needs, it also brings families into the village.</li> <li>4. We are aware finances can be made available to help deficit for 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 therefore if these were used deficit for 2025/2026 would not be £56.4k as detailed in the reports but only £6.4k worst case as this is based on low numbers but if the school is allowed to stay open then these numbers would be higher therefore lowering further the forecast debt.</li> <li>5. Alternative school proposals not acceptable St Benedict's - issue of moving to Catholic education Helmsley - too large classrooms and distance an issue Hustwaite – OFSTED needs improvements Terrington – TO FAR!</li> <li>6. NO DETAILS AVAILABLE OF HOW CHILDREN WILL BE TRANSPORTED.</li> <li>7. the impact this closure will have on the village childcare Daisy Day Care.</li> </ol> <p>and finally I believe the decision to close the school has been taken FAR TOO EARLY with only 1 year being low numbers. It needs to be taken after at least continued 2 – 3 years of continued low intake not just a one off year which could also be due to COVID.</p>				<p>NB. Although I no longer live in the village my family live in the village and I had 11 very happy years there and valued the community this village has, which will be severely impacted if this closure takes place.</p>
71	<p>St Hilda's C of E School is a fantastic, rural school which provides an excellent offer. The children make great progress both academically and socially and are ready for their next stage. If St Hilda's C of E School was to remain open from September 2024 the Areté Learning Trust would be really happy to continue to provide leadership support.</p>		The Areté Learning Trust	Yes, it was easy to understand	
72	<p>Response to the consultation for the closure of St Hildas Primary Ampleforth I am deeply saddened by the proposed closure of the school. As the son of a former teacher at the school, a former pupil myself and the father of two children currently at the school I know this school very well. I know that pupil numbers have dropped over the last 5 years and that has coincided with a similar period of time of poor management and leadership in the school. This poor leadership caused a lot of uncertainty among some</p>	<p>The proposed catchment areas are a massive concern. The two options that would be closest for us do not work. Hustwait school is a school that Requires Improvement with also a falling number of pupils and no certainty that it wouldn't be next for</p>	Parent	Yes, it was easy to understand	No

	<p>parents causing them to loose faith in the schools abilities. This then caused rumours (as is often the case in a small community) long before any official action that the school was going to close. This caused some parents to worry. This combined with the fact that St Benedicts school offered a very "open door" policy of welcoming moving pupils it was very easy for people to move children with little or no impact on them. I wonder if there had been no other school in the village if it would have been the same case. I truly believe that St Hildas is now a different school from what it was a few years ago. The on site management combined with the overseeing from Mrs Lamb make it feel a very well run school. Both of my sons love the school. The youngest who is in year 1 is thriving and enjoying learning new things every day. The school has a fabulous family feel and the way that all ages of pupil will interact with each other is fantastic. My eldest is also thriving and progressing well at the school. He has some significant SEN requirements and the school have been fantastic in working with him and us to make progress and achievements that might never have been possible in a bigger school. The thought of loosing St Hildas and the repercussions of having to make do with any of the offered alternatives is frightening. We both work full time and use Daisy Daycare for our wraparound care and non of the suggested alternatives has anything comparable in place which could leave us having to change our jobs considerably to work around getting our children to school. The option of moving them to St Benedicts is not possible on religious grounds. We are very aware that the only real reason that has been given for the closure of St Hildas is financial. Currently the school is running at a surfeit of funds from last year. I am well aware that next years low intake will instantly use up that surfeit and put the school into deficit. How many others primary schools in the county are all ready in deficit and not being forced with closure? The following year numbers are predicted to almost double which can only improve funds. If the only concern and reason for closure is finances then the school is clearly been run more as a business than an education setting. I don't know of many business that have been on the go since 1890 who would decide to just close down on the basis of a small deficit with predicted increase in business (pupils). I'm pretty sure most would borrow money to tide over the lean year or so and carry on. St Hildas is not just a business! St Hildas is a fantastic school. It is a school where children thrive, where children learn fantastic life skills to set them on their way into the world. St Hildas is a massive part of the village community with many many former pupils from the last nearly 100 years still living in the village community.</p>	<p>closure. Husthwait school does not offer any wrap around care that we could get our children to around our own working hours. This would leave us having to drastically change our working hours or quite possibly change our jobs as neither of our jobs allow part time or flexible working hours. Helmsley school does not offer wrap around care and there is no provider within the town that does to the extent of our current provider Daisy Daycare in Ampleforth. There is no way we can get our children there for school time due to the aforementioned work constraints. We have not been able to factor in any other transport options into our thoughts as no one is willing to discuss transport with us.</p>			
73	<p>My partner and I moved to the village around 18 months ago, with the intention of starting a family here. Shortly after we moved, we heard from a number of people that St Hilda's primary was closing down – yet it seems we were being told this a year before this consultation! Is it therefore any surprise that parents haven't been registering their children at St. Hilda's, if this is the message that has been given to the community? We moved to the village hoping that our children would have the opportunity to walk to and from school every day, getting fresh air and exercise. If this school closes, we will have to get in the car and drive a number of miles to school twice a day instead, increasing levels of traffic on the roads and increasing our carbon footprint. This surely goes against the core values of North Yorkshire Council? I would also say that I find it incomprehensible that you are considering closing a school with a 'Good' rating from Ofsted – closure should be in the best interests of education provision in the area, I cannot see how closing the school is justified on this basis. We should be actively supporting our good schools and trying to address the core issues with pupil numbers, rather than closing the school based on forecast figures (the school isn't even in financial deficit yet!). The core issues appear to be based on failings by previous management, which is easily remedied by new, strong leadership. A new leadership team who can inspire confidence in the school's future is exactly what this school and this village needs. This village is expanding and thriving, the education provision available should reflect this. School Safety Families should be able to walk to school safely. This is a great way to instil healthy habits and ensure our children are getting enough exercise, which is critical against a backdrop of increasing childhood obesity. St. Hilda's is well serviced by footpaths and is accessible from all over the village. The next nearest school to St. Hilda's is St. Benedict's, which has extremely hazardous access and is not safe for families to walk. The road is narrow, there is no footpath, no school safety road markings, no drainage, and an increasing number of cars dropping off and picking up children. The irony is that parents drive their children to this school as it is so dangerous to walk (even families who live less than half a mile away drive their children in!), but in doing so increase the levels of traffic and therefore make it even less safe. This is an untenable situation, yet will only be exacerbated if children are displaced from St Hilda's to St Benedict's. Either way, if the school is closed it will inevitably lead to a large increase in the use of motor vehicles in the local area, regardless of which school the children attend. Population and Sustainability There is an overall plan for increased housing in North Yorkshire, and inevitably there will be future housing allocations in Ampleforth and the surrounding areas. Increased housing will result in new families and an increased demand for school places, so surely we should be looking to enhance our education provision rather than remove it? The population of Ryedale is increasing year on year, so the fact that there are surplus places will surely be a good thing in the long run, as it means there are primary school places available for the</p>		Community	Yes, it was easy to understand	

	growing population. My understanding is that there should be a presumption against closure when considering rural schools. Nothing I have read in the consultation demonstrates that this school should close, the key reasons for the decline in pupil numbers appears to have been driven by poor leadership and spurious rumours. This is so easily reversible, and surely the school should have the benefit of a few years of good management before concluding it should be closed?				
74	I do not support the closure of St Hilda's. I believe that the school is an important asset to the village and the surrounding communities.	No	Community	No, it was not easy to understand	No
75	Ampleforth needs it's local school. The community supports the school. The school fits into the village and gives the local pre-school places for children and jobs for staff.	Not the best allocation in my opinion.	Community	No, it was not easy to understand	Make it simpler
76	I object to the proposed closure of St. Hilda's School. It provides a good quality of education to all who attend. Children with special educational needs and those with social and emotional needs are especially well-catered for in the small, family-like environment that St. Hilda's provides. The church school ethos is inclusive and welcoming to all and provides a sound background to all that the school does to enable pupils, families, staff and governors to flourish. Families use the local facility 'Daisy Day Care' for before and after school care. If pupils are having to go out of the village to different schools, parents may struggle to arrange alternative care and support that will enable them to work and also the business at 'Daisy Day Care' could suffer. If finances are a key cause for closing the school, consideration should be taken into the long term costs that will be incurred with transporting pupils to schools several miles away and this extra transport also bears an environmental cost which could be prevented. The time pupils will take in travelling to other villages should also be considered, along with the emotional impact of putting very young children on a bus to travel to another school. The school is a key part of the wider church community in the village and losing that link will be hard. It seems a shame that the situation has got to this point because of the uncertainty of the future. I am sure that more families would be supporting the school if they could guarantee that closure is not on the horizon. The staff continue to work so incredibly hard and do all that they can to ensure the best for the pupils. When visiting the school there is a really positive atmosphere and pupils and staff all are happy to be there. This school provides real value in families' lives and the community and should continue to do so in the coming years.	One of the big concerns about Husthwaite School is that it is in Easingwold Secondary School (Outwood Academy) catchment area so pupils from Ampleforth who attended Husthwaite would not have the contact and connections to Ryedale School, and the other feeder schools to Ryedale, that they currently have throughout their schooling years through sports fixtures and other events. Young people need to be confident about their transition to secondary school and this would be a huge stumbling block. One of the good qualities about St. Hilda's School is its size! For children to move into any school where they will be in classes of nearly 30 will be detrimental to their education at this point - Helmsley School is growing more and more and cannot offer that personal touch that some of the current pupils of St. Hilda's need. If families do not want the Roman Catholic education of St. Benedict's RC School (and they might not get accepted through their admissions policy anyway) they are going to have to travel to a different community. Interaction with your local community in primary school is a key developmental point.	Governor	Yes, it was easy to understand	
77	The proposal to close the school does not fulfil the Government guidance for the closure of rural schools as it does not look at the medium to long term financial predictions for the school - there is 1 child confirmed for Sept 2024 intake, 6 already confirmed (full year group) for Sept 2025, and so far at least 2 confirmed for Sept 2026. Accordingly, the predictions for 2025/26 are incorrect by over 10%. St Hilda's is a consistently 'good' rated school that is suffering a loss of confidence of parents through no fault of its own - the headteacher associated with both Hovingham and St Hildas had poor leadership and the closure of Hovingham left many parents concerned and worried about the future of the school. The school numbers will increase with long-term security and stability of the school (as is beginning to be demonstrated from 2025 onwards). St Hildas is a small school - this does not make it a failing school, and should not make it an 'easy target' for NYC to save money - it is a vital service as part of a thriving and growing service village. In fact the Ryedale Local Plan states that as a service village, Ampleforth 'requires additional primary school provision' (plan in place until 2027). The surrounding schools are not appropriate - St Bens is not suitable for parents not of non-Catholic faith, and especially those of non-Christian faith (they are getting close to capacity and have a selective admissions policy). Husthwaite has consistently been in 'requires improvement' for over three years - our son is in nursery and so this does not fulfil the rural schools document that states that preschool provision should be of equal or better quality of provision. It is also in the Easingwold catchment for secondary school (Ampleforth is in Ryedale), so it is not appropriate for friend groups to be split up. Helmsley primary school is going to be full from 2027, which means that it will not be suitable for any children with siblings. Further to this, with the school to transport consultation still ongoing, it is impossible for parents to plan during this consultation procedure. Our son started nursery there in October 2023 for 2.5 days a week, and he is absolutely thriving there - his development has excelled significantly. The thought of him not attending there in the future is thoroughly upsetting. Similarly to Bilsdale, St Hildas should be allowed to federate in order to minimise the costs of a small school. This is common practice and Arete and FST have expressed an interest in St Hildas several times - they are keen to take us - as they are a business they would not take on another so-called failing business, that would be poor business sense for them. On this basis, Arete must believe that St Hildas is viable (as has been proven by the updated pupil numbers).	The catchment area is not suitable for Ampleforth - no child will be attending Husthwaite - a failing school over 20 mins bus ride away (not at all suitable for young children).	Parent	Yes, it was easy to understand	The council should not only present the reasons for closure- they are obliged under the guidance to show the results of the full consultation procedure - which includes some of the positives!
78	We are a young couple who has been living in Ampleforth since 2021. One of the main reasons we moved here is because Ampleforth is one of the only villages with lots amenities, pubs, cafe, a post office, and	None of the alternative schools are suitable to replace St Hilda's. The nearest school, St Benedict's,	Community	Yes, it was easy to understand	

	<p>most importantly Daisy Care and St Hilda's School. Closing St Hilda would be a huge blow to the community, with lots of young people being forced to move away. We would seriously consider selling our house and going to a different area, especially since Hovingham School has also recently closed. We know many other young couples and families feel like this and we don't want Ampleforth to be devalued or losing the wonderful community it has created. St Hilda's isn't great just because pupils love to attend, but it's a big part of the community. It attracts young families who put their money into the village. It attracts diversity. It provides employment. Transport provisions for schools in other villages haven't been provided yet, and would likely be costly, therefore it wouldn't make sense to close St Hilda's. Children who are too young to travel without parental support would need to be driven individually, putting great strain on our roads, creating traffic, difficulty for young families needing to commute, and cost. It also isn't accessible to families who cannot drive.</p>	<p>is a Catholic school not suitable for children of other faiths or atheists, who get classified as "other". It's also a non catchment school and it has selective admissions, which limits or even prevents Non Catholic children from being admitted. It is not a suitable alternative to St Hilda's. Helmsley is therefore the nearest school, which is still over 4 miles away so not accessible to families who don't drive. Transport provisions are still unknown, and the school is almost at full capacity and cannot accommodate all St Hilda's present pupils, let alone future pupils. Hustwaite is over 6 miles away which makes it an unsuitable distance from Ampleforth, especially for younger children who cannot travel alone. Traffic would like increase, and accessibility would be low for families who do not drive for many reasons including health reasons. Crayke and Slingsby schools are at capacity. Terrington Primary School is too far away. Therefore there is no suitable alternatives, St Hilda's is quite essential to the community and the education of our future children.</p>			
79	<p>I suggest but you try to keep StHilda's School, Ampleforth open to maintain an excellent small school where children are well taught a nurtured in small groups. I know that this is expensive but if people moving into into the area (particularly as Ampleforth College grows its numbers) the number of children may increase. St Benedict's is also a good school but not everyone wants a Roman Catholic education. Could you not possibly join together and work ecumenically as has happened well in other areas, with a gentle ethos of the C of E? Might it be possible to run at a loss for a couple of years until numbers improve?</p>	<p>Children will have further to travel which is expensive in time and petrol adding to parents already busy lives. Wrap around care from the nursery in Ampleforth is also valuable.</p>	Ex parent & governor	Yes, it was easy to understand	
80	<p>See response from Friends of St Hilda's School which is reproduced in full as part of this appendix.</p>				

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

(Form updated October 2023)

Proposal to close St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School from 31 August 2024

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](mailto: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 براۓ 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	Jon Holden, County Hall
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the EIA	Matt George, Strategic Planning Officer
How will you pay due regard? e.g. working group, individual officer	Council Officers and School Governing Body
When did the due regard process start?	Consultation started on 1 March 2024

**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?)

The proposal is to close St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School from 31 August 2024. A period of consultation with the community has been carried out, including written consultation and an online public meeting. 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.)

At the meeting of the Governing Board of the St Hilda's Ampleforth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School on 17 January 2024 it was reluctantly resolved, following a full discussion about pupil numbers, financial prospects and future sources of

leadership, to invite North Yorkshire Council to commence a consultation on closure of this school

In January 2024 Governors brought forward this proposal to consult on the closure due to low pupil numbers and an expected Reception intake of 0 pupils in September 2024 leading to a decline in the overall number on roll. This has led to financial pressures, meaning that the school will have an in-year deficit in 2024/25 and a cumulative deficit by 2025/26. The school's current leadership arrangement with leadership being provided by the Arete Learning Trust (formerly Ryedale Learning Trust) is only in place until the end of the summer term 2024. Governors have requested the consultation at this time as they have identified the importance of a decision on the school's future being made before the end of this academic year

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 the proposal to close St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School needs to be considered.

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

If this proposal went ahead, St Hilda's CE VC Primary School would close with effect from 31 August 2024. The Council would support parents to ensure that existing pupils are found school places in other local schools. If the decision is made to close, the catchment area of St Hilda's Ampleforth CE Primary School is proposed to be split between three neighbouring schools and pupils within those areas would receive priority for those schools.

### **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 1 March 2024 to 19 April 2024. Consultation documents were distributed to a wide range of stakeholders, and a public engagement meeting was held. The consultation document, responses, and notes of the public meetings are included in the report to the Executive on 7 May.

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

Should the closure go ahead from 31 August 2024, any deficit on the St Hilda's Ampleforth CE School budget on that date would be absorbed by the Council.

Home to school travel assistance would be provided for entitled pupils in accordance with the Council's home to school transport policy. Costs will depend on the individual choices of schools by parents, and may also depend on the circumstances of individual pupils.

<b>Section 6. How will this proposal affect people with protected characteristics?</b>	<b>No impact</b>	<b>Make things better</b>	<b>Make things worse</b>	<b>Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.</b>
Age		X	X	<p>Currently there are only 13 pupils on roll and four of those are currently in Year 6 and will leave in summer 2024 to transition to secondary provision. If the decision is taken to close the school this adversely affects the current cohort.</p> <p>Moving to an alternative school will increase the opportunities for pupils to work and play with children their own age.</p>
Disability	X			<p>Pupils – The school is mainstream offering universal provision.</p> <p>Expertise will be utilised from the Council to provide appropriate SEN support.</p> <p>Staff – As an organisation NYC will continue to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 which obligates us to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate disabled individuals as employees or service users</p>
Sex	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. Parents can apply to another CE school and the Council will do its best to comply with their preference through the co-ordinated preference exercise.
Pregnancy or maternity	X			No impact anticipated.
Marriage or civil partnership	X			No impact anticipated.

<b>Section 7. How will this proposal affect people who...</b>	<b>No impact</b>	<b>Make things better</b>	<b>Make things worse</b>	<b>Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.</b>
..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>The nearest school to St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC is St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, which has places available in most year groups. The proposed catchment schools have a combined surplus of 100 places and all three have places available in most of their year groups.</p>
...have a low income?			X	<p>There may be adverse impact on those families with low incomes by the proposed closure of the school. However, this would be mitigated by the Council for those children from low income families who are eligible for transport assistance, in line with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy</p>
...are carers (unpaid family or friend)?			X	<p>There may be adverse impact on those losing the school and the wrap around care provided there. However, this would be mitigated by other local schools which have wrap around care.</p>
..... are from the Armed Forces Community	X			No impact is anticipated.

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

Ampleforth, Oswaldkirk, Gilling East, Wass, Cawton and Stonegrave.

**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.**

All pupils and staff at the school would experience changes under these proposals that staff and governors would need to manage sensitively.

The Council's Officers now feel that this decision is in the best interests of children and families served by the school.

<b>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)</b>	<b>Tick option chosen</b>
<b>1. No adverse impact - no major change needed to the proposal.</b> There is no potential for discrimination or adverse impact identified.	
<b>2. Adverse impact - adjust the proposal</b> - 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.	
<b>3. Adverse impact - continue the proposal</b> - 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)	<b>X</b>
<b>4. Actual or potential unlawful discrimination - stop and remove the proposal</b> – The EIA identifies actual or potential unlawful discrimination. It must be stopped.	
<b>Explanation of why option has been chosen.</b> (Include any advice given by Legal Services.)	
<p>St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary 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 to alternatives to closure of the school, including transport implications and the impact on local people and the wider community has been given. A detailed analysis of these issues is contained in the Statutory Proposals and the report to Executive. It is concluded that the case for closure is strong and in the best interests of educational provision in the area.</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?)**

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

**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.

Action	Lead	By when	Progress	Monitoring arrangements
Not applicable				

**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 the proposal to close St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School needs to be considered. Whilst it is recognised that there may be adverse impact upon those with protected characteristics of age and religion/belief, there are more positive impacts that will result if these proposals are implemented. As these proposals develop any adverse impacts will be carefully monitored, and all reasonable mitigations will be taken.

**Section 14. Sign off section**

This full EIA was completed by:

**Name:** Matt George  
**Job title:** Strategic Planning Officer  
**Directorate:** CYPS  
**Signature:** Matt George

**Completion date:** 18/04/2024

**Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature):** A Newbold

**Date:** 24/4/24

## APPENDIX 7: Climate change impact assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to help us understand the likely impacts of our decisions on the environment of North Yorkshire and on our aspiration to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030, or as close to that date as possible. The intention is to mitigate negative effects and identify projects which will have positive effects.

This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. The final document will be published as part of the decision making process and should be written in Plain English.

If you have any additional queries which are not covered by the guidance please email [climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk)

### Version 2: amended 11 August 2021

**Please note: You may not need to undertake this assessment if your proposal will be subject to any of the following:**

Planning Permission  
Environmental Impact Assessment  
Strategic Environmental Assessment

However, you will still need to summarise your findings in the summary section of the form below.

Please contact [climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk) for advice.

<b>Title of proposal</b>	<b>School Organisation</b>
<b>Brief description of proposal</b>	<b>Proposal to Close St Hilda's CE VC Primary School, Ampleforth</b>
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Children and Young Peoples' Service</b>
<b>Service area</b>	<b>Strategic Planning</b>
<b>Lead officer</b>	<b>Jon Holden</b>
<b>Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment</b>	<b>Matt George</b>
<b>Date impact assessment started</b>	<b>05/04/2024</b>

### **Options appraisal**

Were any other options considered in trying to achieve the aim of this project? If so, please give brief details and explain why alternative options were not progressed.

The consultation on a proposal to close the school has only been initiated because all other options to secure a sustainable future for the school had been exhausted. The full details of the situation leading to this closure proposal and the other options that were investigated are contained with the report to executive that this document is an appendix to.

In summary no sustainable option to keep the school open alone or in partnership could be identified.

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

As set out in the report to Executive dated May 7 2024, 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.

If the school closed, then parents will be able to express a preference for their child/children to attend another school locally. Depending on the schools which the pupils are allocated to and the distance to that school they may be eligible for home to school transport in line with the Council's home to school transport policy. The actual costs of any transport services would not be known until the number of children wishing to access transport on this route is confirmed, and NYC Integrated Passenger Transport have subsequently secured an operator for the service.

<p><b>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</b></p> <p><b>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</b></p>	<p><b>Positive impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p><b>No impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p><b>Negative impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p><b>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</b></p> <p><b>Where possible/relevant please include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Changes over and above business as usual</b></li> <li><b>Evidence or measurement of effect</b></li> <li><b>Figures for CO<sub>2</sub>e</b></li> <li><b>Links to relevant documents</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</b></p>	<p><b>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</b></p>	
<p>Minimise <b>greenhouse gas emissions</b> e.g. reducing emissions from travel, increasing energy efficiencies etc.</p>	<p>Emissions from travel</p>			<p>X</p>	<p>The issue of school transport is difficult to analyse as parental preference and parental behaviour plays a large role in the level of emissions from travel. For example, the Council can maintain a school in one village but popularity of a neighbouring school can encourage car use even in scenarios where a school within walking distance is available. Similarly even for schools located within walking distance some parents may choose to drive their children to school each day. Many schools operate travel plans which encourage low carbon transport options such as walking and cycling.</p> <p>In the particular case of the proposed closure of St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC School there will</p>	<p>Where possible Integrated Passenger transport will choose vehicles and routes to minimise traffic. Neighbouring schools will be encouraged and supported to develop sustainable travel plans.</p>	<p>Schools will continue to encourage sustainable methods of transport where safe and possible. For example by encouraging lift sharing, walking to school as part of developing their travel plans.</p>

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p><b>Positive impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p><b>No impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p><b>Negative impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes over and above business as usual</li> <li>• Evidence or measurement of effect</li> <li>• Figures for CO<sub>2</sub>e</li> <li>• Links to relevant documents</li> </ul>	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>	
<p>Page 112</p>				<p>be a small number of pupils living in Ampleforth who are currently within a very short walking distance of the current school who will be eligible for transport to the next nearest school (or under the current home to school transport policy their catchment school). Others may choose to attend the other school within the village, St Benedict's Ampleforth Catholic Primary School and continue to walk to school. Others who have previously walked may choose to drive to schools further afield. This would lead to an increase in vehicular travel.</p>			
	<p>Emissions from construction</p>		<p>X</p>		<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>Emissions from</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>The Council would cease to operate the St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC School Premises and the pupils would be accommodated at existing</p>		

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p><b>Positive impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p><b>No impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p><b>Negative impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes over and above business as usual</li> <li>• Evidence or measurement of effect</li> <li>• Figures for CO<sub>2</sub>e</li> <li>• Links to relevant documents</li> </ul>	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>	
<p>Page 113</p>	<p>running of buildings</p>				<p>local establishments with no additional running costs.</p>		
	<p>Emissions from data storage</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>The data storage for St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC School as a separate institution would not be required going forward.</p>		
	<p>Other</p>						
<p>Minimise <b>waste</b>: Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost e.g. reducing use of single use plastic</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>There will be a general reduction in the use of resources of all kinds due to the current St Hilda's pupils being accommodated in existing establishments and St Hilda's consumption of resources ceasing.</p>			
<p>Reduce <b>water</b> consumption</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>The water consumption required to operate St Hilda's CE as an establishment would no longer be required and is therefore removed from the NYC carbon footprint.</p>			
<p>Minimise <b>pollution</b> (including air, land, water, light and noise)</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>The pollution created by the St Hilda's CE heating system would be removed from the NYC carbon footprint.</p>			

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p><b>Positive impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p><b>No impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p><b>Negative impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes over and above business as usual</li> <li>• Evidence or measurement of effect</li> <li>• Figures for CO<sub>2</sub>e</li> <li>• Links to relevant documents</li> </ul>	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Ensure <b>resilience</b> to the effects of climate change e.g. reducing flood risk, mitigating effects of drier, hotter summers</p>		X		N/A		
<p>Enhance <b>conservation</b> and wildlife</p>		X		N/A		
<p>Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of <b>North Yorkshire's landscape</b></p>		X		N/A		
<p>Other (please state below)</p>						

**Are there any recognised good practice environmental standards in relation to this proposal?** If so, please detail how this proposal meets those standards.

N/A

**Summary** Summarise the findings of your impact assessment, including impacts, the 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:

This proposal has positive and negative environmental impacts. The positive impacts will be a reduction in energy usage associated with a whole establishment and site ceasing to be used. This would include reductions in heating, lighting and water usage. However, there is likely to be a negative impact associated with some increased use of vehicles to transport the pupils to and from school. Ultimately there is an overriding consideration in this proposal to provide the best outcome for the education of children in the local area and no other educationally sustainable option has been identified.

The school site itself is jointly owned by the Diocese of York and North Yorkshire Council. Both NYC and The Church of England have targets to make their entire estates carbon neutral by 2030 so the future of this site will form part of those aspirations.

**Sign off section**

This climate change impact assessment was completed by: Matt George

<b>Name</b>	<b>Matt George</b>
<b>Job title</b>	<b>Strategic Planning Officer</b>
<b>Service area</b>	<b>Strategic Planning</b>
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>CYPS</b>
<b>Signature</b>	<b>Amanda Newbold</b>
<b>Completion date</b>	<b>05/04/2024</b>

**Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature): Amanda Newbold**

**Date: 24/4/24**

## North Yorkshire Council

### Executive

7 May 2024

## Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Supplementary Planning Document

### Report of the Assistant Director for Planning

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider and agree adoption of the Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which supports the implementation of the Harrogate Local Plan 2014-2035.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 SPDs provide additional information about how policies contained within Development Plan documents (such as the Harrogate Local Plan 2014-35), can be taken forward. They do not contain new policies, but rather provide more information and clarity to how existing policies should be applied. Once adopted, they are used as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications within the area covered by the plan.
- 2.2 Both the Harrogate Local Plan 2014-35 and the Nidderdale AONB Management Plan 2019-2024 recognise the impact of light pollution on the dark skies, which are an important part of the special qualities of Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (now known as Nidderdale National Landscape). The Local Plan included policy to protect dark skies from further light pollution and the SPD provides guidance on how this will be achieved.
- 2.3 It is recognised that the Council has begun preparation for a new North Yorkshire Local Plan, which will replace the various existing local plans. This SPD will be in use alongside the Harrogate Local Plan until the new North Yorkshire Local Plan is adopted.

#### 3.0 ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

- 3.1 The SPD (Appendix A) was prepared with input and support from colleagues across the former Harrogate Borough Council and North Yorkshire County Council during late 2022 and early 2023, prior to vesting day.
- 3.2 The summary of key objectives / content of the SPD is as follows:
- To provide help and guidance for projects involving external lighting in the AONB;
  - To explain why dark skies are important, that the AONB has measurably dark skies, and that light pollution can have a serious impact on dark skies;
  - To set out a zoning scheme that provides greater levels of protection to the darkest parts of the AONB;
  - To provide practical advice on the design of appropriate lighting schemes;
  - To explain when and how lighting design schemes are required as part of the development management process.

## **4.0 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN AND RESPONSES**

- 4.1 During February and March 2023 the SPD was published for public consultation, as well as consultation with statutory consultees, agents and interested parties in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). Consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 which sets out the requirements for preparing supplementary planning documents.
- 4.2 Following consultation, all comments received were analysed and considered, where required amendments were made to the text to provide further clarity. It is noted that all responses except one supported the introduction of the guidance proposed in the SPD.
- 4.3 Full details of the consultation responses received, the Council's response and any amendments proposed are set out in the Consultation Statement prepared for the SPD and attached at Appendix B. For clarity, amendments proposed are highlighted in grey in the SPD appended to this report (Appendix A).

## **5.0 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL**

- 5.1. The Draft SPD was screened in order to determine whether or not a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was required in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, as amended by The Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (the SEA Regs). The screening exercise concluded that the SPD is not likely to have significant environmental effects. The outcomes of this screening were published for consultation alongside the SPD (Appendix C). No comments were received on the screening assessment and no changes proposed as a result of the consultation are considered to impact the results of the screening assessment.

## **6.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 The alternative option is not to adopt the SPD. This option is rejected as the additional guidance provides clarity to our customers and will assist the Council in seeking to achieve the highest quality development in the Nidderdale AONB protected landscape.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 SPDs cannot introduce new planning policies or add unnecessarily to the financial burdens on development. Therefore, there will be no new financial implications beyond those already considered in the Harrogate Local Plan, which was adopted in 2020.

## **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The Council's Principal Planning Lawyer was consulted throughout the drafting of the SPD and is satisfied with its scope and content.

## **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Thorough Equality analysis took place alongside the development of the adopted Local Plan to understand the potential effects of emerging policies on people with protected characteristics and to use this information to seek to eliminate negative effects and maximise positive effects. The analysis concluded that none of the policies have an overall negative effect for individuals and groups with protected characteristics. As the Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale AONB SPD is a guidance document to support implementation of the Local Plan, there are no further equalities implications beyond those already considered.

## **10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The adopted Harrogate Local Plan was developed in line with national and local policy on climate change, with climate change mitigation and resilience at the forefront. The SPD provides guidance to support the implementation of the adopted Local Plan policy.

## **11.0 CONCLUSIONS**

11.1 The Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Supplementary Planning Document provides additional guidance to support policies in the Harrogate Local Plan 2014-2035.

11.2 The SPD has been out to consultation in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and the relevant Statement of Community Involvement.

11.3 On adoption the SPD will provide guidance to support the relevant policies in the adopted Harrogate Local Plan and form a material consideration in the determination of applications within the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

## **12.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

12.1 The Harrogate Local Plan is a key mechanism for delivering the Council's corporate priorities in relation to planning. This SPD supports key policies in that plan, providing additional guidance to assist in their implementation.

## **13.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

13.1 That the Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty SPD is adopted, to be used as a material consideration in planning decisions within the Nidderdale AONB area.

13.2 That the Head of Planning Policy and Place be authorised to make minor amendments and graphical improvements ahead of adoption.

### **APPENDICES:**

- Appendix A – Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Supplementary Planning Document
- Appendix B – Consultation Statement
- Appendix C – SEA Screening Statement
- Appendix D – Climate Change Assessment
- Appendix E – Equalities Impact Assessment Screening Form

Nic Harne  
Corporate Director – Communities  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
March 2024

Report Author – Iain Mann, Manager, Nidderdale National Landscape  
Presenter of Report – Iain Mann, Nidderdale National Landscape Manager and Natasha Durham, Planning Manager (Policy).

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.



## Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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**Draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**

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## Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SPD

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1** The purpose of this Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to provide help and guidance for projects involving external lighting in the AONB. It contains information on dark skies and light pollution and provides practical advice about the design of lighting schemes and the choice of appropriate lighting technology so that everyone can play a part in reducing light pollution and protecting the AONB's dark skies.
- 1.2** The map shows the boundary of the AONB in North Yorkshire. The interactive map on the AONB's website contains mapping at a larger scale to help with pinpointing specific locations (hyperlink to [interactive map](#))

#### 1.1 Policy Context

- 1.3** Policy GS6 (Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) of the adopted Harrogate District Local Plan includes a requirement that 'Within the areas designated as Dark Skies, development proposals should ensure that lighting is directed and designed so as to reduce obtrusiveness and protect sensitive habitats'.
- 1.4** Policy GS6 in the adopted Local Plan refers to International Dark Sky Reserve Status that has been awarded to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority based on an assessment of the night sky that met the threshold for Reserve Status determined by the International Dark Sky Association. The darkest night skies over Nidderdale AONB also meet the Association's threshold but the AONB does not currently have Reserve status.
- 1.5** The National Planning Policy Framework requires that development proposals limit the impact of light pollution on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation. The Planning Practice Guidance: Light Pollution highlights the need to consider where, when and how much light shines and possible ecological impacts. This is particularly important within the AONB and is reflected in the commitments in the AONB Management Plan.

## Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SPD

### 2 Understanding Light Pollution

**2.1** Artificial lighting during the hours of darkness has progressively transformed the way people live and work since the early 1800s. Lighting of both private and public spaces is now both welcome and indispensable but has had negative consequences too. Indiscriminate use of lighting has the capacity to disrupt wildlife adversely affect human health and erode tranquillity as well as wasting energy and contributing to climate change.

**2.2** There are three categories of light pollution:

#### Categories of light pollution

- Skyglow - An orange glow around towns and cities that spreads widely beyond the edge of urban areas. It is caused by the illumination of airborne dust and water particles and is generated by reflective surfaces and badly directed light. White skyglow is increasing due to the dominance of LED lighting. Unshielded white or blue light leads to more skyglow than orange tones.
- Glare - The uncomfortable brightness of a light source when viewed against a contrasting darker background. It can be especially intrusive in rural areas where lighting is dispersed across a larger area forming isolated points in an otherwise dark space.
- Light intrusion - Light spilling beyond the boundary of a building or other structure. This type of light pollution often results in householder complaints but it can also affect adjacent wildlife habitats.

**2.3** Understanding the properties of light and the terms used to describe light can be helpful in specifying choice of light fittings:

#### Terms used to describe light

- Lumens - Total amount of light radiated by a lamp. 500 lumens is sufficient for most domestic applications.
- Candela - The intensity of light pointing in a given direction. The intensity of light can be a significant cause of glare.
- Lux - The brightness of surfaces illuminated by a light fitting. High lux values mean that illumination is greater and the light will appear brighter.

**2.4** The effect of light pollution also obscures views of the night sky. As Lord Rees, the Astronomer Royal, has said 'All generations and cultures have looked up and wondered at the stars but sadly this part of our shared environment has been degraded. Unless they live in remote rural areas, young people may grow up without ever seeing a truly dark starry sky – and that's a real deprivation'. The Campaign to Protect Rural England has calculated that dark skies completely free of light pollution now exist over only 22% of England. But for those fortunate to live in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or a National Park the chances of seeing the night sky in all its glory are much higher: 53% of England's remaining dark skies are in designated landscapes. Protecting what remains in these areas is therefore a high priority.

## Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SPD

- 2.5** The Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is no exception. The results of a survey by astronomers commissioned by the AONB in spring 2022 showed that the night skies in the north west of the designated area especially, including Upper Nidderdale and moorland near Masham are some of the least affected by light pollution in England. Even elsewhere in the AONB light pollution is at a much lower level compared to areas outside the designated area boundary.

### 2.1 Light Pollution and Wildlife

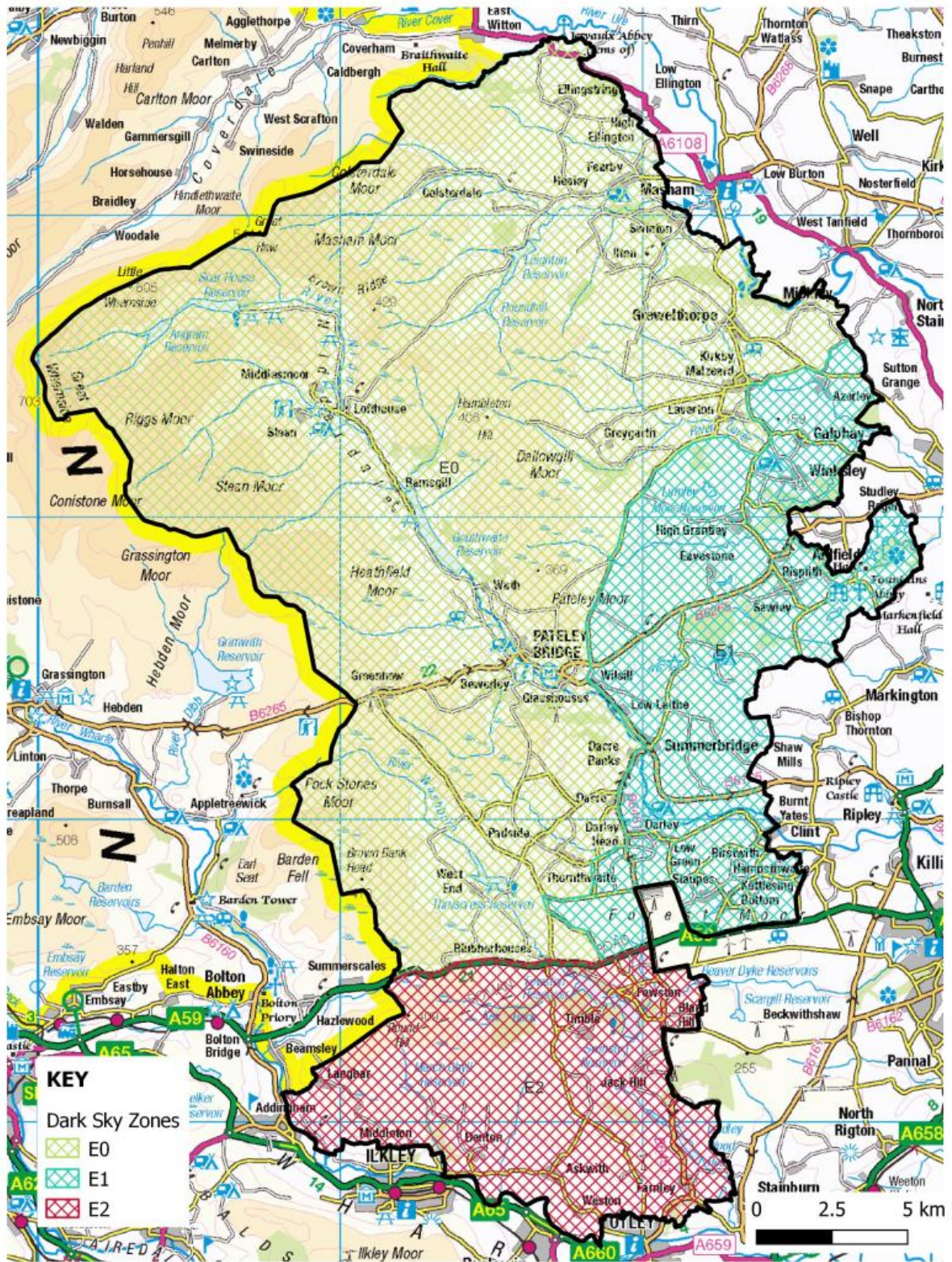
- 2.6** Research evidence shows that artificial light can be very disruptive for wildlife at a time when biodiversity is at a crisis point. It disturbs animals' perception of the transition from daytime to night-time, disrupting their sleep-wake cycle. It results in reduced foraging or hunting periods for nocturnal species that are active during the hours of darkness and it can also affect plants whose flowering and dormancy periods are linked to day length. Its effects on bat species are well-documented, delaying or preventing emergence from roosts while slower-flying bat species avoid lit areas for foraging resulting in reduced feeding success. Further detail on these impacts is available in the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution report *Artificial Light in the Environment*.
- 2.7** The Institute of Lighting Professionals and the Bat Conservation Trust have published guidance on lighting: *Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night* which can be found at [www.theilp.org.uk](http://www.theilp.org.uk)
- 2.8** Studies have demonstrated that night-flying insect mortality is increased by artificial light caused by exhaustion and increased predation. Artificial light affects other invertebrate species too disrupting mating, feeding and hatching behaviours. The effects on birds have also been well-publicised. It affects migratory species whose flight paths are distorted by artificial light with disoriented birds colliding with buildings in urban areas, while it disrupts reproductive cycles and foraging behaviours in other species. Any development must comply with Local Plan Policy NE3: *Protecting the Natural Environment*. Further advice should be sought from Natural England where light pollution from development may impact on a protected site or a protected species.

## Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SPD

### 3 Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB

- 3.1** Dark Sky mapping of the AONB was carried out using data from [www.lightpollutionmap.info](http://www.lightpollutionmap.info) and a survey of dark skies during March 2022 by consultants using hand held Unihedron SQM-L Sky Quality Meters (SQMs) that measure the amount of light picked up by the device <sup>(1)</sup>. Desktop research indicates that the north western half of the AONB has the darkest skies and is confirmed by SQM readings in excess of the 21.2 benchmark for Dark Sky Reserve status set by the International Dark Sky Association. This figure compares to readings of 22 for so-called pristine skies. SQM readings to the east returned results of between 20 and 20.5, still much darker than urban areas with typical readings of 17 to 19 SQM. [www.lightpollutionmap.info](http://www.lightpollutionmap.info) data indicates that dark skies in the area to the south of the AONB are adversely affected by urban areas close by.
- 3.2** The map at Fig.1 identifies three darkness zones in the AONB classified using criteria developed by the International Dark Skies Association:
- Zone E0 in the north and west of the AONB has the darkest skies. It includes small villages like Lofthouse in Upper Nidderdale, Gollinglith Foot in Colsterdale and Belford on the edge of Dallowgill Moor.
  - Zone E1 is a transitional area between the darkest zone E0 and parts of the AONB that are affected by urban areas on lower ground in the east.
  - Zone E2 comprises the southern part of the AONB closest to the Wharfedale towns where night skies are affected by Skyglow associated with the Leeds and Bradford conurbation.

## Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SPD



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Dark Sky Zones in the AONB

## Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SPD

### 4 AONB Dark Sky Zone Requirements

4.1 All development in the Nidderdale AONB should comply with the following guidance:

#### Zone E0

- All new external lights should comply with Lighting Design Standards set out in this SPD.
- All applications for new development that involve external lighting should include a lighting plan.
- Applications for major development must include a lighting plan prepared by a lighting professional in accordance with relevant guidelines published by the Institute for Lighting Professionals (ILP) summarised in the next section of the SPD.
- All new outside lights should be fully shielded and have an output of less than 500 lumens.
- Internal lighting design for new buildings and modifications to existing internal lighting should avoid light intrusion caused by light spill from large areas of glazing in particular.

#### Zone E1

- All new external lights should comply with Lighting Design Standards set out in the next section of the SPD.
- Applications for major development must include a lighting plan prepared by a lighting professional in accordance with relevant ILP guidelines.
- Bulbs in external lights should be 500 lumens or less and fully shielded if greater than 1000 lumens.
- Applications for major development must include a lighting plan prepared by a lighting professional in accordance with relevant guidelines published by the Institute for Lighting Professionals (ILP) summarised in the next section of the SPD.

#### Zone E2

- External lights should be positioned to avoid light spill beyond property boundaries.
- All new external lights should have an output of less than 1000 lumens.
- Lights with an output of more than 1800 lumens should be fully shielded.
- Applications for major development must include a lighting plan prepared by a lighting professional in accordance with relevant guidelines published by the Institute for Lighting Professionals (ILP) summarised in the next section of the SPD.

## Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SPD

- 4.2** The AONB can provide advice on modifying existing external lights to meet the Lighting Design Standards and to avoid light spill and in Zone E0 may be able to offer financial support to help residents protect dark skies from light pollution.

## Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SPD

### 5 Lighting Design Standards

#### External lighting control systems

All external lighting should be fitted with a Lighting Control System (LCS) to ensure lights are automatically switched off when they are not required, so that external lighting is not on continuously during hours of darkness. Examples of LCSs include relays, timers, occupancy and motion sensors, photocells and light control switches or touchscreens. LCSs can also be used to control curtains and blinds that should be used at all times during the hours of darkness. Crude dusk to dawn sensors should be avoided.

#### Brightness

External lighting should be fitted with LEDs (Light Emitting Diode) that emit the same amount of light compared to a filament lightbulb. Light output (brightness) is measured in lumens. Bulbs used for external fittings should ideally be 500 lumens or less, and fully shielded in Zone E1.

#### Colour

White light has varying colour tones measured by the Kelvin scale (K). LEDs with a Kelvin scale rating of more than 3000 emit a piercing blue-white light that can cause excessive glare when seen against the otherwise dark background characteristic of most of the AONB. Glare can be avoided by using bulbs with a rating of 3000K.

#### Positioning

All external lights should be positioned so that the light shines downwards. No light should be allowed to shine above the horizontal plane and light fittings with integral shields or cowls should be used to prevent light spill.

## Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SPD

### 6 Lighting Scheme Design

- 6.1 External lighting specifications will vary according to the site or building and its function. The starting point should always be to consider if external lighting is required at all. Where it is necessary, this section of the Document contains more specific advice for types of development that often involve external lighting:

#### Domestic lighting schemes

Floodlights installed for security reasons often cause light spill and glare. They are often very powerful and installed without an adequate Lighting Control System. They frequently result in 'wasted light' illuminating large areas around the lighting target, use more energy than necessary and can generate householder complaints. In fact research shows they can sometimes have the opposite effect of creating contrasting dark spots where people can hide unseen while badly installed lights can also be triggered by wildlife. According to crime prevention organisations other systems including CCTV can be a more effective deterrent. Less intrusive lighting solutions based on an accurate assessment of lighting requirements and designed using the latest technology with advanced control systems are always preferable.

Bulkhead or porch lights are often a good alternative to security floodlights. Fixed underneath a canopy or roof above the entrance with a low-power 600–900 lumens (9/11w) compact fluorescent or LED lamp can reduce glare and light spill

The use of 'up and down' lights should be avoided. They may not adequately illuminate the target area, they invariably result in wasted upward light and contribute to light pollution

Where strictly necessary low intensity widely spaced down-lighters, either ground-mounted or fixed to low bollards can be used to illuminate paths leading to entrances for reasons of safety. A simple audit of existing external lighting and the effects of light spill from internal lighting installations in the immediate vicinity is a useful guide to the design of new domestic lighting schemes. The cumulative impact of small-scale change can be significant and adding more lighting, especially where existing installations are intrusive, can detract from our enjoyment of the night sky.

Domestic lighting should keep within these limits:

- The output of a single light or cumulative number of lights illuminating one task area of less than 1,500 lumens
- The total light out of the property should be less than 4,500 lumens
- A surface illuminance over 5 lux is excessive

## Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SPD

### **Architectural lighting**

Buildings are sometimes lit to highlight distinctive design features during the hours of darkness. Architectural lighting is inappropriate in zone E0. Outside E0 external lighting plans for this purpose should be designed in accordance with the Standards. Architectural lighting schemes will be likely to require planning permission and a Lighting Control Systems would be essential.

### **Historic buildings**

External lighting of historic buildings to showcase their heritage value is generally inappropriate in the AONB other than in very exceptional cases outside the darkest zone E0 and where buildings are Listed as Grade2 or above. External lighting schemes will require Listed Building consent. Historic England published guidance on external lighting schemes in September 2021.

### **Commercial development (including farm buildings)**

External lighting of commercial premises including livestock and other farm buildings is necessary for both safety and economic reasons. However evidence from survey work carried out for the AONB suggests that light spill and glare associated with commercial installations is the most obvious source of light pollution in the darkest zones of the AONB often caused by light spill from roof lights and high powered light fittings mounted on poles or high up on buildings. The AONB can provide advice on modifying existing external lights to meet the Lighting Design Standards and to avoid light spill beyond the building and in Zone E0 may be able to offer financial support to help modify existing installations. All applications for new commercial buildings in the AONB must include a lighting plan.

### **Caravan and camping sites**

Care should be taken to ensure lighting of service buildings and reception areas does not result in light spill. Passive Infrared (PIR) sensors can help control lighting necessary for service buildings that need to be accessible throughout the hours of darkness while low intensity down-lighters, either ground-mounted or fixed to low bollards can be used to illuminate paths. Providing visitors with the opportunity to rent or borrow simple star gazing kits including binoculars, a telescope and a comfortable viewing chair will help raise awareness of the importance of protecting the AONB's dark skies.

## Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SPD

### Sports Facilities

Some external sports facilities may require artificial lighting if they are designed to be used during the winter months. Inappropriate floodlighting can cause significant light pollution, although carefully designed modern lighting installations can avoid such problems. Sports England published guidance on Artificial Sports Lighting in 2012. All applications for new external sports facilities in the AONB must include a lighting plan.

- 6.2** The Institute for Lighting Professionals published detailed advice on how to reduce light pollution in 2021. 'The Reduction of Obtrusive Light' is free to download from [www.theilp.org.uk](http://www.theilp.org.uk)

### 6.1 Highways and Street Lighting

- 6.3** Where new street and highway lighting is absolutely necessary, proposals should be designed to minimise light spill in accordance with the guidelines in the SPD and relevant design guidance published by North Yorkshire County Council.

## 7 Dark Skies and Planning Permission

- 7.1** Minor external lighting installations on most domestic buildings are classified as Permitted Development and do not require planning permission.
- 7.2** However lighting should be covered in applications for planning permission involving:
- Non-domestic developments;
  - Development containing larger scale domestic lighting proposals such as those involving design and installation by specialist lighting engineers or large areas of glazing that may result in light spill;
  - Leisure developments with floodlighting e.g. sports fields and public tennis courts.
  - Lighting proposals that affect the character or fabric of a listed building will require Listed Building Consent.
  - Illuminated Advertisements;
  - Architectural 'mood' lighting;
  - Lighting of car parks.
- 7.3** The Planning Authority may ask for a lighting assessment for major development in the AONB. A detailed plan should be prepared by a lighting engineer using guidelines prepared by the Institute for Lighting Professionals (PLG 04 [www.theilp.org.uk](http://www.theilp.org.uk)). As a minimum, the plan should include:
- A description of the need for lighting
  - An explanation of how the plan complies with relevant standards e.g. Guidance on Obtrusive Lighting published by the ILP
  - An analysis of baseline conditions
  - Position of all proposed lighting
  - Installation details e.g. angle and height
  - Technical specifications including isolux power, lumen output and colour temperature
  - Viewpoint analysis

## Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SPD

- The result of modelling showing illuminance levels in the areas affected by the lighting scheme
- Description of measures such as illuminance limits and buffers to mitigate harm to wildlife habitats and notable species, especially bats, identified in ecological surveys.

**7.4** To minimize the harmful effects of light pollution, always start with the Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) Good Lighting Practice summary in the beginning ‘the provision of the right light, at the right time, in the right place, controlled by the right system.’

**7.5** As well as planning policy, guidance on lighting scheme design is published by the ILP and good practice standards are published by the British Standards Institute. Legislation affecting external lighting includes Statutory Nuisance Provisions in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 that empowers local councils to issue an ‘abatement notice’ if a lighting installation ‘unreasonably and substantially interfere[s] with the use or enjoyment of a home or other premises, injures health or be likely to injure health’.

## Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SPD

## 8 Further Information

8.1 Further information can be found from the following organisations:

- Nidderdale AONB [www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk](http://www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk)
- North Yorkshire Council [www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)
- British Standards Institute [knowledge.bsigroup.com](http://knowledge.bsigroup.com)
- Institute of Lighting Professionals [www.theilp.org.uk](http://www.theilp.org.uk)
- International Dark Sky Association [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)
- Historic England [www.historicengland.org.uk](http://www.historicengland.org.uk)
- Sport England (Artificial Sports Design Guidance) [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)
- Bat Conservation Trust and Institute for Lighting Professionals (Bats & Artificial Lighting) [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk) or [www.theilp.org.uk](http://www.theilp.org.uk)
- Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution report Artificial Light in the Environment [www.gov.uk/government/publications/artificial-light-in-the-environment](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/artificial-light-in-the-environment)
- Planning Practice Guidance: Light Pollution [www.gov.uk/guidance/light-pollution](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/light-pollution)





## Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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**Draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**  
Consultation Statement

## Consultation Statement 1

- 1.1** Harrogate Borough Council is preparing a Supplement Planning Document to provide detailed guidance on Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which will help provide help and guidance for projects involving external lighting in the AONB to support Policy GS6 (Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Beauty) of the adopted Harrogate District Local Plan 2014 : 2035.
- 1.2** The Council is now seeking public representations on the draft version of this SPD, and in accordance with Regulation 12 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 has published this document to set out
- The persons and organisations consulted when preparing the supplementary planning document;
  - A summary of the main issues raised by those persons/organisations; and
  - How those issues have been addressed in the supplementary planning document.
- 1.3** The SPD has been prepared on behalf of Harrogate Borough Council by the Nidderdale AONB team with input from the organisations below. The table below sets out the main issues raised during these discussions and how they fed into the preparation of the SPD.
- 1.4** On the 1 April 2023 North Yorkshire Council (NYC) was formed which assumed responsibility for administrating the area previously administrated by North Yorkshire County Council and the district councils of Harrogate, Craven, Hambleton, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough and Selby. The consultation was carried out by Harrogate Borough Council prior to Local Government Re-organisation.

Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SPD		
Harrogate Borough Council's Planning Policy Team	Review of scope and format of the SPD	Feedback used to revise the text
Harrogate Borough Council's Legal Team	Scope and status of the SPD	Feedback used to determine the approach to the SPD
Harrogate Borough Council's Environmental Protection Team	Comments on early draft	Results incorporated in the draft
Harrogate Borough Council's Development Management Team	Comments on early draft	Results incorporated in the draft
'Go Stargazing'	Surveys of Nidderdale's dark skies	Results incorporated in the draft
North York Moors National Park Authority	Review of scope and format of the SPD and approach taken by other protected landscapes	Results incorporated in the draft
South Downs National Park Authority	Review of scope and format of the SPD and approach taken by other protected landscapes	Results incorporated in the draft

## 1 Consultation Statement

Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SPD		
Northumberland National Park Authority	Review of scope and format of the SPD and approach taken by other protected landscapes	Results incorporated in the draft

- 1.5** Consultation took place between Monday 20 February and Monday 20 March 2023. A summary of issues raised, the Council's response and any proposed modifications are set out below.

## Protecting Dark Skies in the AONB: SPD Table of responses

ID	Name	Consultation Point	Comment	Response
AONBSPD1	Chris McIntosh	Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale AONB SPD	The key issue is to protect the Nidderdale AONB from light pollution, and I would hope the proposals and standards in the Consultation Document are not permitted to be weakened to cater for potential commercial vested interests. Indeed, where possible efforts should be made to make the standards more stringent towards maintaining a "dark sky" condition.	Noted. No change to document.
AONBSPD2	William Gaunt	3 – Dark Skies in the Nidderdale AONB	Zone E0 should be extended to include the area N of the Wilsill- Smelthouses- Winsley road as far as Lumley moor. This is still an area of sparse population and encompasses Brimham Rocks	Although this area is sparsely populated, it is part of the transitional area on the eastern side of the AONB towards the urban areas to the east and is therefore appropriate to be classified as Zone E1. No change to document.
AONBSPD3	William Gaunt	7 – Dark Skies and Planning Permission	There need to be controls on domestic lighting additions as these are often thoughtless and in an area of darkness can prove to be a substantial detriment.  There also need to be some retropective powers as many existing installations are inappropriate.	It is not possible to apply controls to lighting that is covered by permitted development rights, nor is it possible to apply these standards retrospectively. We will, however, use the SPD as an opportunity to promote good practice for all types of lighting that impacts the quality of the AONB's dark skies. No change to document.
AONBSPD4	J Dalton	Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale AONB SPD	I do not have the technical expertise to comment on the dark skies SPD, but am delighted you have done it. Thank you very much. I hope it is approved.	Noted. No change to document.
AONBSPD5	Julia Dean	Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale AONB SPD	I am writing to inform you of my views re the Dark Skies .  I am totally in favour of this action and I am also strongly in support of applying this action to include all outdoor lighting. Including any form of street lighting. Particularly street lights that have not been upgraded to the new standard of lighting. I am of the opinion that although street lighting is needed, I believe that in many areas it would benefit both people and wildlife and the environment if it were to be turned off at certain times of the night. For example from say midnight until 6.00 am apart from areas otherwise deemed unsafe to remain unlit. Also if this were to be applied in all locations possible, it would	Although there is minimal street lighting in non-residential areas of the AONB, street lighting can have an impact on dark skies (including biodiversity) as noted by the respondent. Paragraph 6.3 of the SPD provides guidance to be followed for any new street lighting in the AONB (including clarifying that it should only be installed where absolutely necessary.  Existing street lighting is the responsibility of the Local Highways Authority and falls outside the scope of this SPD. We will, however, raise the issues highlighted with the relevant senior officer with responsibility for Highways. No change to document.

## Protecting Dark Skies in the AONB: SPD Table of responses

AONBSPD6	Joanne Smalley	Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale AONB SPD	<p>also have the benefit of saving the local authority money. Which in these straightened times is a win win situation. This I feel would make complete sense all round.</p> <p>I whole heartedly support this proposal for the wildlife of Nidderdale and it's beautiful dark skies. I really hope that plenty of support is achieved, and this policy can become a reality. It is so needed, especially in light of all new developments coming our way.</p>	Noted. No change to document.
AONBSPD7	Lee Gunner	7 – Dark Skies and Planning Permission	<p>I own a small company - Light Planning and Design Ltd in Harrogate</p> <p>I am regularly appointed to undertake the design and assessment for projects within dark sky sensitive regions. I feel the SPD should point out what should be submitted to ensure it doesn't become a tick box exercise and serves the intended purpose.</p> <p>As follows:</p> <p>Below is a summary of the usual assessment stages (not exhaustive)</p> <p><b>Baseline –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of a calibrated quality light meter eg – Konica Minolta T10A or equivalent (not an app on a phone)</li> <li>• Vertical and horizontal light measurements should be taken typically at ground and at 1.5m high at all points identified by the ecologist (light, roosts, commuting, etc), residential locations, heritage and other sensitivities</li> <li>• The Site and surroundings environmental zones should be clarified</li> <li>• The Environmental Zone for the Site may differ from that for the sensitive receptor and differing thresholds should be used</li> </ul>	<p>The detailed and helpful comments are noted.</p> <p>Baseline measurement is good practice to address cumulative impact in particular and is a requirement for lighting management plans linked to major development, as set out in section 7.3.</p> <p>The detailed steps outlined in the comments in respect of domestic installations, which would need expert input, are likely to be regarded as excessive. However, it is valuable to include a statement about the importance of a simple baseline assessment and cumulative impact.</p> <p>Insert extra text to highlight value of a simple baseline assessment and consideration of cumulative impact.</p> <p>6 – Lighting Scheme Design – Domestic lighting schemes box out add text: "A simple audit of existing external lighting and the effects of light spill from internal lighting installations in the immediate vicinity is a useful guide to the design of new domestic lighting schemes. The cumulative impact of small-scale change can be significant and adding more lighting, especially where existing installations are intrusive, can detract from our enjoyment of the night sky."</p>

## Protecting Dark Skies in the AONB: SPD Table of responses

AONBSPD8	Historic England	Protecting Dark Skies in the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These values are not just a reference but should be taken as a cumulative in the assessment as the total effect</li> <li>• The baseline study is often helped by photographs</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment –</b></p> <p>Calculation should be based on and including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including terrain change</li> <li>• Excluding trees, planting etc</li> <li>• Based on a unity maintenance factor (1.0)</li> <li>• Assessment for all lighting on 100%</li> <li>• Assessment provided on the <b>vertical plane</b> at all sensitivities (this is the bit that matters as is usually relevant to the sensitivity – window location, bat flight etc)</li> <li>• Assessment should also include glare and upwards light (reflected) to the latest ILP guidance for the relevant environmental zone</li> <li>• Assessment should be a cumulative condition (including retained existing lighting in and around the site)</li> <li>• Compliance should be stated along with embedded design mitigation and further mitigation to maintain compliance</li> </ul> <p><b>Monitoring –</b></p> <p>A case could be put forward that a monitoring exercise is undertaken post installation and occupation (all lighting on) to ensure compliance and to identify any remedial measures necessary</p> <p>I am more than happy to assist and advise accordingly</p> <p>Thank you for consulting Historic England on the above document. We support the preparation of this Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which will</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>No change to document.</p>
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## Protecting Dark Skies in the AONB: SPD Table of responses

AONBSPD9	David Butterfield	Nidderdale AONB SPD	help to ensure that development proposals safeguard the Nidderdale Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty's dark skies, an element which contributes to the special qualities of the area. We particularly welcome the contents of the box relating to the lighting of historic buildings on page 11 of the SPD and its reference to Historic England's advice on external lighting schemes.	No change to document.
AONBSPD10	David Butterfield	Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale AONB SPD	I think that any plans to lessen light pollution is to be welcomed.	Noted. No change to document.
AONBSPD11	Dr Chris Higgins	Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale AONB SPD	Thank you for the opportunity to consult with this document. I fully support the protection of Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB. I am pleased to see the proposed incorporation of directional control, LED temperature and LUX limits. It is vitally important that future generations are able to view, learn about and witness the value of our dark skies. Many children have not seen more than a handful of stars in the night sky. Visiting the Nidderdale AONB is one way of introducing the night sky to those who have yet to witness the Milky Way. I would like to see further proactive steps to inspect and support the modification of current lighting systems that do not comply with this proposal. There are examples of industrial, commercial, hospitality and farming installations particularly that currently allow vertical light trespass.	Support for proposals noted. It is not possible to apply the standards in the SPD retrospectively. We will, however, use the SPD as an opportunity to promote good practice for all types of lighting that impacts the quality of the AONB's dark skies. No change to document.
AONBSPD12	Louise McManus	2 – Understanding Light Pollution	When we moved here in 2008, it was noticeable how dark the sky was and we could regularly see the milky way from our property. However, this has been significantly degraded over the last few years - mainly due to the increase in light from Menwith Hill and also from external lighting on people's houses	Noted. No change to document.
AONBSPD13	Louise McManus	2.1 Light Pollution and Wildlife	I recently presented a paper to Harrogate District Climate Change Coalition (HDCCC), and used this useful paper as a reference	Noted. No change to document.

## Protecting Dark Skies in the AONB: SPD Table of responses

AONDSPD14	Louise McManus	4 – AONB Dark Sky Zone Requirements	<p>“State of the Science 2022”, a research paper produced by the International Dark Sky Association and available at: <a href="https://www.darksky.org/artificial-light-at-night-state-of-the-science-2022-report/">https://www.darksky.org/artificial-light-at-night-state-of-the-science-2022-report/</a></p> <p>I agree with these recommendations, but feel they should be extended to areas where light overflows. For example, from the new West Harrogate Business Park and the Army Foundation College.</p>	<p>The scope of this SPD is limited to within the boundary of the AONB. The requirement to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated area by new development in its setting is included within the Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework. This will include any impact on dark skies where relevant.</p> <p>No change to document.</p> <p>Insert extra text to clarify that lighting control systems are specifically designed to avoid lighting being on just because it is dark.</p> <p>5 – Lighting Design Standards – External lighting control systems changed to read: “All external lighting should be fitted with a Lighting Control System (LCS) to ensure lights are automatically switched off when they are not required, so that external lighting is not on continuously during hours of darkness.”</p>
AONBSPD15	Louise McManus	5 – Lighting Design Standards	<p>I think that “when not required” should be more specific. Businesses may think that lighting is required whenever it is dark - for example, for security reasons. However, there is no evidence to suggest that this makes any difference to the level of risk and that having motion-activated lights are sufficient.</p>	<p>Insert extra text to clarify that all developers should consider if external lighting is necessary at all before deciding to develop a lighting design scheme.</p> <p>6 – Lighting Design Scheme – paragraph 6.1 changed to read: “External lighting specifications will vary according to the site or building and its function. The starting point should always be to consider if external lighting is required at all. Where it is considered necessary, this section of the Document contains more specific advice for types of development that often involve external lighting.”</p>
AONBSPD16	Louise McManus	6 – Lighting Scheme Design	<p>I feel this could be more strongly worded - making the point that external lighting should be the exception, rather than the rule in the AONB.</p>	<p>Reporting a lighting issue is via the Environment and Neighbourhoods section of the Council website. Paragraph 7.5 of the SPD explains the legislative context for light pollution nuisance.</p> <p>We will also use the SPD as an opportunity to promote good practice for all types of lighting that impacts the quality of the AONB’s dark skies.</p>
AONBSPD17	Louise McManus	7 – Dark Skies and Planning Permission	<p>Is there a mechanism by which people can notify the AONB or council of lights which are causing a nuisance? Or which are impinging on the Dark Skies status of the AONB?</p>	

## Protecting Dark Skies in the AONB: SPD Table of responses

AONBSPD18	John Lennon	Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale AONB SPD	<p>The planning burden on development in the ANOB is already onerous. This SPD will make it more so. Layer upon layer of additional regulation does nothing more than feed a small industry of consultants and add time and cost to development. Ultimately, vibrant communities are in the best interest of the countryside and ANOB. Additional beaurocracy and red tape isn't.</p>	<p>No change to document.</p> <p>Nidderdale AONB is a nationally protected landscape, designated for its special qualities. The ever-increasing spread and intrusion of external lighting is having an impact on these special qualities. The SPD is a proportionate tool to minimise further harm to the area's dark skies and will have little or no impact on most developments, since these do not require external lighting beyond those permitted via permitted development rights.</p>
AONBSPD21	Lee Gunner	Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale AONB SPD	<p>As a lighting consultant in North Yorkshire, I am regularly appointed as a consultant for projects to design and protect for dark skies and ecology nationwide. My thoughts were recently requested for a similar endeavour in Cumbria and to follow were my observations into what was missing and to avoid the process just becoming a check list without substance.</p> <p>Below is a summary of the usual assessment stages (not exhaustive)</p> <p><b>Baseline –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of a calibrated quality light meter eg – Konica Minolta T10A or equivalent (not an app on a phone)</li> <li>• Vertical and horizontal light measurements should be taken typically at ground and at 1.5m high at all points identified by the ecologist (light, roosts, commuting, etc), residential locations, heritage and other sensitivities</li> <li>• The Site and surroundings environmental zones should be clarified</li> <li>• The Environmental Zone for the Site may differ from that for the sensitive receptor and differing thresholds should be used</li> </ul>	<p>No change to document.</p> <p>See response to AONBSPD7 above.</p> <p>No change to document.</p>

**Protecting Dark Skies in the AONB: SPD Table of responses**

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These values are not just a reference but should be taken as a cumulative in the assessment as the total effect</li> <li>• The baseline study is often helped by photographs</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calculation should be based on and including the following:</li> <li>• Including terrain change</li> <li>• Excluding trees, planting etc</li> <li>• Based on a unity maintenance factor (1.0)</li> <li>• Assessment for all lighting on 100%</li> <li>• Assessment provided on the vertical plane at all sensitivities (this is the bit that matters as is usually relevant to the sensitivity – window location, bat flight etc)</li> <li>• Assessment should also include glare and upwards light (reflected) to the latest ILP guidance for the relevant environmental zone</li> <li>• Assessment should be a cumulative condition (including retained existing lighting in and around the site)</li> <li>• Compliance should be stated along with embedded design mitigation and further mitigation to maintain compliance</li> </ul> <p><b>Monitoring –</b></p> <p>A case could be put forward that a monitoring exercise is undertaken post installation and occupation (all lighting on) to ensure compliance and to identify any remedial measures necessary</p> <p>If i can be of any help, i would welcome the opportunity.</p> <p><a href="http://www.lightpad.co.uk">www.lightpad.co.uk</a></p>	
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## Protecting Dark Skies in the AONB: SPD Table of responses

AONBSPD22	Harrrogate Civic Society	Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale AONB SPD	<p>Many thanks for inviting us to comment on the Draft Supplementary Planning Document as above.</p> <p>Having read the document, we have no detailed comments to make but wish to record that the Harrrogate Civic Society welcomes the SPD. The proposed SPD is very worthwhile and we believe that it is a practical measure to achieve a reduction in future light spill.</p> <p>We would be pleased to know when the SPD is adopted and be notified if any other policy measures are proposed regarding control of light pollution.</p> <p>Thank you for consulting us on the draft of the above SPD. We have the following comments to make on the document as drafted:</p> <p>We are satisfied that the overall document incorporates the protection and enhancement of priority wildlife species. Specifically, the document explains the negative extent of artificial lighting on wildlife using and inhabiting rivers and its corridor habitats, in addition to outlining mitigations for these impacts, with reference to the Institute of Lighting guidance. For more information regarding lighting mitigations please follow guidance outlined here: <a href="#">Guidance Note 1 for the reduction of obtrusive light 2021   Institution of Lighting Professionals (theilp.org.uk)</a></p> <p>Section 2.1 regarding light pollution effects on wildlife, is especially important and covers a lot of the wildlife species we are most concerned about. The guidance for this is well written using clear, strong language and references guidance from the institute of lighting professionals. We would like to echo how significant the impacts of artificial lighting can be on wildlife and therefore this SPD will be both a positive and important consideration for planning applications.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>No change to document.</p>
AONBSPD23	Environment Agency	Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale AONB SPD	<p>We are satisfied that the overall document incorporates the protection and enhancement of priority wildlife species. Specifically, the document explains the negative extent of artificial lighting on wildlife using and inhabiting rivers and its corridor habitats, in addition to outlining mitigations for these impacts, with reference to the Institute of Lighting guidance. For more information regarding lighting mitigations please follow guidance outlined here: <a href="#">Guidance Note 1 for the reduction of obtrusive light 2021   Institution of Lighting Professionals (theilp.org.uk)</a></p> <p>Section 2.1 regarding light pollution effects on wildlife, is especially important and covers a lot of the wildlife species we are most concerned about. The guidance for this is well written using clear, strong language and references guidance from the institute of lighting professionals. We would like to echo how significant the impacts of artificial lighting can be on wildlife and therefore this SPD will be both a positive and important consideration for planning applications.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>No change to document.</p>
AONBSPD24	Environment Agency	2.1 – Light Pollution and Wildlife	<p>Thank you for consulting Natural England on the Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Supplementary</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>No change to document.</p>
AONBSPD25	Natural England	1 – Introduction	<p>Thank you for consulting Natural England on the Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Supplementary</p>	<p>Insert extra text to refer to the Planning Practice Guidance on Light Pollution.</p>

## Protecting Dark Skies in the AONB: SPD Table of responses

AONBSPD26	Natural England	2 – Understanding Light Pollution	<p>Planning Document (SPD). Please find our comments below.</p> <p>Paragraph 1.5 – refers to the National Planning Policy Framework. We advise that reference is also made to the Planning Practice Guidance: Light Pollution <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/light-pollution">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/light-pollution</a> and the key questions which the Guidance states that local authorities and applicants should consider; namely ‘where the light shines, when the light shines, how much the light shines; and possible ecological impacts.’ Natural England advises that the Planning Practice Guidance should also be included within Section 8 Further Information.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.2 states that ‘there are three categories of light pollution’. The International Dark Skies Association also recognises a fourth category of light pollution: ‘Clutter’, which it defines as ‘Excessive groupings of light sources that are bright and confusing. Only direct lighting onto desired areas and avoid excessive lighting.’ <a href="https://www.darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2020/08/Dark-Skies-Issue-Guide-7-27-2020.pdf">https://www.darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2020/08/Dark-Skies-Issue-Guide-7-27-2020.pdf</a> page 9. The planning authority could consider whether this is also relevant to the SPD.</p>	<p>1 – Introduction – paragraph 1.6 changed to read: “The National Planning Policy Framework requires that development proposals limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation. The Planning Practice Guidance: Light Pollution highlights the need to consider where, when and how much light shines and possible ecological impacts. This is particularly important within the AONB and is reflected in commitments in the AONB Management Plan.”</p>
AONBSPD27	Natural England	2.1 – Light Pollution and Wildlife	<p>Section 2.1 Light Pollution and Wildlife should reference the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution’s report Artificial Light in the Environment, which can be found at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/artificial-light-in-the-environment">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/artificial-light-in-the-environment</a>. This document should also be included under Section 8 Further Information.</p> <p>Section 2.1 should refer to the need to consider potential impacts on Protected Sites and protected species. We recommend that reference to the relevant policies and/or supporting text in Chapter 9 of the Local Plan may be included here. Further advice is available from the Defra and Natural England websites on handling the impact on wildlife – including</p>	<p>There are a variety of different ways to define light pollution. The SPD has adopted the 3 broad categories that are used by organisations such as the National Geographic Society and CPRE to provide a broad and easily understood overview of the issue. This is considered appropriate for the context of Nidderdale AONB.</p> <p>No change to document.</p>
			<p>Insert extra text to refer to the Royal Commission report.</p> <p>2.1 – Light Pollution and Wildlife – paragraph 2.6 changed to add additional sentence: “Further detail on these impacts is available in the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution report <i>Artificial Light in the Environment</i>.”</p> <p>Insert extra text to refer Policy NE3 and to protected sites and protected species.</p> <p>2.1 – Light Pollution and Wildlife – paragraph 2.9 changed to add additional sentences: “Any development must comply with Local Plan Policy NE3: Protecting the Natural Environment. Further advice should be sought from Natural</p>	

## Protecting Dark Skies in the AONB: SPD Table of responses

AONBSPD28	Natural England	8 – Further Information	<p>from artificial light – where Protected Sites or protected species could be affected.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.7 refers to the published guidance by the Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) and the Bat Conservation Trust. It is suggested that the part of the guidance that is used is referenced in full by name.</p> <p>Section 8 Further information could include the relevant references quoted within the Planning Practice Guidance under ‘What other information is available that could inform approaches to lighting and help reduce light pollution,’ which can be found at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/light-pollution">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/light-pollution</a></p>	<p>England where light pollution from development may impact on a protected site or a protected species.”</p> <p>Insert extra text to refer to the guidance note in full.</p> <p>2.1 – Light Pollution and Wildlife – paragraph 2.7 changed to “The Institute of Lighting Professionals and the Bat Conservation Trust have published guidance on lighting: <i>Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night</i>, which can be found at <a href="http://www.theilp.org.uk">www.theilp.org.uk</a>”.</p> <p>Insert extra reference documents</p> <p>8 – Further Information updated to include references to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution report Artificial Light in the Environment <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/artificial-light-in-the-environment">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/artificial-light-in-the-environment</a></li> <li>Planning Practice Guidance: Light Pollution <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/light-pollution">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/light-pollution</a></li> </ul>
AONBSPD29	York Consortium Drainage Boards	Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale AONB SPD	<p>Thank you for your e-mail.</p> <p>We have reviewed the Dark Sky Zones Map and they are all very far out of our district. We do not therefore have any comments to make on this occasion.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>No change to document.</p>
AONBSPD30	Sport England	Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale AONB SPD	<p>Thank you for sharing the consultation and please accept my apologies for this late response sent after the deadline. I do hope that there is still time to take this into account.</p> <p>Sport England would like to draw your attention to artificial lighting of sports facilities that may be found within the Nidderdale AONB that could be affected by the SPD.</p> <p>The creation of an appropriate visual environment is a fundamental requirement in sports design and the effective integration of the artificial lighting system should be considered as a standard part of a modern sports facility.</p> <p>The general benefits of good artificial lighting at an outdoor sports facility can greatly extend the hours of play, particularly in winter and enable facilities to be used all year round. Sports lighting installations are</p>	<p>Add extra category in Lighting Scheme Design to cover sports facilities. Note that Sports England guidance is already included in Section 8 – Further Information.</p> <p>6 – Lighting Design Scheme add extra category box-out: <b>“Sports Facilities</b></p> <p>Some external sports facilities may require artificial lighting if they are designed to be used during the evening in winter months. Inappropriate floodlighting can cause significant light pollution, although carefully designed modern lighting installations can avoid such problems. Sport England published guidance on Artificial Sports Lighting in 2012. All applications for new external sports facilities in the AONB must include a lighting plan.”</p>

**Protecting Dark Skies in the AONB: SPD Table of responses**

			<p>now common in local community facilities giving extended hours of play to a much wider range of users. Modern lighting installations do not need to be intrusive. Sport England wishes to draw your attention to our Design Guidance Note on Artificial Sports Lighting that can be found here: <a href="https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-lighting">https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-lighting</a></p>	
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**NOTE:** There is no AONBSPD19 and 20



## Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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**Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening**  
February 2023

# Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SEA Screening Statement

## Introduction

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to determine whether or not the contents of the *Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB Supplementary Planning Document* (SPD) requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, as amended by The Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment)(EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (the SEA Regs).

## Legislative Background

- 1.2** In addition, Paragraph: 008 of the Planning Guidance Reference ID: 11-008-20140306 has been considered. This states that supplementary planning documents may in exceptional circumstances require a strategic environmental assessment if they are likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been assessed during the preparation of the relevant strategic policies. This screening statement considers the impacts which are not already assessed within the Harrogate District Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal 2018 and the Sustainability Appraisal Addendum 3 Main Modifications July 2019.

## Purpose of the SPD

- 1.3** The SPD seeks to provide detailed guidance to support Policy GS6: Nidderdale AONB in the Local Plan adopted 4 March 2020 (adopted for new settlement policies 9 December 2020). The guidance supports the implementation of the policy and expands on that provided in the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) and the reasoned justification to Policy GS6. The SPD seeks to provide;
- Information on dark skies and light pollution
  - Detail of the three darkness zones in the AONB
  - Practical advice about the design of lighting schemes and the choice of appropriate lighting technology

## Screening Process

- 1.4** The screening opinion assessment is undertaken in two parts: the first will assess whether the SPD requires SEA and the second part of the assessment will consider whether the SPD is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, using criteria drawn from Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations.

## The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

- 2.1** The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 came into force on 20th July 2004.

Environmental Regulations Paragraph	Comments
<b>Interpretation</b> 2.(1) [...]	Yes  The SPD is subject to preparation and adoption at local level. Whilst the SPD is not a requirement and is optional under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act it will, if

## Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SEA Screening Statement

Environmental Regulations Paragraph	Comments
<p>"plans and programmes" means plans and programmes, including those co-financed by the European Community, as well as any modifications to them, which—</p> <p>'plans and programmes' which</p> <p>(a) are subject to preparation and adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level;</p> <p>(b) are prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government; and, in either case,</p> <p>(c) are required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions</p>	<p>adopted, supplement the development plan and be a material consideration in the assessment of planning applications.</p>
<p><b>Environmental assessment for plans and programmes; first formal preparatory act on or after 21st July 2004</b></p> <p><b>5.(2) The description is a plan or programme which—</b></p> <p>(a) is prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, and</p> <p>(b) sets the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annex I or II Directive 2011/92/EU(4) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The SPD is prepared for town and country planning purposes. It supplements the planning policy framework of the Harrogate District Local Plan, by providing detailed guidance as to how these policies are interpreted for future consent of projects listed in Schedule II of Directive 2011/92/EU(4).</p>
<p>(3) The description is a plan or programme which, in view of the likely effect on sites, has been determined to require an assessment pursuant to any law that implemented Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>The SPD is not likely to effect sites and has been determined not to require an assessment pursuant to any law that implemented Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Habitat Regulations Assessment is not required. The Habitat Regulation Assessment for the Harrogate District Local Plan concluded that Policy HS9 would not cause a negative effect alone or in combination with other plans. The SPD does not provide any guidance which alters the impact of GS6 on designated sites. The adopted Harrogate District Local Plan 2014-2035</p>

## Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SEA Screening Statement

Environmental Regulations Paragraph	Comments
	has been subject to Habitat Regulation Assessment and other appropriate assessment, please <a href="http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/localplan">www.harrogate.gov.uk/localplan</a>
<p>(6) An environmental assessment need not be carried out—</p> <p>(a) for a plan or programme of the description set out in paragraph (2) or (3) which determines the use of a small area at local level, or</p> <p>(b) for a minor modification to a plan or programme of the description set out in either of those paragraphs,</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The SPD provides further detail on the implementation of one policy within the adopted Harrogate District Local Plan 2014-2035, specifically Policy GS6: Nidderdale AONB.</p>
<p><b>Determinations of the responsible authority</b></p> <p>9.—(1) The responsible authority shall determine whether or not a plan, programme or modification of a description referred to in—</p> <p>(a) paragraph (4)(a) and (b) of regulation 5;</p> <p>(b) paragraph (6)(a) of that regulation; or</p> <p>(c) paragraph (6)(b) of that regulation,</p> <p>is likely to have significant environmental effects.</p> <p>(2) Before making a determination under paragraph (1) the responsible authority shall—</p> <p>(a) take into account the criteria specified in Schedule 1 to these Regulations; and</p> <p>(b) consult the consultation bodies.</p>	<p>This SEA screening has been prepared using the criteria specified in Schedule 1 as presented in the following table.</p>

Table 2.1

### Schedule 1 Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

SEA Requirement	Comments
<p>1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to -</p>	

## Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SEA Screening Statement

SEA Requirement	Comments
(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	The SPD has a minor role in setting the framework for projects. While the SPD forms a material consideration in decisions on planning applications. It has no influence on the location or volume of projects nor does it allocate resources.
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	The SPD does not create new policies but will support the policies in the adopted Local Plan. Other plans and programmes will likely outlive the SPD and during their preparation will be steered by national legislation and policy.
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	The purpose of the SPD is to provide guidance to support the Policy GS6 of the adopted Local Plan. The Local Plan SA/SEA assessed Policy GS6. The purpose of this SPD is to ensure these beneficial impacts of that policy are delivered and maintained.
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	There are no environmental problems relevant to this SPD.
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of retained EU law on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The SPD has no relevance to the implementation of retained EU law.
<b>2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to—</b>	
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	The SPD is not allocating sites for development. The SPD is to provide guidance for the application and implementation of the policies in the adopted Local Plan and is not expected to give rise to any significant environmental effects.
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	The SPD is not considered to have any significant cumulative effects. As the document provides further guidance to adopted local plan policies, but does not set policies itself, it cannot contribute to cumulative impacts in combination with the Local Plan.
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	There are no transboundary effects as this SPD relates to the Harrogate District only (specifically the Nidderdale AONB). Any potential significant transboundary environmental effects

## Protecting Dark Skies in Nidderdale AONB SEA Screening Statement

SEA Requirement	Comments
	have already been assessed as part of the local plan's sustainability appraisal, the Habitat Regulations Assessment and the plan's examination process.
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	The SPD poses no risk to human health.
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The SPD relates to Harrogate District only (specifically the Nidderdale AONB).
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to— (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and	The SPD relates to Harrogate District only (specifically the Nidderdale AONB); there are a number of nationally designated nature conservation sites, designated and non-designated heritage assets (listed buildings and conservation area etc.). As no development is proposed via the SPD, none of these are likely to be affected by the SPD and this would be addressed through a planning application, specific to the proposal.
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	The Harrogate District has areas of landscape recognised at national and international level, development schemes will be considered in accordance with the Local Plan which seeks to avoid impacts on these areas.  As the SPD seeks to provide guidance and support to Local Plan Policy GS6 in relation to Nidderdale AONB it is considered that the landscape is not likely to be affected by the SPD. All schemes would be addressed through a planning application, specific to the proposal.

Table 2.2

## Conclusion

- 3.1** The assessment above identifies that the SPD will provide guidance to support Policy GS6: Nidderdale AONB of the Harrogate Local Plan and it is therefore concluded that the SPD is not likely to have significant environmental effects.



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### Initial Climate Change Impact Assessment (Form created August 2021)

The intention of this document is to help the council to gain an initial understanding of the impact of a project or decision on the environment. This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. Dependent on this initial assessment you may need to go on to complete a full Climate Change Impact Assessment. The final document will be published as part of the decision-making process.

If you have any additional queries, which are not covered by the guidance please email [climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk)

<b>Title of proposal</b>	Adoption of the Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Supplementary Planning Document
<b>Brief description of proposal</b>	The Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Supplementary Planning Document sets out guidance to support the adopted Harrogate Local Plan (2014-2035). It does not introduce new policy or requirements. The report proposes to adopt the guidance as a Supplementary Planning Document and use this as material consideration in the determination of relevant planning proposals.
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Community Development</b>
<b>Service area</b>	<b>Planning</b>
<b>Lead officer</b>	<b>Iain Mann, Nidderdale National Landscape Manager</b>
<b>Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment</b>	<b>Natasha Durham, Planning Manager (Policy)</b>

The chart below contains the main environmental factors to consider in your initial assessment – choose the appropriate option from the drop-down list for each one.

Remember to think about the following;

- Travel
- Construction
- Data storage
- Use of buildings
- Change of land use
- Opportunities for recycling and reuse

Environmental factor to consider	For the council	For the county	Overall
Greenhouse gas emissions	No effect on emissions	No Effect on emissions	No effect on emissions
Waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste
Water use	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage
Pollution (air, land, water, noise, light)	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution
Resilience to adverse weather/climate events (flooding, drought etc)	No effect on resilience	No effect on resilience	No effect on resilience
Ecological effects (biodiversity, loss of habitat etc)	Negative impact on ecology	Negative impact on ecology	No effect on ecology
Heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape

If any of these factors are likely to result in a negative or positive environmental impact then a full climate change impact assessment will be required. It is important that we capture information about both positive and negative impacts to aid the council in calculating its carbon footprint and environmental impact.

<b>Decision (Please tick one option)</b>	Full CCIA not relevant or proportionate:	X	Continue to full CCIA:	
<b>Reason for decision</b>	The adopted Harrogate Local Plan was developed in line with national and local policy on climate change, with climate change mitigation and resilience at the forefront. The SPD provides guidance to support the implementation of the adopted Local Plan policy.			
<b>Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)</b>	Trevor Watson			
<b>Date</b>	26/02/2024			

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<b>Initial equality impact assessment screening form</b> This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.			
<b>Directorate</b>	Community Development		
<b>Service area</b>	Planning		
<b>Proposal being screened</b>	Adoption of the Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Supplementary Planning Document		
<b>Officer(s) carrying out screening</b>	Natasha Durham, Planning Manager (Policy)		
<b>What are you proposing to do?</b>	To adopt the Protecting Dark Skies in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Supplementary Planning Document.		
<b>Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?</b>	The SPD provides guidance for how the adopted Local Plan policy to protect dark skies from further light pollution should be implemented. The SPD seeks to provide information on dark skies as well as practical suggestions for how the adopted policy can met. <u>The SPD does not introduce any new policy requirements.</u>		
<b>Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources?</b> Please give details.	No. The SPD provides written guidance to customers.		
<b>Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYC's additional agreed characteristics</b> As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics?</li> <li>Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important?</li> <li>Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to?</li> </ul> <p><b>If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be an adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your directorate representative for advice if you are in any doubt.</b></p>			
Protected characteristic	Potential for adverse impact		Don't know/No info available
	Yes	No	
Age		✓	
Disability		✓	
Sex		✓	
Race		✓	
Sexual orientation		✓	
Gender reassignment		✓	
Religion or belief		✓	
Pregnancy or maternity		✓	
Marriage or civil partnership		✓	
People in rural areas		✓	

People on a low income		✓	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		✓	
Are from the Armed Forces Community		✓	
<b>Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts</b> (for example, disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.	No		
<b>Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate?</b> (for example, partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	No		
<b>Decision (Please tick one option)</b>	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	✓	Continue to full EIA:
<b>Reason for decision</b>	<p>Thorough Equality analysis took place alongside the development of the Adopted Harrogate Local Plan to understand the potential effects of emerging policies on people with protected characteristics and to use this information to seek to eliminate negative effects and maximise positive effects.</p> <p>The analysis concluded that none of the policies have an overall negative effect for individuals and groups with protected characteristics. The SPD is a guidance document and does not include any additional requirements. It is therefore concluded that EIA is not required in this circumstance.</p>		
<b>Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)</b>	Trevor Watson		
<b>Date</b>	26/02/2024		

## North Yorkshire Council

### Executive

7 May 2024

## Creation of a new Audit, Counter Fraud and Related Governance Services Company

### Report of the Corporate Director Resources

*The Appendices to this report contain information of the type defined in:*

*-paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as it contains - information relating to the financial and business affairs of Veritau Limited;*

*-paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings, and it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.*

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

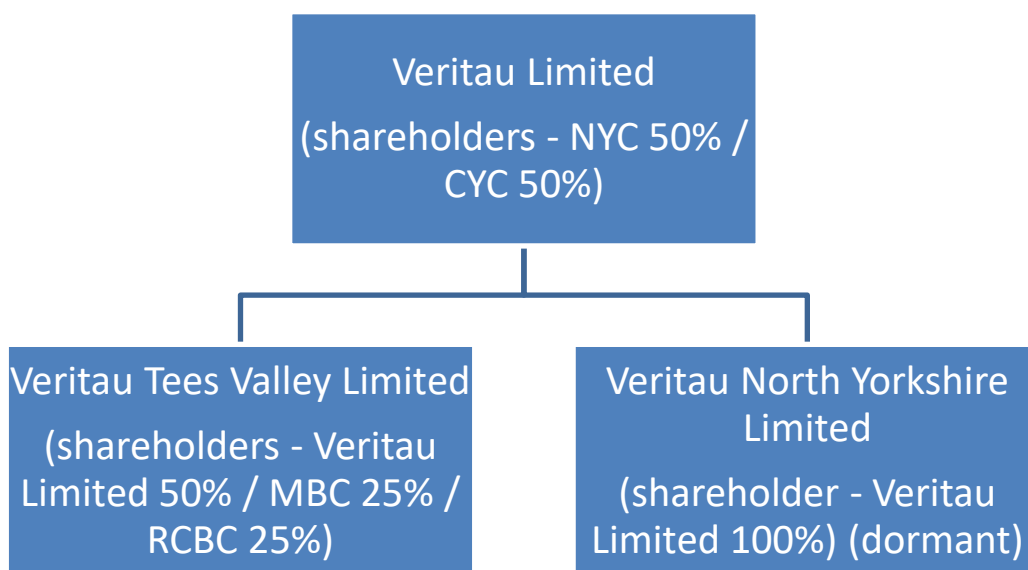
- 1.1 To provide Members with the Business Case for the establishment of a new company for the provision of audit, counter fraud and information governance services which would adhere to the Teckal exemption in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 1.2 To seek Member's approval to the establishment of the new company which will be jointly owned between the North Yorkshire Council and other authorities and limited by guarantee on the basis of the Business Case.
- 1.3 To seek Member's approval for Veritau Limited to operate on a commercial basis in the future without the benefit of the Teckal exemption.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Veritau Limited currently operates as a Teckal company (in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015) and is jointly owned by the Council and City of York Council (**CYC**). Veritau Tees Valley Limited is a subsidiary of Veritau Limited and is also a Teckal company part owned by Middlesbrough Borough Council (**MBC**) and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (**RCBC**). Collectively these companies are known as the "Veritau Group".
- 2.2. The range and scope of work undertaken by the Veritau Group is extensive, and touches on all Council service areas to varying degrees. As part of their scrutiny role, the Council's Audit Committee review the overall performance and activity of Veritau as a key part of the Council's overall framework of governance, control, and risk management.
- 2.3. Veritau Limited (**VL**) have provided a business case for a proposed restructure of the Veritau Group (**Appendix A**).
- 2.4. The proposal is to create a new Teckal compliant company, limited by guarantee (**Newco**). Newco will be jointly owned between the Council, CYC, MBC, RCBC and will enable the company to grow and invite more member authorities to join as owners of the company.

### 3.0 CURRENT GROUP STRUCTURE AND PROPOSAL FOR RESTRUCTURE

- 3.1. After the creation of VL in 2009, the shared service model proved to be successful, resulting in several other local authorities expressing an interest in joining.
- 3.2. A further joint venture company called Veritau North Yorkshire Limited (**VNY**) was established in February 2012, which was co-owned by VL and five of the North Yorkshire District / Borough Councils. Following local government reorganisation in 2023, VL purchased the shares in VNY previously held by the North Yorkshire District / Borough Councils. VNY is therefore now a wholly owned subsidiary of VL, and the company is currently dormant.
- 3.3. A second joint venture company called Veritau Tees Valley Limited ("**VTV**") was formed in December 2019.
- 3.4. Both VL and VTV were established as Teckal compliant companies. This enabled the local authority members of both companies to take advantage of the exemption contained in Regulation 12 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 to award contracts to the companies for the supply of services without the requirement to undertake a public procurement exercise, providing certain conditions were satisfied throughout the life of any long-term contracts they have with local authority members (set out in Section 8 below).
- 3.5. The current group structure is therefore:

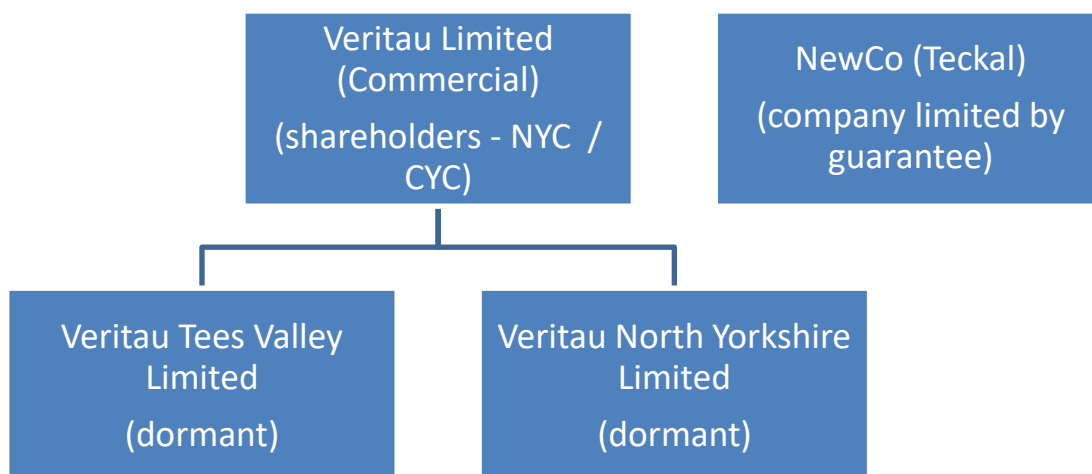


- 3.6. In addition to providing assurance services to its four local authority members, the Veritau Group now provides assurance services to over 700 other clients. To comply with the Teckal exemption this commercial work must amount to less than 20% of the overall work of the company, which restricts the growth opportunities of the Veritau Group.
- 3.7. The shared service model continues to attract interest from other councils. However, the existing corporate structure for both VL and VTV does not allow new local authority members to be easily admitted due to the need to issue additional shares, and the impact this has on existing shareholdings. Existing member councils also cannot easily leave.
- 3.8. The key drivers for a change to the Veritau group's current shared service model and corporate structure are:

- to maintain its *Teckal* status to allow Veritau to continue delivering audit and assurance services to its current local authority members;
- to allow for more local authorities to join to ensure its *Teckal* compliance and continue said expansion.
- to allow VL to continue to grow its commercial offering, for the benefit of its local authority shareholders and to allow Veritau to remain competitive in the market.

#### 4.0 THE PROPOSAL – CREATION OF VERITAU ASSURANCE LIMITED

- 4.1. The proposal is to create a new Teckal compliant company, limited by guarantee.
- 4.2. The four existing member authorities (CYC, NYC, MBC and RCBC) would all become the initial members in the new company, (with potentially further members in time).
- 4.3. Each member authority of NewCo will be required to pay a one-off subscription fee to join to cover set-up costs, working capital and contingencies. VL would pay a dividend to NYC and CYC to fund each council’s subscription.
- 4.4. The future liability of NYC and the other member authorities, otherwise known as the guarantee, would be capped at an agreed value of no more than £10. The guarantee is the maximum sum which would need to be paid by the member council to the company in the event of the company being wound up. If the Council or one of the other local authorities ceased to be a member of NewCo, the guarantee would continue to apply for one year after the date of exit.
- 4.5. All the existing commercial contracts would remain with VL and VL would become a non-Teckal company providing services to external clients. VL would continue to be a company limited by shares co-owned by CYC and NYC. The staff and any assets in VL will transfer to Newco, staff would transfer through a TUPE transfer.
- 4.6. In respect of staffing, NewCo would recharge the associated payroll and overhead costs to VL at a market rate, and, in respect of strategic leadership services, Newco would charge VL a management fee.
- 4.7. To the extent that Newco make a surplus in respect of any services it provides (whether to VL or to its member councils), this would either be reinvested in its business operations or returned to the member councils in the form of a rebate.
- 4.8. Both VNY and VTV would eventually be wound up.
- 4.9. The Veritau Group structure would be as follows:



This corporate structure would satisfy the *Teckal* exemption within the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. A company limited by guarantee would also facilitate the admission and exit of member authorities which permits growth of the company.

## **5.0 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

- 5.1. The services provided by internal audit seek to give assurance to members that the Council's control framework is operating effectively and as such it underpins all of the Council's activities helping to ensure delivery of all of the Council's priorities.

## **6.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

### 6.1. Alternative Option 1 - Do Nothing

- This option is not viable as it does not permit growth of the company for either local authority or commercial work.

### 6.2. Alternative Option 2 - Keep the existing business structure but take steps to ensure continued Teckal compliance

- This would require careful monitoring of external fee work, and if it was necessary to reduce the work could have a negative impact on the Veritau Group's financial viability due to any reduction in profitable commercial work.
- The corporate structure would still not allow for the easy admission of additional authorities.

### 6.3. Alternative Option 3 - Re-purpose VNY and novate all external commercial work to VNY

- This option would involve VL transferring its shares in the current dormant company, VNY, to NYC and CYC and converting the company into a standalone commercial business. The existing commercial contracts held by VL would then be novated to VNY.
- This would partially address any longer-term concerns about potential Teckal compliance but would still not allow for the easy admission of new authorities to assist with continued expansion of the external commercial work, due to VL's status as a company limited by shares.

- 6.4. As such, these alternative options are considered not to be viable and the proposed creation of the new company limited by guarantee remains the most appropriate solution to ensure continued Teckal compliance and growth.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The financial implications of this report relate to the proposal to pay both NYC and CYC a dividend which is then subsequently used to pay a one-time subscription fee for the new company. This will allow the new company to operate with a minimum level of reserves, but without any additional financial risk to NYC.

- 7.2 The recommendations of this report will look to retain a cost-effective audit, risk and assurance service which supports NYC in providing assurances about the efficient and effective delivery of its services to the residents of North Yorkshire.

## 8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. The Council will rely on the general trading powers in conjunction with its powers to carry out the activity in question. Both general trading powers require the authority to trade through a company:
  - Section 95 of the Local Government Act 2003 enables relevant authorities “to do for a commercial purpose anything which they are authorised to do for the purpose of carrying on any of their ordinary functions” i.e. anything they are empowered to do in legislation. The section 95 power can be limited by order and authorities exercising it must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
  - Section 4 of the Localism Act 2011 enables the local authority to do for a commercial purpose anything that it is empowered to do under section 1 (the general power of competence). The section 4 power is therefore wider than the section 95 power.
- 8.2. The section 95 and section 4 trading powers prescribe which company structures may be used, one of which is a company limited by guarantee.
- 8.3. The local authority must prepare a business case supporting the exercise of the section 95 power, which the authority must approve (Local Government (Best Value Authorities) (Power to Trade) (England) Order 2009). The business case attached at Appendix A fulfils this purpose.
- 8.4. It is proposed that Newco will comply with the Teckal exemption which has now been incorporated into the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Regulation 12(1) enables a contracting authority to directly award contracts to a company it owns without undertaking a procurement exercise where the following criteria are satisfied:
  - the contracting authorities exercise the same amount of control over the company as it does over any of its internal departments. (This will be governed through reserved matters in the company’s Articles of Association, Members Agreement and corresponding Scheme of Delegation and the composition of the Board of Directors of the company which will contain a majority of member authority directors); and
  - more than 80% of the company’s turnover is derived through activities performed for the contracting authority; and
  - there is no direct private capital participation in the company.
- 8.5. It is proposed that Newco will be set up and operated in a way which will fulfil all three criteria.
- 8.6. It will be possible for Newco to admit new members to it provided that the vehicle continues to satisfy the control and activities tests under Teckal. This is possible due to the company being limited by guarantee.
- 8.7. The Procurement Act 2023 introduces slightly different tests for Teckal (under the Act referred to as “vertical arrangements”) but in practice the control test contained in Schedule 2 of the Act is not fundamentally different from that currently contained under Reg 12(1) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. There is a new component of the test under the Procurement Act 2023, requiring that any controlling or member entity fulfils the requirement of ‘parent undertaking’ as defined under section 1162, Companies Act 2006.
- 8.8. The Council may provide equity to the company. The powers contained in the Local Government Act 2000 extend to authorising the local authority to giving financial assistance to any “person” and entering into arrangements or agreements with any “person”. Any agreement must be for a commercial purpose and may provide for grants, loans or guarantees. The provision of equity to the company by the Council is compliant with the Subsidy Control Act 2022 as capital is being provided in circumstances that would be acceptable to a private investor operating under normal market economy conditions. This can be taken to apply where a new company is set up with the public authorities holding the entire

capital or a majority or minority interest, provided the authorities apply the same criteria as provider of capital under normal market economy conditions. The Council will be responsible for the debts and losses of the company to the extent of the nominal value of its guarantee (i.e. £10) and to the extent of any specific guarantee or contractual arrangement that it has entered into.

- 8.9. NewCo's activities will be bound by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The company will need its own Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules. It is proposed that where Newco requires use of office accommodation it will enter into appropriate commercial leasing or licencing agreements.
- 8.10. VL will become a commercial company which will not be subject to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. In addition to providing audit and related assurance services to its Member Councils, Newco will also provide staff resources and strategic leadership services to VL on an ongoing basis. Any services provided by Newco to VL would be charged at market rates. Any services provided by Newco to VL would count towards the (less than) 20% total activity limit.
- 8.11. The proposal for VL to declare a dividend to its shareholders (CYC and NYC) is permitted with both shareholder's consent. Therefore approval of the dividend will be required by the Council.
- 8.12. The staff within VL will transfer to Newco under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE). Legal advice will be provided to assist with the TUPE transfer.

## **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. There are no equalities implications as a result of this report.

## **10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. There are no climate change implications as a result of this report.

## **11.0 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1. Internal Audit provides assurance across all of the council's activities, helping to identify control weaknesses and mitigation actions. The proposal will also reduce the risk of potential future non-compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

## **12.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12.1. To ensure that the Veritau Group can continue to deliver audit and assurance services to the Council and the other member authorities (both present and future) in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 12.2. To allow greater flexibility than the current shared service model, by allowing new member authorities to be more easily admitted and exiting members to leave more easily.
- 12.3. To remove or reduce duplication of costs/operating inefficiencies within the current shared service model.
- 12.4. To allow VL to continue to grow its commercial offering for the benefit of its current shareholders, CYC and the Council.

## **13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are requested to

- i) approve the Business Case at Appendix A

- ii) approve the implementation of a new jointly owned company, in accordance with the details set out in the Business Case at Appendix A;
- iii) approve the setting up of a company limited by guarantee;
- iv) delegate to the Chief Executive (as Shareholder Representative) the approval of any dividend payment by Veritau Limited and authorise the Chief Executive (as Shareholder Representative) to sign any relevant shareholder resolutions in relation to a dividend;
- v) approve the investment of a “subscription fee” in NewCo;
- vi) delegate the approval of the articles, the company name, the members agreement and any other governance documents associated with new company to Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Democratic Services;
- vii) delegate the Council entering into all other agreements and documents necessary for the establishment of the new company to the Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Democratic Services;
- viii) delegate to the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services to progress and conclude the working arrangements of NewCo including the method of the provision of support services, staffing and secondment arrangements between NewCo and Veritau Limited;
- ix) delegate all other necessary steps to secure the implementation of the proposed Option to the Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Democratic Services;
- x) delegate to the Chief Executive (as Shareholder Representative) the appointment of the directors of NewCo on behalf of the Council; and
- xi) agree that the appointed officers to the board of directors of the company on behalf of the Council will be entitled to indemnity in accordance with the Council’s Indemnity Policy for Members and Employees.

**APPENDICES:**

**Appendix A** – Business Case (Confidential)

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** None

Gary Fielding  
 Corporate Director – Resources  
 County Hall  
 Northallerton  
 7 May 2024

Report Author – Karen Iveson Assistant Director Resources  
 Presenter of Report – Karen Iveson Assistant Director Resources

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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## North Yorkshire Council

### EXECUTIVE

7 May 2024

#### Area Constituency Committee Feedback Report

#### Report of the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To bring to the attention of the Executive key issues considered at recent meetings of the Area Constituency Committees (ACC). Specific recommendations to the Executive were made as follows:

#### 2.0 SKIPTON AND RIPON ACC – 7 MARCH 2024

- 2.1 The Rt Hon Julian Smith CBE MP attended to provide an update on his work and discuss the concerns of Members. The following key points were discussed:
- Members queried the situation with the £86,000 adult social care cost cap. It was also suggested that central government should review the level of adult social care funding.
  - Members raised a concern that the threshold for calling a Parish Poll was too low for larger town or city councils.
  - Members raised concerns over high oil prices.
  - Members welcomed the proposals to introduce requirements for planning permissions for short term lets in tourist 'hot spots' but queried when these would come into place.
- 2.2 A petition 'seeking an investigation into the leadership of the Upper Nidderdale Federation' was received and presented by Stephen Ramsden and Fee Ewbank. Members discussed the petition and the options available to them were made clear. The Committee voted unanimously to refer the issue to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further investigation.
- 2.3 Following an informal session to discuss the project, an ACC Economic, Regeneration, Tourism and Transport Project Development Fund Scoping Form for the implementation of the Langcliffe Quarry Conservation Management Plan was submitted by Economic Development Officers. The ACC contribution would enable delivery of the project to begin earlier, ensuring that the timelines for UKSPF funding are met and additional grant monies secured. The Committee voted unanimously to formally endorse the project and asked Officers to present the scoping form to the Corporate Director (Community Development).
- 2.4 A report presenting the Draft Bentham Masterplan was noted by Members. This document will be given due regard to help inform and evidence the ACC's consideration and recommendations on future activity within the Bentham area.
- 2.5 Graham North, Rail Strategy and Performance Officer for the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, attended the meeting to discuss the development of rail services within the Skipton and Ripon constituency. Updates were provided on bids for the DfT's Access for All programme, the reopening of some lines was discussed, and other general

queries arose. Members noted the updates and asked that regular updates be added to the work programme.

- 2.6 Following the concerns of Members, a report with information on Modality, a GP partnership in Craven, was provided. Having read the information, the Committee decided to invite representatives from Modality to the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 ACC meeting.
- 2.7 The Annual Education Report was noted. Members raised that North Yorkshire schools receive less funding per pupil than other areas.
- 2.8 Following a public statement made at the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 ACC meeting, Members asked for information on the 72 Skipton to Grassington bus service. The new timetable was submitted at Appendix A and Members were pleased that the bus services is being restored.
- 2.9 Members discussed the Nidderdale Greenway Steering Group report that details the extension of the Greenway to Wath. The Committee supported the report and asked that NYC's Transport Planning Team is made aware.
- 2.10 An update from Skipton Youth Council was received and discussed. Members suggested that the way the Committee receives Youth Council updates be investigated.
- 2.11 Members suggested the following additions to the work programme:
- An update on the development of Kex Gill.
  - An item with Skipton Building Society to discuss how Members can assist with keeping the business in Skipton.
  - An item on Sutton Lane in Sutton-in-Craven following an accident there.
  - Items on the development of South Craven and Hellifield masterplans.
  - Regular updates from Highways.

### **3.0 HARROGATE AND KNARESBOROUGH ACC – 12 JANUARY 2024 AND 14 MARCH 2024**

#### **3.1 12 January 2024**

#### **3.2 MP Attendance:**

- Andrew Jones MP attended the committee and briefed Members on firstly his team's project to achieve bathing water status for the River Nidd at the Knaresborough Lido, he had submitted a bid to DEFRA and was expecting a decision in late spring. He also briefed Members on the issue of Devolution, advising that the combined authority had passed all parliamentary procedures and was subsequently preparing for the mayoral election in May. He also explained to the committee that whilst he was supportive of a Town Council for Harrogate he thought it important that beforehand the roles and responsibilities of the Council be decided.
- He then responded to Member questions about the following; education spending - particularly in relation to SEND schools which were experiencing significant growth in applications. In response to a question about the fair funding formula he explained that he was working with local organisations to maintain or improve already high performing local services. In response to questions about the delayed set up of the Town Council he again insisted that more groundwork needed to be done on what role the Town Council would play. In response to a question on Knaresborough Town Council he responded that he would be happy to work with KTC on their devolution asks. He responded to further questions on the Nidd bathing water status, the Station Gateway, funding for the HCC, food waste policy and the Governments response to the migrant

issue and whether they were achieving value for money in respect of the moneys paid to France and Rwanda.

### 3.3 Waste and Street Scene Presentation:

- Harry Briggs (Head of Waste Operations and Streetscene) and Michael Leah (Associate Director for Environmental Services) delivered a verbal presentation to the Committee on the Waste and Street Scene service. They highlighted that Harry had recently been appointed as Head of the service and they had now appointed area managers one of which was charged with the Harrogate and Craven region and would be responsible for operational matters in the area. Performance stats had demonstrated that day to day services had been unaffected by LGR and as well as maintaining day to day operations the service was looking to harmonise procedures, services, and costs across the county. Harry went on to brief Members on the litter bin project stating that the roll-out was almost complete once it was complete the service would review the project and look at feedback to see where it could be improved.
- Members expressed concerns about gaps between collections of the new larger street side litter bins, the public health issue of dog waste, the general placement of bins and street cleansing and the roll-out of the blue recycling bins. It was confirmed that officers would be reviewing operational services and would be happy to take feedback from Members on where they see gaps in the service. Michael advised that policies across this service and highways were being reviewed and full roll-out of blue recycling bins and a text service were possible once funding was agreed. Members expressed their thanks and appreciation as Member site visits/ride-alongs had shown the crew to be committed and professional regardless of the weather.

3.4 Updates from the Committee Working Groups were received, and the Committee Work Programme was updated. It was confirmed that at the meeting of the 14 March Member would consider school's education achievement and finance and the Local nature recovery strategy.

### 3.5 14 March 2024

- Public Question - There was one public question about an item not on the agenda. The question pertained to a complaint about a public right of way diversion order. A response was provided which explained that the item would be considered on 15 March at an Executive Member meeting. At the meeting it was decided that: *"It is therefore recommended that the opposed Diversion Order should be referred to the Secretary of State for resolution, and that the Authority should support the confirmation of the Order within its submission to the SoS."*
- Petition - Exclusion of Land known as H2 (Land North of Knox Lane) from the new North Yorkshire Council Local Development Plan - A petition was submitted urging the Council to remove the land, detailed above, from the emerging NYC Local Plan. Members were keen that the ACC was not seen as a route of appeal for Planning Committee decisions but in this particular case Members overwhelmingly supported a motion submitted by Cllr Lacey and seconded by Cllr Haslam that the Committee support the case for the removal of the land from the emerging Local Plan but also any other application that had been refused several times by any Planning Committee on the basis of environmental or infrastructure reasons. Nine Members voted for this motion and there was one abstention.
- Harrogate Cycling Infrastructure Plan (HCIP) – (Update to inform the consideration of priority projects for the £50k fund) - There was one public question that complained of

the lack of Council action on active travel, in particular relating to cycle ways. A Council response was provided which detailed progress on current and planned cycling and walking projects and improvements. The Senior Transport Planning Officer was on hand to brief Members on the Council's Active Travel strategy, plans for future walking and cycle corridors and routes for funding. There was to be an informal meeting of the Committee where Members could be briefed in more detail on planned projects and could suggest "quick wins" that the Council could assess.

- Residential Parking Schemes (Presentation) - There was one public question regarding a complaint about the lack of residential parking in Harrogate Town. A response from the Area 6 Highways Manager acknowledged Cllr Lacey's support of this item and further stated that the Council's Highways team would look in detail at this issue and report to the Environment Executive Meeting for a decision. Members were unanimously in support of the Highway Manager's Statement.
- Schools, Educational Achievement and Finance - The Assistant Director for Education and Skills attended the meeting remotely to present the Annual Schools Educational Achievement and Finance Report and respond to questions from the Members. The Assistant Director answered questions relating to education of underprivileged children, differing levels of performance and school allocations and funding, the Assistant Director also agreed to respond to Members in writing with more information on underprivileged students.
- Updates from the Committee Working Groups were received, and the Committee Work Programme was updated. It was confirmed that at the meeting of the 30 May Members would consider the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), an update on Otley Road Sustainable Transport Package Update/Active Travel Schemes and an update on 20 mph implementation (South west Harrogate).

#### **4.0 RICHMOND (YORKS) ACC – 18 MARCH 2024**

4.1 There were four statements and/or questions put before the committee by members of the public/representatives from local organisations within the constituency area:

- Having previously raised concerns in September 2023, Richmond Town Council once again raised the issue of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) covering Richmond Falls and the Batts area in Richmond which was due to expire at the end of March 2024 requesting that the Council renews the PSPO to ensure that the Police can have the necessary powers and the confidence to uphold public order in the designated area. A response was provided on behalf of the Council's Community Safety team.
- Save our Swale Community Group raised their concerns regarding the failure of Yorkshire Water to invest in the infrastructure needed to keep untreated sewerage and harmful chemicals out of rivers and asked how the Council could hold Yorkshire Water to account in relation to profiting from pollution. A response was provided on behalf of the Council's Environmental Health team.
- A member of the public raised concerns around the digital phone line rollout in the Upper Dales in relation to the providers understanding of the topography, the situation relating to mobile phone coverage in the area, general guidance and lack of practical support. A response was provided on behalf of the Council's Transformation team.
- The ORBTA, the Richmond Business and Tourism Association raised the issue around the central island of shops in Richmond Market Place and the lack of a delivery bay in

this vicinity, advising of the congestion and issues being caused. A response was provided on behalf of the Council's Highways and Parking Services teams.

- 4.2 Lisa Pope, Deputy Place Director, North Yorkshire for the NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board delivered a verbal presentation to the Committee on the development of the Catterick Integrated Care Campus. She provided details of the vision of the project, confirming that the groundworks were now complete and phase two of the development had commenced in January, with the build due to be completed in 2026. She advised that stakeholder and community engagement events are planned for summer 2024. Members raised their concerns about the lack of civilian dentistry at the facility due to the significant issues for residents in accessing this provision.
- 4.3 The Committee approved the appointment of Councillor Stuart Parsons as the Council's representative on the Richmond School Trust.
- 4.4 The Annual Schools Education Achievement and Finance Report was shared with the Committee for information, with Members discussing several matters of concern, including school funding, budget management, the provisional Attainment 8 score and the number of suspensions in the Constituency area. This item was subsequently deferred to the next meeting for further consideration.
- 4.5 Finally, the Committee reviewed the work programme and suggested that additions include an update on the work in relation to the A684, Morton Flatts, River Swale flooding and an update from Richmondshire Leisure Trust.

## **5.0 SCARBOROUGH AND WHITBY ACC – 22 MARCH 2024**

- 5.1 The committee received a public question raising concerns about the safety of children who will walk to school over two miles from Stainsacre in Whitby to the new Whitby School along the cinder track. In response the committee learned about the statutory walking distances prescribed in the Education Act 1996 and the Road Safety GB - Assessment of Walked Routes to School Guidelines used to assess the safety of routes. The reply did not fully satisfy the committee's concerns in relation to the status of the cinder track and related issues, and so it was agreed to invite officers from Education and Skills and Highways and Transport to the meeting on 7 June to provide further details and answer members' questions.
- 5.2 The committee endorsed the findings and recommendations of the recent scrutiny review of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision in the Scarborough and Whitby area. Members commended the work and methodology of the task and finish group, in particular the very productive evidence gathering session with parents, carers, school governors and other stakeholders at Scarborough Town Hall on 26 October 2023 which helped shape the report's recommendations around the themes of schools, external communications, internal processes and liaison with partners, and wider working with the third sector.
- 5.3 The committee also received presentations on:
- (i) the recent public consultation on the Whitby Maritime Hub which had indicated broad support for the scheme;
  - (ii) the Government initiative, Long Term Plan for Towns which included Scarborough - a ten year plan for the town worth £2m a year which divided into a capital/revenue funding split of 75:25. The Plan covers the three themes of safety and security; high streets, heritage and regeneration; and transport and connectivity; and
  - (iii) the recent public consultation on the Town Deal scheme to improve the public realm in and around the Swing Bridge in Whitby. For most of the ideas proposed, views

were quite evenly split for and against, with only the proposals to introduce planting at Tin Ghaut and traffic signals at Spital Bridge junction enjoying support of over 60%. Work on Spital Bridge junction would commence after the summer, whilst for the Swing Bridge area this initial consultation would help determine a detailed design which would be subject to further consultation.

- 5.4 Finally, the below average levels of attainment in local schools evident in the annual schools, educational achievement and finance report prompted members to add this topic to the list of potential issues for consideration by the committee.

## **6.0 THIRSK AND MALTON ACC – 27 MARCH 2024**

- 6.1 The Rt Hon Kevin Hollinrake MP attended the meeting.

Following a question from a member of the public regarding bus services in Filey, Councillors and the MP discussed the issue raised and the MP offered to arrange a meeting with the member of the public, the Division Member and other interested parties to discuss further.

The MP updated Councillors

- Sub Postmasters – If Councillors knew of any affected by the Horizon scandal, please refer them to Mr Hollinrake.
- Issues for farmers – Facing difficulties due to prices, the weather, sustainability and stewardship schemes which may impact food production and possible changes to new incentives within the Environmental Land Management Schemes.
- Hospitality – Still facing higher costs due to energy prices, National Living Wage and other higher costs. The hospitality, retail and leisure relief has been extended for another year.
- Indications of potential improvements in the economy
- A decision on the dualling of the A64 Hopgrove – Barton Hill remains due this year. The case is being made to the Transport Minister, despite the low cost/benefit ratio due to the rural nature of the area.
- Mr Hollinrake understood the demands on local councils such as the availability of resources for planning officers, the First Homes Policy which he would like the Council to adopt, second homes causing rises in Council Tax.
- Mayoral elections and other national priorities

There followed a discussion with the key points being:

- Members discussed the duelling of the A64 including the possibility of duelling the length of the A64 from York to Scarborough. Discussion included the economic impacts of the issues with the A64 on local businesses and on attracting new business to the area.
- Members raised concerns regarding the use of agricultural land for solar farms, which may impact on food security.
- The development of the new Local Plan and the sustainability of new build houses.
- The apparent lack of progress on the RAF Linton-on-Ouse development and the impact of the resignation of the Defence Minister.

The Senior Transport Officer presented a proposal to spend £22,157 of the Economic, Regeneration, Tourism and Transport Project Development Fund on the development of the Malton to Helmsley (via Hovingham and Kirkbymoorside) Active Travel Route. Members endorsed the proposal.

The Economic Development Manager presented the outcomes of the initial review of the viability of projects proposed by Members for consideration for the balance of the 2023/24

and total of the 2024/25 Economic, Regeneration, Tourism and Transport Project Development Fund. Following discussion Members agreed to take the following projects to the Project Scoping Phase: Crayke to Easingwold cycle path; Cycle path connecting Hunmanby and Filey.

Nominations to the Heber Trust, Thirsk and Sowerby Swimming Baths Charity and the Vale of Pickering Internal Drainage Board were agreed.

The Work Programme was noted and Members requested that reports on the Provision of sports and leisure services in the Ryedale district and the Repair of Thirsk Market Place be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Schools, educational achievement and finance report was shared with Members for information and Members discussed several matters within the report and questioned the Strategic Planning Officer in attendance at the meeting.

## **7.0 SELBY AND AINSTY ACC – 19 JANUARY 2024**

7.1 Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies - Councillors Andy Paraskos, Andrew Lee, Bob Packham and John Cattanach were appointed to the Development Plans Committee.

7.2 North Yorkshire Council's Petition Scheme - Objection to the development of the Central Area Car Park in Tadcaster for housing - A petition exceeding 500 signatures, was considered at the meeting:-

“I disagree with the plan to build houses on the Central Car Park in Tadcaster and urge Selby District Council (now North Yorkshire Council) to remove this proposal as a preferred option from the Selby District Plan”. At the meeting the petition organiser, Councillor Patrick Tunney – Tadcaster Town Council, presented the petition issue. A public question from Caroline Rowbottom of Tadcaster opposing the issues raised by the petition was taken at this stage. Members agreed that the issues raised by the petitioner, and the public question in respect of the petition, be carried forward into the statutory Development Plan process, and further considered during that process.

7.3 Selby District Local Plan - Revised Regulation 19 (Publication version) draft plan for public consultation and Maltkiln New Settlement – Submission of the New Settlement (Maltkiln) Development Plan Document - Feedback from the Area Constituency Committee was submitted when the Executive considered these matters at an earlier meeting.

7.4 Update on Local Bus Services - Members considered a report providing an update on local bus services within the Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee, highlighting the following:

- Selby and Ainsty local bus service update
- National £2 fare cap scheme
- Funding from central government
- Community Transport.

7.5 Update on Rail matters - Members considered an update on all rail matters within the geographical area covered by the Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee highlighting the following:

- Selby Station Gateway and Access for All scheme

- Stations - Sherburn in Elmet, South Milford, Church Fenton, Ulleskelf, Hensall and Whitley Bridge
- Station Usage
- Punctuality / Performance
- Network North Announcement
- Transpennine Route Upgrade and Transport Works Act Orders
- Leeds - Goole Line.

7.6 Selby Climate Change Action Plan – Funding – Members received a report relating to legacy funding from former Selby District Council was available for the implementation of the Selby Climate Change Action Plan. This amounted to £239K and was included in the capital programme as 'low carbon projects' Details of potential projects were discussed.

7.7 North Yorkshire Council's Climate Change Champion - The Council's Climate Change Champion, Councillor Paul Haslam, provided a presentation, highlighting his work on Climate Change, going forward.

7.8 SEND Provision Selby - Selby Special Free School Update - The Chair provided feedback from a public meeting that she had arranged involving concerned parents, pupils and school staff from the local area in relation to the difficulties caused by the delays to the provision of this school in the area.

7.9 Update on the £50k per ACC seed funding pot for economic development – An update was provided in relation to the process for progressing and approving proposals for the ACC £50k annual fund.

## **8.0 FINANCIAL & LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The financial and legal implications of the issues raised in this summary report are included in the reports that went to the meetings of the Area Constituency Committees in March 2024.

## **9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The climate change implications of the issues raised in this summary report are included in the reports that went to the meetings of the Area Constituency Committees in March 2024.

## **10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The equalities implications of the issues raised in this summary report are included in the reports that went to the meetings of the Area Constituency Committees in March 2024.

## **11.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

11.1 The recommendations to the Executive have been made by the Area Constituency Committees as part of their consideration of local issues at their March 2024 round of committee meetings.

## **12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

12.1 The Executive is asked to note the report and consider any matters arising from the work of the Area Constituency Committees detailed above, that merit further scrutiny, review or investigation at a county-level.

Barry Khan  
Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services  
County Hall  
Northallerton

**Report Author:**

Elizabeth Jackson – Principal Democratic Services Officer  
[elizabeth.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk)

**Background Documents:**

Agenda, papers and minutes of the 6 Area Constituency Committee meetings in March 2024, which can be accessed via the following link -

<https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1>

**Note:** Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

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# FORWARD PLAN

The decisions likely to be taken by North Yorkshire Council in the following 12 months are set out below:

Publication Date: 25 April 2024

Last updated: 25 April 2024

Period covered by Plan: 25 April 2024 – 30 April 2025

## PLEASE NOTE:-

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to information)(England) Regulations 2012, at least **28 clear days' notice**, excluding the day of notification and the day of decision taking, must be published on the Forward Plan of any intended key decision. It is also a requirement that **28 clear days' notice** is published of the intention to hold an Executive meeting or any part of it in private for the consideration of confidential or exempt information. For further information and advice please contact the Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny on 01609 533531.

**FUTURE DECISIONS**

<b>Likely Date of Decision</b>	<b>**Decision Taker</b>	<b>In Consultation with</b> (Executive Member or Corporate Director)	<b>Description of Matter</b> – including if the report contains any exempt information and the reasons why	<b>Key Decision</b> <b>YES/NO</b>	<b>Decision Required</b>	<b>Consultees</b> (i.e. the principal groups to be consulted)	<b>Consultation Process</b> (i.e. the means by which any such consultation is to be undertaken)	<b>Contact details for making representations</b> (Tel: 0845 034 9494) unless specified otherwise)	<b>Relevant documents already submitted to Decision Taker</b>
28 May 2024	Executive		Q4 Performance Monitoring and Budget Report	Yes	Q4 Performance Monitoring and Budget report including: Revenue Plan; Capital Plan/ Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators	Management Board	Meetings	Gary Fielding, Corporate Director of Resources gary.fielding@northyorks.gov.uk	Q4 Performance Monitoring and Budget Report
28 May 2024	Executive		York & North Yorkshire Key Route Network	Yes	To seek agreement on the finalised draft of the North Yorkshire parts of the proposed Key Route Network for York and North Yorkshire ahead of approval by the Mayoral Combined Authority.	Environment Executive Member	By email to HAM@northyorks.gov.uk	James Gilroy, Team Leader, Highway Asset Management Email: james.gilroy@northyorks.gov.uk	York & North Yorkshire Key Route Network
28 May 2024	Executive		Review of North Yorkshire Bus Service Improvement Plan	Yes	To approve an updated Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) which requires submission to the Department of Transport (DfT) by 12 June 2024	Department for Transport guidance sets out that this should be agreed through the North Yorkshire	Through the NY Bus Enhanced Partnership	Andrew Clarke, Public & Community Transport Manager andrew.clarke@northyorks.gov.uk	Review of North Yorkshire Bus Service Improvement Plan

						Bus Enhanced Partnership which includes bus company and passenger group representatives.			
28 May 2024	Executive		CYPS Schools Capital Programme	Yes	To consider and approve proposals for a programme of works to schools arising from a capital allocation received by the Council for the financial year 2024-25.	School representatives will be consulted.	Consultation will be undertaken at a meeting of the Schools' Forum	Jon Holden, Head of Property Services jon.holden@northyorks.gov.uk	CYPS Schools Capital Programme
28 May 2024	Executive		North Yorkshire/York Music Hub Bid Acceptance	Yes	North Yorkshire Music Service has been awarded a grant to deliver on the Government's National Plan for Music Education by the DfE and Arts Council England. The Music Service will be the Lead Organisation in the newly formed Music Hub, working closely with the York Music Hub to deliver the National Plan across both regions.	NYC Staff and York Music Hub		Ian Bangay, Head of Instrumental Music Service ian.bangay@northyorks.gov.uk	North Yorkshire/York Music Hub Bid Acceptance
28 May 2024	Executive		Environment Agency Grants for	Yes	To seek permission for acceptance of £1.5m		Informal meeting/discussion	Chris Bourne, Head of Projects	

			North Bay Urgent Wall Improvements – Phase 2		grant funding from the Environment Agency (EA) to progress Phase 2 of the project. The grant will allow progression to completion of the project including the procurement of a specialist consultant to design and project manage the works and a contractor to undertake the works.  Phase 1 works was successfully completed in 2014 and in 2022 the former Scarborough Borough council applied for a grant from the EA to undertake Phase 2.		n with appropriate Elected Members	chris.bourne@northyorks.gov.uk	
11 Jun 2024	Executive		Consultation on changes to the Council's Home to School Travel Policy	Yes	To report the outcome of a consultation on a proposed new Home to School Travel Policy for North Yorkshire. To seek approval of the proposed policy to move forward for adoption by the Council in July 2024.	Parents / carers, schools, governors, NYC councillors, neighbouring councils, parish councils, academy trusts, transport	Public consultation between 19 February and 26 April 2024. Consultation documents available on NYC website. Several engagement activities undertaken with a mixture of virtual	Amanda Newbold, AD Education & Skills Amanda.newbold@northyorks.gov.uk	

						contractors, Diocese, MP and other stakeholders.	and in-person events.		
18 Jun 2024	Executive		Local Authority Housing Funding	Yes	The purpose of this report is to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for funding of £1,740,114 from the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF). This funding will contribute towards the acquisition of 2 homes for temporary accommodation for homeless households plus an additional 11 affordable homes to provide accommodation for 11 households from the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).	We will consult with the following: The Councils Refugees Resettlement Manager The Councils Head of Housing Needs	Consultation will take place on an on-going basis with the Refugee Resettlement Manager in order to identify suitable locations and properties for the Afghan households. Similarly consultation will take place with the Head of Housing Needs to identify suitable locations and properties for the temporary accommodation for the homeless households.	John Burroughs, Housing Strategy and Development Officer John.Burroughs@northyorks.gov.uk	Local Authority Housing Funding
18 Jun 2024	Executive		Housing Assistance and Disabled Adaptations Policy	Yes	The report will outline how the policy seeks to draw together an interpretation of the mandatory elements of Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) legislation	Health	A draft policy was submitted to the LGR Housing board post vesting day. As part of the LGR work, consultation had	Lynn Williams, Head of Housing Renewal lynn.williams@northyorks.gov.uk	Housing Assistance and Disabled Adaptations Policy

					and the discretionary elements of the RRO into a single published document. The report will therefore sets out the key recommendations for the policy and seek agreement to adopt the North Yorkshire Housing Assistance and Disabled Facilities Grant Policy for the new authority. The new policy is to be adopted for all tenures, to provide a consistent approach to delivering adaptations for owners and tenants in the private sector and our own housing tenants		taken place with representatives from the LGR Housing work stream. A further task		
18 Jun 2024	Executive		Housing Enforcement Policy	Yes	The report will set out the detail of the proposed NYC housing enforcement policy, which is required in order for us to deliver our statutory duties in relation to housing standards in the private sector.	As this is based on statutory legislation, consultation has been undertaken in house with environmental health and enforcement officers across the legacy council areas who deliver the service,	Consultation was undertaken initially as part of the LGR work streams. The policy has been developed based on the good practice of other authorities, through information sharing at regional and national meetings. A housing enforcement	Lynn Williams, Head of Housing Renewal lynn.williams@northyorks.gov.uk	Housing Enforcement Policy

						in addition to other environmental health colleagues regionally and nationally.	workshop was utilised to discuss the key points of the policy amongst all staff delivering housing enforcement.		
18 Jun 2024	Executive		North Yorkshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Yes	To consider the proposed North Yorkshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and recommend it for adoption to the Council. NOTE: The North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board's Terms of Reference state that "The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy will be referred to the Council for approval as part of the Council's Policy Framework."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The public and partners</li> <li>•North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board (finalised draft) in May 2024</li> <li>•Executive on 18 June 2024</li> <li>•Council on 24 July 2024</li> </ul> NOTE: There is on-going liaison with the North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board, who will be asked to approve a draft Strategy to be consulted on, at its meeting on 29	In terms of the public and partners, a period of public consultation is planned for autumn/winter 2023. In terms of the formal meetings referred to above, the process will be via presentation and discussion of the proposed Strategy at the relevant Committee meetings.	Louise Wallace, AD Health and Integration louise.wallace@northyorks.gov.uk	North Yorkshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

						November 2023.			
18 Jun 2024	Executive		Adult Learning and Skills Service Accountability Agreement 2024-25	Yes	<p>As a provider of adult education in receipt of grant funding of over £1m we must write and publish an accountability statement to form part 2 of our funding agreement with the Skills Funding Agency. We have also been advised that to meet financial procedure rules we must also document approval to receive the recurring grant funding that will make up part 1 of the documentation.</p> <p>The statement is a mandatory part of the legislation linked to our current funding arrangements but must make clear reference to a document, written by West and North Yorkshire Chamber of commerce called the Learning Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) and the key priorities of the council. This document is this year's version of a</p>	<p>The document will have been produced with full internal consultation with colleagues in inclusion service, economic development, training and learning and the wider localities teams, external consultation is based upon work with local further education providers as part of the LSIP steering board, with colleagues from the combined authority as part of the work to shape the</p>	<p>Whilst the document must respond to local key priorities it is key to the service to position this within the wider education landscape. Open consultation is not deemed necessary as the plan aligns the strategic direction of the service (subject to full open consultation) with these priorities the document must detail the key role the service plays in the adult education ecosystem, so consultation with these stakeholder groups is essential and will involve direct feedback on drafts of the document.</p>	Paul Cliff, Shared Head of Adult Learning and Skills paul.cliff@northyorks.gov.uk	Adult Learning and Skills Service Accountability Agreement 2024-25

					document approved for 2023-24 and our response is largely based upon the strategy for adult learning and skills engagement that we consulted on in July 2022 and just defines targets based on the LSIP and national skills requirements	MCA skills strategy and with colleagues at Yorkshire Learning Providers.			
18 Jun 2024	Executive		Boroughbridge High School, Boroughbridge – Proposal to remove Sixth Form Provision	Yes	<p>Following the publication of statutory notices, to determine whether to change the age range at Boroughbridge High School, effective from 31 August 2024, by ceasing the Sixth Form Provision.</p> <p>If there are no objections to the statutory notices, this decision will be taken by the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills at the meeting with the Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service</p>	Parents, Staff, Governors, Primary Feeder Schools, Local Secondary Schools, Local Elected Members, Town and parish councils, MP and other local stakeholders.	<p>Consultation ran from 19 January to 1 March 2024. Consultation document issued to consultees and available on NYC website.</p> <p>Statutory proposals published on NYC website, in a local newspaper and displayed at the school. Statutory proposals representation period from 4 April to 2 May 2024.</p> <p>How representations may be made: In writing to the Corporate</p>	John Lee, CYPS Strategic Planning Officer john.s.lee@northyorks.gov.uk	Boroughbridge High School, Boroughbridge – Proposal to remove Sixth Form Provision

							Director- Children and Young People's Service, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, or by email to schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk by 2 May 2024		
18 Jun 2024	Executive		Double Devolution – Pilot Business Case sign-off	No	The double devolution pilots are progressing with the parish and town councils, business case templates have been shared with them all and will require sign-off individually once completed. Specific dates to be agreed with each area and the Forward Plan will be updated for each area once this has been confirmed. Areas for information: Filey Town Council Knaresborough Town Council Malton Town Council Northallerton Town Council Ripon Town Council Selby Town Council Skipton Town Council Whitby Town Council	N/A	No needed	Rachel Joyce, Assistant Chief Executive for Localities Rachel.Joyce@northyorks.gov.uk ; 01423 556706	Double Devolution – Pilot Business Case sign-off

18 Jun 2024	Executive		Review of Maximum Hackney Carriage Fares	Yes	To review the current maximum Hackney Carriage fares set by the Council consequent to consultation and statutory public notice.	Hackney Carriage trade and users of Hackney Carriages	The Hackney Carriage trade was consulted in the preparation of the original proposals. This was followed by a statutory public notice giving all parties a chance to comment on proposals.	Gareth Bentley, Head of Licensing gareth.bentley@northyorks.gov.uk	Review of Maximum Hackney Carriage Fares
18 Jun 2024	Executive		Malton and Norton Neighbourhood Plan – Decision Statement and referendum	Yes	<p>This is a statutory stage in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan post Examination</p> <p>Report is to set out a recommendation to agree the appended Decision statement (a statement which sets out the Council's position on the Neighbourhood Plan) and agree that a referendum will be held.</p> <p>Both the LPA and the Qualifying body agree with all of the Examiner's recommendations and are in the process of modifying the plan to make it is capable to</p>	Internal consultation will take place in conjunction with the report's production, also submission to Thirsk & Malton ACC on 14 June 2024.	The Plan has already been subject to consultation and examination as part of its production.	Rachael Balmer rachael.balmer@northyork.gov.uk	Malton and Norton Neighbourhood Plan – Decision Statement and referendum

					meet the basic conditions tests.				
18 Jun 2024	Executive		Examiner's Report on the Pannal and Burn Bridge Neighbourhood Plan - Decision Statement and Referendum	Yes	<p>This is a statutory stage in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan that takes place following independent Examination of the plan.</p> <p>The report will set out a recommendation on whether to agree an appended Decision Statement. The Decision statement will set out the Council's position on the Neighbourhood Plan in light of the Examiner's Report and whether the Plan can progress to referendum.</p> <p>Based on consideration of a Fact-Checking Draft of the Examiner's Report, both the local planning authority (LPA) and the qualifying body responsible for the preparation of the plan (Pannal and Burn Bridge Parish Council) agree with all of the Examiner's modifications</p>	<p>The neighbourhood plan has already been subject to consultation by both the parish council- during their preparation of the plan, and the LPA following submission in order to inform the Examination.</p> <p>Internal consultation with senior officers will take place in conjunction with the report's preparation.</p>	Email meetings. and	Natasha Durham, Planning Manager (Policy) natasha.durham@northyorks.gov.uk	Examiner's Report on the Pannal and Burn Bridge Neighbourhood Plan - Decision Statement and Referendum

					<p>recommended as necessary for the Plan to meet the basic conditions. This will be confirmed on receipt of the final Examiner's report.</p> <p>Subject to a favourable decision, the Plan would be amended in-line with the recommended modifications post-decision and this modified Plan would go forward to referendum.</p>				
18 Jul 2024	Executive		Managing Adult Social Care Pressures	Yes	To update Members on actions being taken to address adult social care waiting times and workforce pressures and to set out the evaluation of the Ethical Decision-Making Framework that was put in place in January 2022			Richard Webb, Corporate Director of Health and Adult Services richard.webb@northyorks.gov.uk	
16 Jul 2024	Executive		Care market proposals for Malton	Yes	To request approval from Executive on proposals for the development of the adult social care market in Malton	Local stakeholders	Stakeholder meetings	Hannah Brown hannah.brown3@northyorks.gov.uk 01609 535906	Care market proposals for Malton

<p>16 Jul 2024</p>	<p>Executive</p>		<p>Harrogate Transforming Cities Fund Traffic Regulation Orders</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>For Executive to approve the introduction of the Traffic Regulation Orders required for the Harrogate Transforming Cities Fund project.</p>	<p>Executive Member for Highways and Transportation Harrogate &amp; Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee Member for Valley Gardens &amp; Central Harrogate Statutory consultation undertaken in line with Traffic Regulation Order process. Statutory stakeholders and affected residents and businesses within the vicinity of the proposed schemes consulted before final implementation.</p>	<p>Statutory consultation undertaken in line with Traffic Regulation Order process.</p>	<p>Tania Weston Email: <a href="mailto:tania.weston@northyorks.gov.uk">tania.weston@northyorks.gov.uk</a> , Tel No: 01609 532905</p>	<p>Harrogate Transforming Cities Fund Traffic Regulation Orders</p>
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16 Jul 2024	Executive		North Yorkshire Autism Strategy	Yes	To approve the North Yorkshire Autism Strategy, considering feedback and refinements following the public consultation.	The draft strategy was subject to public consultation (November 2023 – March 2024), including Scrutiny of Health. A range of partner organisations also contributed to the draft strategy.	Public consultation plan as outlined in the report for the approval to launch a public consultation (Health and Adult Services Executive meeting, 3rd November 2023).	Natalie Smith, Head of Service HAS Planning, Public Health Team, Naomi Smith, Programme Manager, Strategic Resources naomi.smith@northyorks.gov.uk 01609 534823,	North Yorkshire Autism Strategy
18 Jul 2024	Executive		Long Term Plan for Scarborough	Yes	To approve the ten year Long Term Plan for Scarborough and initial three year Investment Plan of agreed interventions to receive, allocate and spend funding received from Government through the Long Term Plan for Towns programme.	The Council in partnership with the Scarborough Town Board is conducting wide ranging consultation on the creation of the Long Term Plan for Scarborough with internal services and key strategic Officers, the Scarborough and Whitby ACC, local businesses,	The wider consultation mentioned above will be delivered through a variety of means such as targeted stakeholder meetings, open public sessions and online methods and is being undertaken in liaison the Scarborough Town Board.	Helen Jackson, Regeneration Projects Manager helen.jackson1@northyorks.gov.uk	Long Term Plan for Scarborough

						<p>local stakeholder groups, charities, community organisations, schools and residents.</p> <p>The Scarborough Town Board also needs to approve the LTP for Scarborough before submission to the Department of Levelling Up, Homes and Communities. Executive representatives of NYC sit on the Scarborough Town Board.</p>			
20 Aug 2024	Executive		Q1 Performance Monitoring and Budget Report	Yes	Q1 Performance Monitoring and Budget report including: Revenue Plan; Capital Plan; Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators	Management Board	Meetings	Gary Fielding, Corporate Director of Resources gary.fielding@northyorks.gov.uk	Q1 Performance Monitoring and Budget Report

17 Sep 2024	Executive		Proposed extra care housing scheme	Yes	To approve funding to support the development of an extra care housing scheme in Whitby. To review the proposed scheme and outcome of the procurement.			Michael Rudd, Head of Housing Marketing Development (Commissioning), Health and Adult Services michael.rudd@northyorks.gov.uk	
17 Sep 2024	Executive		Redeployment of land to the north and south of Crosshills Lane, Selby	Yes	To approve the proposed redeployment of the property	Executive members and Management Board at the informal Executive meeting held on 8 June 2021		Philip Cowan, Non-Operational Property Manager, NYCC Property Services Philip.Cowan@northyorks.gov.uk	
15 Oct 2024	Executive		Double Devolution – Pilot Business Case sign-off	No	The double devolution pilots are progressing with the parish and town councils, business case templates have been shared with them all and will require sign-off individually once completed. Specific dates to be agreed with each area and the Forward Plan will be updated for each area once this has been confirmed.  Areas for information: Filey Town Council Knaresborough Town	N/A	Not required	Rachel Joyce, Assistant Chief Executive for Localities Rachel.Joyce@northyorks.gov.uk ; Tel: 01423 556705	Double Devolution – Pilot Business Case sign-off

					Council Malton Town Council Northallerton Town Council Ripon Town Council Selby Town Council Skipton Town Council Whitby Town Council				
15 Oct 2024	Executive		Annual Review of Member Champions	No	Annual Review of Member Champions	Leader	Emails	Daniel Harry, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager daniel.harry@northyorks.gov.uk	Annual Review of Member Champions
Nov 2024	Executive		Cultural Strategy for North Yorkshire	Yes	To seek approval for adoption of the Cultural Strategy for North Yorkshire, as facilitated and developed by the Culture	Culture	Via briefings and meetings, either in person or via Ms Teams or email.	Danielle Daglan, Head of Culture and Archives danielle.daglan@northyorks.gov.uk	Cultural Strategy for North Yorkshire
19 Nov 2024	Executive		Q2 Performance Monitoring and Budget Report	Yes	Q2 Performance Monitoring and Budget report including: Revenue Plan; Capital Plan; Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators	Management Board	Meetings	Gary Fielding, Corporate Director of Resources gary.fielding@northyorks.gov.uk	Q2 Performance Monitoring and Budget Report
17 Dec 2024	Executive		Double Devolution – Pilot Business Case sign-off	No	The double devolution pilots are progressing with the parish and town councils, business case templates have been shared with them	N/A	Not required	Rachel Joyce, Assistant Chief Executive for Localities Rachel.Joyce@northyorks.gov.uk	Double Devolution – Pilot Business Case sign-off

					all and will require sign-off individually once completed. Specific dates to be agreed with each area and the Forward Plan will be updated for each area once this has been confirmed. Areas for information: Filey Town Council Knaresborough Town Council Malton Town Council Northallerton Town Council Ripon Town Council Selby Town Council Skipton Town Council Whitby Town Council			k; Tel: 01423 556705	
Jan 2025	Executive		Revenue Budget 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Strategy - To make recommendation to Full Council	Yes	To consider and recommend to Council the Revenue Budget for 2025/26 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) including: Revenue Plan; Capital Plan; Treasury Management; Prudential Indicators	Management Board	Budget consultation process	Gary Fielding, Corporate Director of Resources gary.fielding@northyorks.gov.uk	Revenue Budget 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Strategy - To make recommendation to Full Council
18 Feb 2025	Executive		Q3 Performance Monitoring and Budget Report	Yes	Q3 Performance Monitoring and Budget report including: Revenue Plan; Capital Plan; Treasury	Management Board	Meetings	Gary Fielding, Corporate Director of Resources gary.fielding@northyorks.gov.uk	Q3 Performance Monitoring and Budget Report

				Management and Prudential Indicators				
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**Should you wish to make representation as to the matter being discussed in public please contact Daniel Harry  
Email: [daniel.harry@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.harry@northyorks.gov.uk) Tel: 01609 533531.**